

The Six Pillars of Peoria High School

There were six people that were very instrumental in setting the groundwork for Peoria High School. Throughout the website we will introduce these six people and explain their contributions to the high school. The first pillar is Daniel F. Jantzen.

Daniel F. Jantzen:
Superintendent/Principal



- From 1920 to May of 1926 the Peoria District went through four different Superintendents/Principals. The board was searching for stability when they hired Daniel F. Jantzen in 1926.
- The district hired Mr. Jantzen for \$4200 and he provided the stability that the district so much wanted, as he served from 1926 – 1943 as the Superintendent and Principal for Peoria High School.

- **Mr. Jantzen served through three unique periods of time in history and set a basic foundation for the district.**
- **Mr. Jantzen served during Prohibition and the 1920s, The Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II of the 1940s. He dealt with salary increases during the 20s, the lack of money for teachers and programs when the stock market crashed in 1929, and the loss of teachers as well as students as they were drafted during WW II. A crucial leader for a crucial time!**
- **What was remarkable was that he always remained calm and even more remarkable was that from 1926 – 1936 he served as his own secretary until a former student came back to help with the office work in 1936.**
- **During his tenure, the high school doubled in its enrollment. Going from 91 students in 1926 to 178 students in 1943.**
- **The school expanded by building one of the outstanding gymnasiums in the state in 1937 as part of the WPA program of the New Deal, also during Mr. Jantzen's tenure.**
- **Besides upgrading the academic programs, Mr. Jantzen tried to improve the athletic programs. As a result of his efforts, the athletic programs became more successful in the 1940s. He set the foundation for all that was to come at Peoria High School.**
- **Mr. Jantzen was known as a strict but compassionate man who went out of his way to help his teachers and students. He often went to students' homes for home visits. He was loved by the community, teachers, and students.**
- **After retiring as Superintendent, he stayed on as the business manager for the district.**
- **If you go out to the football field you will find a plaque, near the snack bar area that dedicates the football field to Mr. Jantzen.**