

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

As you will read later in this newsletter, JCS's girls cross country team has finished another winning season. Our team, which I have the privilege to coach, just made our 10th trip to the state meet in Hershey! As I often say, it is not great coaching, but a gifted group of runners. I am a little biased, but I think cross country is the best sport and if you have not experienced a meet, I would strongly encourage you to attend. In my experience as a cross country athlete (many, many years ago) and as a coach for the last fourteen years, I think there are some important life lessons to learn in our sport.

In cross country, you cheer for everyone and I mean everyone. On your team or not, you shout a "keep going" or "looking good." I have had previous runners ask, "Do those people know me?" To which I reply, "No, but that is how the running community works." In the Christian community, we could model this and work more at cheering each other along, cheering and encouraging individuals and other organizations that are working to build the kingdom.

Food sharing is a common occurrence that other sports participants might not understand. Teams who host meets often have a table with some post-race snacks which they freely share with other teams. This could be bananas (always a favorite), pretzels, and at Meyersdale, the coach's wife makes the best chocolate chip cookies! Admittedly, I do have to remind junior high runners not to eat before the race and this is not a buffet. New runners often ask with amazement, "Are these for us?" "Do we have to pay?" Not in cross country, teams share what they have. This does sound like a Biblical principle, right? I wish we would walk more with hands held out to offer resources to one another.

In cross country, people are behind you and almost always in front of you. Except for Lydia and Adam this season, sometimes there wasn't anyone in front of them! Isn't this like our walk with Christ, too? We have

people we are following and people who are following behind us. A caution for following in life and a cross-country race, the person you are following should be someone who knows the course. I am grateful to those people who knew the course that I am on at JCS. In our almost 80-year history, we have had many leaders whom I have been blessed to follow. Who are your "giants in the faith" and mentors that you know are leading you to be more like Christ?

On the other side of this, in cross country people are following you, watching your turns and surges. Are you leading others on the right paths? At JCS, we are aware of this daily, knowing that 280 students look to us to run the race well, something we don't take lightly. On a humorous note, we have had runners I would not follow. In cross country, as in our Christian walk, you must pay attention and know where you are going.

In scoring cross country, every runner counts. If you are first or last, you affect the race's outcome. Each runner is given points based on their finish; the first runner is one point, the second receives two points, the third receives three, etc. The lowest score wins. In both running and our walk with Christ, no one sits on the bench, everyone is a participant. In the Lord's kingdom, we all have value and gifts to add. No one is unimportant. The same is true in cross country. I see this every day at JCS – all of us are a part of accomplishing our mission of "engaging minds, building character, and deepening faith and creating a community to glorify God."

*In the Lord's kingdom,  
we all have value and  
gifts to add.  
No one is unimportant.*



Keep it up, friends of JCS, you are doing great!

*Celeste Sprankle*

Celeste Sprankle, Administrator



# Events

## Homecoming 2023

Congratulations to the 2023 Homecoming Court & Class Representatives. Homecoming was held on Saturday, October 7.



*Left to Right: Caleb Miller, Malia Sorg, Emilee Nale, Lydia Hostetter, Samuel Ribaric, Elijah Williams, Unity Miller (Queen), Mason Dean (King), Solenna Mack, Dakota Wilson-Boyles, Allison Burkey, Joseph Sorg, Clara Harper, Avery DiGuardi.*

## re:connect 2023

Fourteen students traveled to Washington, D.C. on November 19-21 to participate in the ACSI Redemption Everyday High School Leadership Conference. This year, the conference theme was “Lead in the Midst of Cultural Confusion.” This conference focused on the Bible’s definition of identity, the purpose of relationships, and the path forward. The goal was to help student leaders thoroughly understand the foundational principles of identity and relationships to lead in the right direction, with empathy for the brokenness of our culture, with an understanding of their role in God’s story, and with a clear, truth-filled vision for restoration. The students have returned from the conference excited to share what they learned and full of hope for how God will use them at JCS in the upcoming year!

*Front: Shiloh Swart, Clara Harper, Ella Lushko, Sybella Mack, Lydia Hostetter*

*Middle: Unity Miller, Solenna Mack, Ellie Speigle, Lily Lushko  
Back: Jaydon Yoder, Mason Dean, Elijah Williams, Josh Berkey, Dorin Cook*





## Fall Banquet 2024

Fall Banquet 2023 was a great night of celebrating JCS and our impact on students in equipping them to “Hit the Mark.”

