TOPEKA HIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News from the Paul Fink Room

THS Historical Society/Alumni Association, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612
Website: thshistoricalsociety.org Phone: 785-295-3200 Email: thshs2001@yahoo.com Vol. 38 No.4

2019 Hall of Fame - Graduates making a difference

L to r, Gary Taylor, David Overmyer,Jr. and T.C. Broadnax

An artist, a Shakespearean scholar and a public administrator were inducted into the Topeka High School Graduate Hall of Fame at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the school's second-floor Woodward Library.

Two former staff members were honored as Distinguished Staff.

A special presentation from Artist Walter Hatke (THS 1967 and THS Hall of Fame) was also be part of the ceremony.

This is the 38th Hall of Fame ceremony, with 114 THS graduates having been inducted and 23 former staff/faculty honored with the Distinguished Staff designation.

The three honorees whose portraits have been added to the Hall of Fame Room and Distinguished Staff whose names were added to the special plaque are:

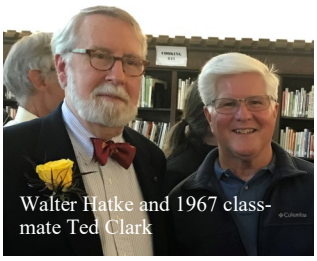
T.C. Broadnax, Jr., class of 1987, a public administrator. He was on the 1986 State Basketball Championship squad and was 1987 Homecoming King. He earned bachelor's degrees in political science and communications at Washburn University and later a master's in public administration from the University of North Texas at Denton. His career in public administration has spanned the continent from Pompano Beach, FL, to San Antonio, TX, to Tacoma, WA, and since 2017 he has served as city manager of Dallas, TX, overseeing a $3.6 billion enterprise with 13,000 employees.

David H. Overmyer, an artist, who lived from 1889 to 1973. He was a Topeka High student, but might not have formally graduated, which was a norm back then. He was the first in a long line of distinguished artists from Topeka High School. Overmyer became well-known as a muralist with some of his best examples at Hale/Farrell Library at Kansas State University and historical murals for the Capitol Rotunda in Topeka. Three important works are found at THS: "Pageant of Old England" in the English room (1936), untitled Mediterranean seascape in the faculty dining room (1937), and "Pioneers" in the Woodward Library (1939).

Gary L. Taylor, class of 1971. Shakespearean scholar. His activities at Topeka High included debater, chief justice of the Judicial Council, Model UN, Quill & Scroll, newspaper staff, and All Time Honor-T. He earned his bachelor's degree in English classics at KU and his doctorate at Cambridge University. While in England, he was a joint general editor of The Oxford Shakespeare, and during this period he rediscovered a long-lost work attributed to Shakespeare. He has written numerous books and articles about Elizabethan literature and has taught at Oxford, Brandeis University, and the University of Alabama. He is the Dahl and Lottie Pryor Professor of Shakespeare Literature at Florida State University.

Donald E. Madl – Distinguished Staff, was on the English faculty and lived from 1924 to 2005. He received his bachelor of education degree from Pittsburg State University and his master's from Fort Hays State University he served in the Army in World War II, earning the rank of Master Sergeant. He began his teaching career at Plainville Rural High School, coming to Topeka High in 1958, where he taught English; he later taught at Jardine Middle School, retiring in 1985. At Topeka High, he was often the Junior Class or Senior Class sponsor.

Michael Homan – Distinguished Staff, was on the security staff at Topeka High. for 35 years, he was the face of security at Topeka High, making all feel welcomed and comfortable in the Halls of Troy. He graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1971 and entered the Air Force, stationed first at Lackland AFB, TX, then Eglin AFB, FL, and finally Lajes Field in the Azores. Returning home, after a brief stint at Kmart, Holman became a security officer for USD #501. He retired in 2013 as coordinator of Campus Police for THS with the rank of sergeant.


Walter Hatke and 1967 classmate Ted Clark

THS Principal Rebecca Morrisey and Mike Homan

THS 150th Report

Specific dates will be decided as the school calendar is prepared in the Spring 2020.

