TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL FACTS

- Opened on September 17, 1931, Topeka High features six areas with stained glass, four fireplaces & classroom stages, and is the only public high school in the world with an 18 note working Deagan Chime system. Topeka High School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 9, 2005, thus confirming it as a true treasure and part of Topeka's heritage.
- Construction on the building was finished in 1931 at a cost of $1.75 million. It stretches 540 feet from side to side and some 265 feet front to back. It has nearly 28,000 square feet of space.
- The school's architect, Tom Williamson, called Topeka High "the most beautiful and usable high school in America."
- The building was constructed in the architectural style of late Perpendicular Gothic, popular in England from 1400 to 1500.
- The central tower soars some 165 feet above the ground. It contains design elements of the College Tower of Magdalen College in Oxford, England. The tower houses a set of Deagan chimes, installed in 1931. Topeka High School is the only public high school in the world with an operating Deagan chime system.
- The THS gymnasium, known as the "Dungeon", seats 4,000 people.
- The Hoehner Auditorium has been known for its grandeur since 1931. This Gothic theatre seats 1,875 and is illuminated by ten massive chandeliers. It has been used by the Topeka community for a variety of activities and serves as an inspiration to Trojan Thespians.
- The THS library, described by some as the most beautiful place in Topeka, is two stories tall and boasts five cathedral-like leaded glass windows and a working fireplace.
- Topeka High's Constitution Plaza showcases its unique flagpole on the east campus - the third spar from the 1797 frigate *U.S.S Constitution ("*Old Ironsides*").* It was acquired with the help of U.S. Vice President Charles Curtis, an 1877 THS student, and was installed on Navy Day, October 27, 1931. The landscape includes six lower flagpoles flying the five service flags and a MIA/POW flag, a brick path, and the newest feature of the ship's bell from the light cruiser U.S.S. Topeka.
- The Topeka Art Guild, in conjunction with Topeka High, financed the large and small Art Galleries; the Guild also occupied an office here until the early 1970s. During that time the school opened this unique high school art gallery to the public on Sunday afternoons. Many prominent artists - among them sculptors Robert Merrill Gage ('11) and James Bass ('51); painters David Overmyer, Aaron Douglas ('17), Mary Huntoon ('16) and Walter Hatke ('67); and designer Bradbury Thompson ('29) have graduated from Topeka High.