This school year our theme comes from II Corinthians 5:9, “We make it our aim to please Him.” We have likened this to an archer aiming to hit the mark. At JCS, we have the awesome privilege of helping students to “Hit the Mark” in pleasing Christ through academics, fine arts, athletics, and in their walk with Him.

At this year’s banquet we were able to hear from students, specifically two of our seniors, about how JCS has helped them to “Hit the Mark.” Each mentioned teachers that instilled this in them and times of growth through classroom experiences, retreats, and athletics. Our guest speaker, Clark Hostetter, a parent of a current JCS student and two graduates, encouraged us to look at our children as arrows as mentioned by the psalmist in Psalm 127:3. Clark shared how JCS helps to prepare and launch these arrows. The night would not have been complete without input from our student musicians. We heard from our chamber wind ensemble, bell choir and two quartets, one composed of second graders and another of high school students.

Thank you for your contribution to the JCS and our investment in the lives of our students. Our prayer is that you will continue to support and advance the work of Johnstown Christian School.







## Zoo & Aquarium

On October 16, the JCS middle school traveled to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Students were able to experience many exotic and rare species in God's creation. In addition to exploring the zoo, students listened to a private lecture from zoo staff challenging them to think critically about the challenge and necessity to preserve endangered species. In this lecture, students were able to get an up-close look at several animals including an injured bird and a python snake. While at the zoo, the students also were able to see some amazing artwork as part of the Asian Lantern Festival which included hundreds of sculptured animals to light up as lanterns and adorn the zoo's pathways.

~ Eric Yacko, Math Teacher

## Gym Renovations

We are finally preparing to complete the last phase of our gymnasium renovation. Large panels have been sized and ordered that will cover the existing insulation. These panels are designed for gym use, perfect for this room's functionality and an aesthetic improvement. A contractor has been secured and is ready to begin installation once the panels arrive. JCS patrons will have some organized "painting days" to finish up the walls.

## #GivingTuesday 2023

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who gave on #GivingTuesday. The monies raised this day will buy new mulch for the playground.

## Gettysburg, PA

Our freshmen and sophomores visited and experienced Gettysburg Battlefield. On a guided bus tour, students explored the battlefield with the director of the historical society who made the trip not only informative but a lot of fun. Students were engaged and reenacted several of the key points along the fateful battles so many years ago. It was a blessing to go and learn about the freedoms that were fought for so valiantly those days.

~ Jason Crissman, History Teacher





## New Awning

Many thanks to the alumni family who donated a new JCS awning at the gym entrance.



## Operation Christmas Child

Johnstown Christian School held an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party on November 8, 2023. Donations were accepted for the weeks leading up to the packing day. Students chose various items from stations, handwrote a personal message, and packed 200 boxes! They also raised enough funds to pay for the shipping of all these boxes.

A shout out to the following student team who coordinated this project: *Hope Ressler, Malia Sorg, Eliza Shaffer, Lydia Hostetter, Shiloh Swart, Unity Miller, Jaydon Yoder, Mason Dean, \*Amelia Shaffer and \*Ella Lushko (\*not pictured).*



## Washington DC/Holocaust

Juniors and seniors had the blessing of traveling to Washington D.C thanks to the generous support of the Community Foundation of the Laurel Highlands. We



visited the African American Museum and were enthralled by contributors who have influenced every aspect of our world today. There was poignant history, tremendous suffering, beautiful art expressions, and great celebration of the African American experience. We also explored the Holocaust museum again, and though the seniors had been there last year, EACH visit offers new perspectives into the atrocities and resiliency the Jewish people experienced. These experiences made for a tremendously long day both physically and emotionally, but all who attended were blessed by both museums as well as by the opportunity to experience these endeavors with fellow classmates.