January – Kick-off Gala – Formal Dinner followed by concert with Richetta Manager and Anthony 'Tommy' Jones
February – Fiddler on the Roof – Grads invited to participate in opening number 'Tradition'
April – Sock Hop for Grads on the same evening as Prom in the North Gym. Get out your saddle shoes and penny loafers
May – Reception for Graduating Seniors sponsored by the classes of 1951 and 1971
June through August – Graduate Art Exhibit
July – Patriotic Chimes Concert on the front lawn
August - Topeka High Display at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library
September 18 – Birthday Cake on the Lawn for Students and Staff
September 24th – Homecoming Weekend
Assembly and Parade – Inviting past Royalty, Former Band, Former Athletes, Former MCJROTC, Former Cheerleaders/Dancers/Step Team, Clubs
Saturday – Affinity Groups, Memorabilia Sales, Food Trucks, Graduate Variety Show, Surprise Finale
Sunday – Hall of Fame Brunch and Ceremony

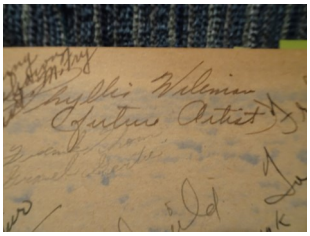
We're looking for these volunteers NOW!

- Marketing & Sponsorship Committee members
- Planning committee members for the Gala in January and Sock Hop in April.
- Videographers
- Speakers bureau –we'll provide scripts
- Organize a get together or THS Birthday Party with other THS Grads in your city
- Let us know at topekahigh150@gmail.com

VISIT TopekaHigh150.com and 'like' us on Facebook TopekaHigh150. Donations are accepted online or made to: THS Historical Society/Topeka High 150, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612

PHYLLIS WILEMAN, "FUTURE ARTIST"

This Topeka High Trojan, class of 1945, knew even then she was going to be an artist during her life. **Phyllis Wileman Stewart 1945** signed fellow students' yearbooks with the above signature (see photo of yearbook signature).



Sometimes we know what we are destined to be, and sometimes we don't. She was so confident about her future, she was comfortable signing everyone's yearbook in this manner while still in her senior year.

She studied art at Topeka High and went on to begin her art career almost immediately. She fell in love with fellow '45 classmate Ed Stewart and they married in Lubbock, Texas, in 1948, after his service in the US Army ended. After their marriage in Lubbock, they lived in Odessa, Amarillo, Abilene, Waco, Albuquerque, and finally back to Lubbock.

Early on, she began painting and drawing for family and friends, selling some pieces along the way. She eventually became locally famous enough to begin teaching art lessons out of her home. At one time, she was awarded her own one-person art show at the local art museum and was written up in the town newspaper for having been afforded such an honor. She also won prizes in local art contests and served as Vice President of the Abilene Creative Art Club. She continued painting and drawing well into her life, but now is retired and she and Ed live in a small town near Tulsa, Oklahoma, close to her daughter's home. Both are now 92 and doing well for their age, having enjoyed a long and adventurous life together in these two states.

As we all know, THS instills in many of us a confidence which is rooted in the very fame and importance of our high school and its students and faculty. We benefit from these traditions that we unconsciously rely on later in life. Phyllis Wileman undoubtedly felt this confidence before she even graduated from the halls of Troy and was willing to sign her yearbooks "Phyllis Wileman, 'future artist'." Good for her, and congratulations to her for her life as a confident artist proudly representing THS!

(Continued on page 3)

THS Historical Society Endowment Fund

An Endowment Fund for the Topeka High School Historical Society has been formed thanks to a generous Topeka High graduate with family ties to the school extending over decades.

Brinton W. "Pete" Woodward, THS 1958, has consulted with the THS Historical Society board of directors to establish the Topeka High School Historical Society Endowment Fund that will sustain the operations of the organization and encourage preservation of the building and grounds that comprise the Topeka High School campus.

"By giving to the Topeka High School Historical Society Endowment Fund," Woodward says, "I am not only honoring my family and our past commitment to Topeka High, I am helping preserve the building and heritage for students that will pursue their future through education."
Woodward has made an initial contribution to the Endowment Fund as well as funds for marketing the new Fund according to Steve Holloman, president of the Historical Society board. "Pete has also pledged an estate gift that will benefit the organization for years to come," Holloman added.