~ Jason Crissman, History Teacher





## Holocaust Museum Experience

Our visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. was an informational and eye-opening experience that contextualized the horrors committed by the Nazis during WWII. The museum's layout was put in order of the events that led up to the mass murders and experiments in a way that exhibited how easily people can dehumanize each other. The museum uses this layout to make a more personal atmosphere, showing how they lived in peace with everyone they knew and then how they were treated like the enemy by the Nazis and forced into the camps. At the beginning of the museum, everyone was given a pamphlet that included the history of a person who either survived or died in the Holocaust which enhanced the reality of the history of the Holocaust. Towards the middle of the museum, there is a room filled with towers of pictures of families from a specific town that would later be affected by the Holocaust. In that room, there was an interactive part that allowed you to choose any picture using a tablet which then gave you information about the people in that picture. The museum also showcased the heroes of the Holocaust, those who fought back against the Nazis, and those who sheltered those being targeted. The Museum ended with explaining how the Allied troops discovered the concentration camps and their prisoners. The visit was truly an interesting and an enlightening experience about the past.

~Mason Dean and Eli Willams, Seniors



## High School Retreat



This September high school students had the opportunity to go to Ligonier Camp and Conference center for our annual High School Retreat. Pastor Taylor, from Faith Baptist, spoke to the students about important biblical truths. These include maintaining your identity, being a leader, leading in a corrupt world, and that God is still good. Some personal takeaways are that we need to be aware of the world around us. There are many actions and beliefs that have been normalized in the world that are against what God says. Another takeaway is that the most important identity we have is a child of God and that God created us for so much more than to fit in with the culture around us.

At retreat, we did not only grow spiritually, but also in community with one another. Some ways that our school achieves this is by playing team games and having a senior-freshman night. These activities help us work better as a team, grow relationships, and get to know each other better. Many students have gained and bettered previous friendships throughout this impactful retreat. Overall, retreat is an enjoyable time for us. It helps to better our high school and grow our community. We look forward to it every year!

~Unity Miller and Shiloh Swart, Seniors



## County Chorus Festival

Eleven students represented JCS at the Somerset County Chorus Festival held at Conemaugh Township High School on November 20 and 21. These JCS students joined their voices with more than 200 students from other Somerset County schools and were directed by guest conductors Mr. Brett Keith, choral director from Northern Bedford High School, and Mr. Chris McAllister executive director of Stage Right Arts.

JCS students who were a part of this Choral Festival were:

*Front: Danielle Coleman, Shea Tyrrell*

*Second Row: Oriana Yoder, Isabella Williams, Malachi Dean*

*Third Row: Noelle Lushko, Aubrielle Lawley*

*Fourth Row: Sydnee Sorg, Matt Boland,*

*Top: Laeticia Gaskins, Olivia Lushko*



## Somerset All-County Band

The 2023 Somerset All-County Band Festival was held at Berlin-Brothersvalley School District on November 29 and 30. Five students represented JCS; Matthew Boland, Danielle Coleman, Noelle Lushko, and Vayda Urban performed with the junior high while Lily Werner performed with the senior high. These students joined with 180 other student musicians from all over the county.

The guest conductors were Larry Sarvey from Northern Bedford School District and Dr. Zach Cheever from IUP. They directed the junior high and senior high bands respectively.

The festival concluded with a wonderful concert, played to a standing-room-only audience. It was a great testimony of the gifts and talents God has given so many young people in our area.

*Left to Right:  
Danielle Coleman, Lily Werner,  
Noelle Lushko, Vayda Urban,  
Matthew Boland and  
Mr. Fassnacht*





## Carrie Antesberger—Elementary and Middle School Spanish



A familiar face this school year is Mrs. Carrie Antesberger. Carrie is the mother of Bobby ('17) and Brielle. She and her husband Robert attend Berkey Church and live in Central City. Mrs. Antesberger's love for Honduras and the Spanish language overflows in her teaching of the Spanish language to our elementary and middle school students. In her free time, Carrie enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

## Abby Godin—Kitchen Assistant

This smiling face is returns to JCS! We are excited to have Abby Godin ('22)



return to assist in the kitchen. Abby resides in Stoystown and attends New Beginnings Outreach Center Church. In her free time, she enjoys playing video games, talking with friends, and spending time with her family. When asked what she enjoys most about JCS, she replied, "I like the people. They make JCS special!"

## Rachel Hunter—Cook



Ms. Rachel Hunter joins the JCS Family this year in the Kitchen. She resides in Johnstown and attends Johnstown Seventh Day Adventist Church with her daughter Allarae (2nd). In her free time, Rachel enjoys baking cupcakes with her daughter. When asked what she loves most about JCS she said, "the

sense of family and community she received as a staff member." She loves the warmth of the people!