Pete is the grandson of Chester Woodward who was the president of the Topeka Public Schools (USD 501) school board when the building was being planned and constructed in the 1930's. The school's library was named in Chester Woodward's honor.

Pete Woodward, who served as Headmaster of Holderness School in Holderness, NH, for 24 years, says, "I learned early on of the importance of endowments to educational, ecclesiastical and non-profit organizations as a means to balance an annual budget, a means to provide financial assistance to students, a means to cover unexpected short falls, a means to support deferred maintenance, and as a means to develop programs to support faculty and students outside the operating budget." During his tenure as Headmaster of Holderness School, its endowment grew from $500,000 to $30 million. He has also served on endowment committees at Trinity Church in Meredith, NH, Lakes Region Community Services in NH, and Whole Village in NH.

"Topeka High School is especially in need with the changing demographics, the year-to-year ambiguity of public support and memberships, the age of the building, and the necessity to preserve one of the finest school buildings in the U.S," Woodward said.

The Endowment Fund will be administered by the Topeka Community Foundation with contributions held, administered and distributed in accordance with Foundation policies. Endowed funds are unique in that the total amount of the gift is invested. Each year, a percentage of the endowment's average three-year September 30 balance will be distributed to benefit the THS Historical Society.
Gifts to the Topeka High School Historical Society Endowment Fund during a donor's lifetime or via estate planning is a statement that the donor values education and supports the institution that has been important to you, your family and the Greater Topeka community.

The Topeka High School Historical Society was founded in 1985 by a visionary group of alumni with a dream to preserve the building, traditions and heritage of Topeka High School. Their vision laid the foundation for an organization that today represents more than 40,000 alumni that have walked the Halls of Troy in pursuit of an education that allows them to be successful adults, contributing to their families and community.

THS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

THSHS ENDOWMENT - Established in 2019 to sustain the operations of the THSHS and encourage building preservation - administered by the Topeka Community Foundation
THSHS TOWER SOCIETY– established in 2009 to be used for building projects and separated from operating expenses - administered by the THS Historical Society –list included in the newsletter once each year
MEMBERSHIP DUES AND YEAR END APPEAL– these funds are used for operating expenses of the THSHS.

(Continued from page 2)

Her art falls mostly in the impressionist genre, and she preferred working in oils and chalks. Here are a few examples of it.

Attention THS Artists!
THS Graduate Art Exhibit
June - August 2021
THS Art Gallery
Watch for details at:
topekahigh150.com, Facebook

Black & Gold Report

- **Mitch Erickson 1968** retired December 2018 after a 42 year career as a chemist for the government. Most recently he established and advanced the technology scouting and horizon scanning capabilities for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- **Janis Ekdahl 1964**, former Museum of Modern Art library director in New York City, was awarded the 2018 Art Libraries Society of North America Distinguished Service Award.
- **George Vega 1970** was elected 2019 President of the Topeka and Shawnee County Library Board of Directors.
- **Adam Nordstrom 1994**, principal with Viking Navigation LLC, is working in government relations in Washington DC and Los Alamitos, Calif.
- **Rob Briman 1975** has been named to the 2019 Junior Achievement of Kansas, Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

- **Josh Friedberg 1990** is the head of the 2020 Olympic skateboard event. He cultivated a skateboard exhibit at the Smithsonian and since 2018 has been the Skateboarding Director in Lausanne, Switzerland. A new job is with World Skate, recognized international federation responsible for global development of skateboarding.
- **Alec Beatty 2015**, a former quarterback at THS and an All-American receiver at Macalester College, has received a Fulbright award for the 2019-20 academic year. He is in Kosovo, where he is supporting the teaching of English in Mitrovica.
- **Aaron Mays 1997**was chosen to fill a seat on the Shawnee County Commission. He left his District 7 seat on the Topeka City Council to join the commission.
- **Paige Orr 1988** has been a casting director in LA for over 20 years. Her latest effort won an Emmy Award for casting the Netflix project "When They See Us", based on the Central Park 5, with more than 23 million hits on Netflix.
- **Art Glassman 1955** was recognized with a Washburn Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Hannah Naeger 2008** defeated two opponents for the District 6 seat on the Topeka City Council. She has a dental practice in Topeka.
- **1989 Grad, Ed Skoog's** poem "Pittsburgh" was featured in the October 21, 2019 issue of *The New Yorker* .
- **Linda Haughawout Lee 1966** was recently inducted into the American Sewing Guild Hall of Fame in Boston for her contributions to the sewing industry.
- Current **THS Principal Rebecca Morrisey** received the Education Peace Builders Award from the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice.

The Kroger Stores sponsors the Community Rewards Program of Dillons. **In the 3rd quarter of 2019 supporters of the THSHS contributed to a $183.01 donation from Kroger. Thank you to Kroger and to the 35 households that shop for the THS Historical Society.** Go to www.dillons.com/ communityrewards and shop for Topeka High.

SHOP AND GIVE WITHOUT SPENDING A DIME - It's easy!

- Start at smile.amazon to support the THS Historical Society every time you shop
- Amazon donates.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service
- Support your favorite charity, the THSHS by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

THS Class of 1999 and their families walking the halls during their reunion weekend.

2019 Homecoming Grand Marshalls Martha and Dick Patterson

IN MEMORY

Carl C. Nordstrom 1933
Dorothy Schroeter Prager 1938
Joseph P. Logan 1938
Madge Mankle Simonson 1939
Patricia Kline Kennedy 1939
Mary Lee Huff 1939
Maxine Stephenson Johnson 1941
Marjorie Gideon Hersh 1942
William K. Clark 1943
Caroline Morriss Hines 1943
Lois McDowell Burnett 1943
Forrest E. Cowell 1944
Phil Gilman 1944
Robert E. Lee 1944
Charles L. Dutt 1944
Phylis Fowkes Price 1944
Harold O. Chapman, Jr 1944
Herbert 'Mac' McPartling 1945
Gail 'Frank' Sedgwick 1946
Leota Becker Martin 1946
Norman R. Collins 1946
Ralph E. Skoog 1947
Jackson Hopkins 1947
Madge Tillinghast Garrison 1947
Patricia Miller Ecord 1948
Harold M. Lowe 1948
Darrell E. Brockmeier 1948
Bonnie Gordon Quednow 1949
Mary Ann Bromich Peel 1949
Grace Keeling Thurman 1949
Theresa Byrd Counts 1949
Melvin L. Jenkins 1949
Grace Keeling Thurman 1949
Rollo R. Gurss 1949
Cornelia 'Sally' Morrison Benfer 1949
William N. Smell 1950
Edith Schmid Jorns 1950
Doris Powell Kinnett 1950
Harriet Hull Smith 1950
R. Dean Erwin 1950
Robert E. Howard 1950
Ruth Cowie Dixon 1951
Ava Ruth Conners Magnuson 1951
Alexander Luna 1951
Jo Ann Bruhns Mzhickteno 1951
Mary Hutton Sawyer 1951
Ray Mabon 1951
Patricia Tutt Mick 1951
Robert D. Beal 1951
Emma Fox Skinner 1951
Betty Barter Soltys 1951
Suzanne Hardman Peterson 1952
Shirley 'Jo' Kenworthy Reed 1952
Gordon J. Slusser 1952
Charles M. McClenny 1952
Jimmie L. Bayless 1952
William Nowlan 1952
Dale Schuler 1953
Jack W. Renander 1953
John D. Hubbard 1954
C. Frank Foster 1954
Richard Barclay 1955
Beverley Baird Harper 1956
Alan F. 'Dan' Deaver 1956
Nancy Stebbins Baird 1957
Jimmy L. Starr 1958
Carol Absher Stafford 1958
Donald E. Critchfield 1958
Linda Wedoff Ossiander 1960
Joan C. Odgers 1960
Hilda Erickson Enewold 1961
Robert W. Evertson 1961
Terry L. Fields 1962
Claude L. Grinnell 1963
William H. Lee 1964
Terry L. Cobb 1964
Steven S. Stalter 1965
Daren Andrews Bowman 1965
Linda May Thomas 1966
Mark L. Mannell 1969
Dolly Abrams Brown 1969
Ronald D. Lang 1969
Margaret McMurdo Miller 1969
Virginia Hernandez Ferrero 1970
Wade Wyrick 1971
Judy Lee Welcher 1973
Adrienne Thompson 1975
Aaron G. Zlatnik 1977
Dann Durall 1977
Jon 'JC Culley 1978
Kyle Richardson 1979
Duane Hazlett 1980
Judy Schimmel 1981
Darren G. Abbey 1986
Stephanie Baker 1988
Nathaniel Self 2019
Julie Schalansky 2002
We regret including Barbara Hardman Card 1956 and Daniel Sanchez 1969 in this column