## Robin Kaufman—Art



Robin Kaufman grew up in Hastings all of her life until moving to the Hollsopple area in 2022 after marrying local Michael Kaufman in that same year. Together they are excitedly expecting their first child in June 2024.

She attends Kaufman Mennonite Church in Davidsville. In her free time she likes

to shop, kayak, take pictures, bake, and read.

Robin enjoys putting her art degree to use by teaching



all grades here at JCS and showing students how we are God's masterpiece and how He gave us the ability to create as well. The art room is full of messy fun. JCS has been a busy blessing in her life, filled with wonderful students and people.

### **Marie Haller —Preschool Aide**



Marie joins us from Oberkollbach, Germany, a small village next to Stuttgart. She finished her apprenticeship in May of 2023 and is a 2020 graduate from Heinrich-Immanuel-Perrot Realschule. Marie joins us from Service Adventure, Johnstown. She lives in Kernville with the other SA participants and enjoys spending time with her host family,

Melanie and Matt Alwine. Marie attends Kaufman Mennonite Church. You can find Marie assisting Mrs. Dorian with preschool. She enjoys spending time with her family and watching soccer. When asked what her favorite thing about JCS is, she replied, "I like that faith is a connected part of the school day."

### **Sarah Stanley—Science and Math**

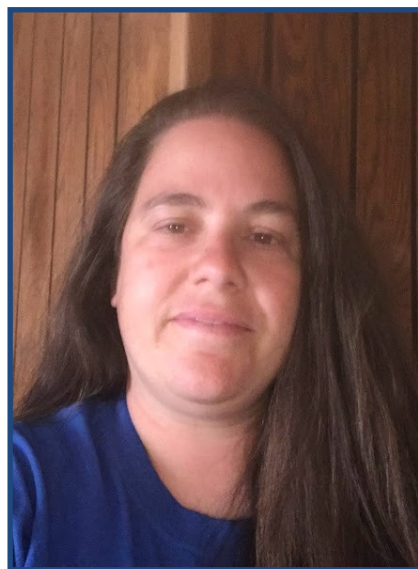


Joining us for 5th through 9th Grade Math, Science, and Health is Mrs. Sarah Stanley. Mrs. Stanley has a BS in Health Science with a minor in Biology from Saint Francis University and a Master's in Education from Saint Francis University. She and her husband Matthew, a 2002

JCS Graduate, reside in South Fork and are the parents of Isaak (8th) and Ella (3rd). Mrs. Stanley said, "JCS is a family. The teachers care for one another, support each other, and demonstrate that love to students. It is the Love of Jesus that I witness every day that makes JCS great!"

They attend Greater Johnstown Christian Fellowship. In her free time, Sarah enjoys gardening, decorating, and baking.

### **Jeni Wolfe—First Grade**



Jeni Wolfe joins the JCS family in first grade. She graduated from UPJ with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Edinboro with a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and Drexel with a Master's degree in Special Education. She is currently attending Liberty University for a Doctorate degree in Instructional Design and Technology. Miss Wolfe lives in Johnstown and attends Belmont Community Church. She is the aunt to Chad, Arizona ('24) and Elana.

Jeni likes how the school and learning is a partnership between the families and the school. She said, "the school feels like a big family and makes coming to work easier." In her free time, she enjoys crafts and camping.



## Cross Country (XC)

Both our girls' and boys' varsity teams had enough runners to compete as full teams. This added to our excitement, allowing us to score our boys' team at our meets. In addition to our girls progressing to the state meet as the District V champions, many of our runners had great personal achievements. JCS runners set many PRs (personal records) this season, and we had three medalists at the United Invitational - Adam Habecker, Lydia Hostetter, and Andi Hunsberger.

Congratulations to Lydia Hostetter, Ellie Hunsberger, Ellie Speigle, Mercedes Mull, Andi Hunsberger, Unity Miller and Eliza Shaffer. This is JCS's 10th trip in the last 14 years advancing to the state competition.



*Left to Right: Oriana Yoder, \*Ellie Hunserger, \*Andi Hunsberger, \*Anna Hunsberger, Eliza Shaffer, Julia Taylor, Jaydon Yoder, \*Eric McClemens, \*Isaac Marsh, Brayden Kibbe, Adam Habecker, Jeremiah Taylor, Ellie Speigle, Lydia Hostetter, Isabella Pelesky, Unity Miller, Coach Sprinkle, Isabella Williams.*

*Not pictured: Dorin Cook, \*Mollie Hunsberger, \*Grant McClemen, \*Mercedes Mull (\*represents CT Co-Op)*





## BV Soccer

The Boys' Soccer team had a fun-filled season with each other and their coach! I am so proud of what these guys accomplished this year. Every single person worked hard and showed huge improvement. I felt proud every single game to watch these guys never give up for a second while still showing the love of Christ in their attitudes and actions.