~ 2020 TROJAN CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2020 - October 2 - THS vs Highland Park

Class	Dates	For More Information
Class of 1970	September 18 - 19	rjschL1514@sbcglobal.net, Njkperry@gmail.com
Class of 2000	TBA	TaCarra82@yahoo.com tiffluttjohann@gmail.com

The THS Historical Society assists class reunions by: 1. providing classmate contact information 2. arranging THS tours 3. facilitating the use of the building 4. offering $5 discounts for new memberships during reunions. Go to **thshistoricalsociety.org** for words to the school song, THS graphics, information for reunion coordinators and more. **Let the THSHS know if your class is having a reunion and we'll help you get the word out to your classmates.**

THS Historical Society 2019 Annual Meeting,
Tuesday, January 28th, THS Cavalier Room, 12 pm

Homage to Urbino
27" x 34" oil on linen painting by
Walter Hatke

This painting was originally titled *From Urbino,* initially completed in 1989, prior to reworking pars of the composition in 2014, at which time the title was changed to Homage to Urbino. The general composition was left largely intact. Significant changes were made to the sky, background, and castle wall. Specifically, the clouds were altered and elaborated somewhat; subtle modifications and clarifications were made to the background landscape (e.g. the human figures on a road); the wall was shifted to make tis line parallel to the bottom edge of the painting, vines and foliage were added to create a smoother transition to the landscape and enhance a greater sense of special relationships.

The painting was first shown at the artist's 1989 solo exhibition held at Robert Schoelkopf Gallery, New York City. After which the work remained dormant, stored in the artist's studio, until 2014 when it was reworked as described above, the revised version of the painting was included in the artist's solo exhibition at the Mandeville Gallery of Union College, Schenectady, NY, in 2015.

These notes by Walter Hatke, the artist, 29 January 2019
Walter C. & May I. Baker Professor of Visual Arts Emeritus, Union College

This gift of art was formally presented to the THS Historical Society by Walter Hatke (THS 1967) on October 6, 2019, as part of the THS Hall of Fame Ceremony. It is currently on display in the THSHS Paul Fink Office and Museum.

Go to: https://thstower.com/the-world/ , The World, Volume 153, Issue 2, Winter 2019, pages 20 - 22, Walter Hatke story by Ricardo Montalvo (THS 2021).

The THSHS has a new website URL:
http://www.thshistoricalsociety.org/

TROY JANES
By Alice Terry Vernon, Class of 1951

This is a Troy Jane sweater. They were awarded to girls who were chosen as Senior Leaders. We helped with Sophomore and Junior gym classes. High school at that time was Sephomore through Senior years. Our duties were taking roll, taking care of and passing out equipment and helping students learn skills with which they were having difficulty.

In order to be a Senior Leader, besides the required Sophomore gym class, we had to take a gym class our Junior year which consisted of one semester of modern dance and one semester of individual sports. Although I really wanted to be a Senior Leader, I was not thrilled with the prospect of taking modern dance. Turns out, I loved it:

For me this program was the best thing that could have happened. I had no idea what I was going to do after graduation. Miss Jeanne Cooper told me I had an aptitude for teaching and encouraged me to go to college and specialize in physical education. I am ever grateful to her for steering me in the right direction.

I went to Washburn University and earned my degree in physical education. Ever since, I have been and still am teaching many forms of sports and dance in various places.

Editor's remarks: The Troy Janes were operational from 1948 to 1961. They were referred to in 1948 as the "girls physical education club", but then seemed to morph into the girls PE senior leaders.

Many young kids in their 30's and 40's today will remember Mrs. Vernon as their swim teacher. She taught in the summers from her home in Westwood.

Other recent donations given to Topeka High:
Portable PA System from Dick Barrett, Class of 1956
Two granite benches placed in the main entrance from the THS Class of 1968
Furniture refinishing in the THS Cavalier Room thanks to family and friends of Elizabeth 'Letty' Weber Thompson, Class of 1946
Topeka High thanks these generous supporters!

~ THS Historical Society ~

Graduation Year _____

First Name _____Last Name (at graduation) _____ Current Last Name _____

THS Spouse's First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Graduation Year _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES – (for operational expenses & THSHS special events)

	Amount
Yearly ($25) ……	$_____
5 Years ($100) ……..	$_____
10 Years ($175) ……	$_____
Special annual payment of $1 for each year since my graduation (i.e. Class of 1966, 50 years since graduation=$50)	$_____

I want to send a gift membership to:
Name _____ Graduation year _____
Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Membership levels: ____Yearly ($25)____ 5 Year ($100)____ 10 Year ($175)

Total $_____

PURCHASES -- go to www.thsweb.org/alumni for complete list of THS items

	Amount
THS Construction Video ($10, plus $5 shipping)…….	$ _____
Constitution Plaza Brick ($30), thsweb1.org/alumni, download form & attach with payment	$_____

TOWER SOCIETY FUND – (for building projects)

	Amount
Freshman ($200).....	$_____
Sophomore ($350)…….	$_____
Junior ($500)……..	$_____
Senior ($750)……..	$_____
Top of the Tower ($1,000)……	$_____
Mighty Trojan ($2,500)……	$_____
Guardian ($10,000+)	$_____

Given in honor of _____

Given in memory of _____

Check enclosed: □ (payable to THS Historical Society or THSHS) TOTAL $_____
Charge account: □ Visa □ Master Card □ American Express □ Discover (**$50 minimum requested)**
Name on Card: _____
Number: _____ - _____ - _____- _____CV # (required)_____
Expiration Date: Month_____ Year _____

Mail to: THSHS, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612, or pay dues online at: http://www.thshistoricalsociety.org/

THS Historical Society
800 W 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

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REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL: The date on the first line of your label is your membership EXPIRATION date. New memberships are for 1, 5 or 10 years from the date your payment is received. For renewals, 1, 5 or 10 years are added to the date of receipt or your previous expiration date. A pink highlighted mailing label is a gentle reminder that we want to stay in contact with you. **Members with 2018 expirations will be removed from the list in 2020.**

The THS Historical Society appreciates our members!

We welcome new members! Carole Thomann Tozier, Ray & Sandra Parnell, David & Trina Riley, Bill Argabright, Ron and Lisa Balsters, Dolan & Kathy Bayless, Gary Campbell, Michael and Nancy Ganson, Mark Morehouse, Ramon & Nancy Noches, Karen Tabor, Cynthia Wetmore, Debra Whitaker, Ruth Akins, Rhonda Braun, Shirley Bursvold, James Carr, Becky Cash, Janet Cathcart, Kim Craig, Don Engel, Lori Fletcher, Terry Francis, Travis Gooden, Robert Harder, Jenny Heim, Anne Hochstein, Don Loyd, Colin McMillen, Debbie Mitford, Carla Norsworthy, Jimmy Lee Rose, Lara Vermillion, and Paul Nusbaum.

Help us get the word out about our mission to support Topeka High. Encourage a classmate or friend to join the THSHS. Consider giving a THSHS gift membership to a sibling or classmate for a gift You don't have to be a THS graduate to be a THSHS member. All who are interested in historic preservation are welcome. You can remit your dues by completing the form on page 7 of this newsletter or by going on-line (thshistoricalsociety.org) and renewing via PayPal or credit card.

The THS Historical Society is looking for an assistant for the THSHS executive secretary.

5 –10 hours a week.
Data entry and general office assistance.

Call Joan at 785-295-3200 for details.

According to "The Discoverer Blog" website, Topeka High School is the coolest in the state.

Topeka High School joined other notable buildings on the list in June 2019 such as the USS Arizona Memorial Highway in Hawaii, the U.S Air Force Academy in Colorado, and the St. Louis Gateway Arch.