~Coach Brian Grove

*Front: Jeremiah Beveridge, Keyahno Richardson-Toney, Carter Rudnik, Jeremiah Taylor, Levi DiGuardi, Brayden Kibbe, Shea Tyrell, Malachi Dean*

*Back: Coach Brian Grove, Dorin Cook, Nathan Marsh, Mason Dean, Isaak Stanley, Elijah Williams, Daniel Harper, Matthew Blough, Adam Habecker, Jaydon Yoder*

## GV Soccer

What a fantastic season the Lady Jays Varsity Soccer had this fall. The theme for the season was "Eyes on the Prize" based on Proverbs 4:25-27. Our eyes were focused on finishing in the top of our conference, which we accomplished by finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> for the regular season, 6<sup>th</sup> in the tournament. Our focus on the pitch led to many achievements; first goals, first saves, victories on and off the pitch, a few losses, giving the first-place team in the conference a loss, one possible rapture, minimal injuries, and a crazy number of ties. By keeping our focus on playing with a Christ-like attitude, we were able to finish the season with a 7-3-5 record. It was a joy to see each Lady Jay on the team, keeping their eyes on doing their best to glorify the Lord this season.

~Coach Jo Habecker

*Front: Oriana Yoder, Daisy Click, Sybella Mack, Peyton Weyant, Danielle Coleman*

*Middle: Isabella Pelesky, Olivia Lushko, Lydia Hostetter, Noelle Lushko, Dakota Wilson-Boyles, Allison Burkey, Clara Harper, Isabella Williams, Coach Habecker*

*Back: Coach Sprinkle, Solenna Mack, Ellie Speigle, Lily Lushko, Unity Miller, Hope Ressler, Sara Blough, London Matsumoto*



## ACAA All-Star Game

Congratulations to the following students who represented JCS on the West team in the ACAA All-Star East-West Classic Game played on October 30 at Centre County Christian Academy.

**Girls:** Ellie Speigle, Allison Burkey, Unity Miller, Lydia Hostetter, Coach Habecker

**Boys:** Mason Dean, Eli Williams





## Engagements

**Taylor Clark ('12)** engaged to **Chey McKelvey ('12)** on April 20, 2023.

## Marriages

**Jason Ferguson ('01)** married Casey Hoxter on September 10, 2023.

Alex Stahl married **Heather Chaderwick ('15)** on June 3, 2023.

Nathan Homyak married **Kara Waters ('16)** on September 30, 2023.

Dillon Dorian married **Maddie Sprankle ('16)** on October 28, 2023.

Jonah Miller married **Kristie Lynch ('17)** on August 26, 2023.

**Robert Antesberger ('17)** married Chasity Faith on September 18, 2022.

**William Blackford ('17)** married **Kayla Yoder ('19)** on August 12, 2023.

Jordon Morack married **Abigail Holsopple ('22)** on August 5, 2023.

## Births

**Jonluke ('11)** and **Kara Varner**  
*Daughter, Maisley Kate, on September 13, 2023.*

**Robert ('17)** and Chasity **Antesberger**  
*Daughter, Emma Carol on November 21, 2023.*  
*Son, Robert Ralph, born on September 17, 2022.*

## Alumni Updates

Brian Stowers ('85) is the current pastor of Boynton Valley Baptist Church in Manchester, TN. His wife Ellen is the Children's Director and a Mary Kay Consultant. Their daughter Brianna works for TN State offices helping people get their benefits. Their son, Wayne, is Pastor of Kiron Baptist Church in Kiron Iowa. Both are married. Brian and Ellen currently have two foster daughters, Hannah and Madison.

*"Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all."  
-2 Thessalonians 3:16*

It is a joy to receive gifts that are sent to acknowledge a loved one. We are very grateful for the gifts received from the following:

*In Memory of GRACE YODER  
Family*

## Notice BOARD

### Stay Connected!

Johnstown Christian School is on Facebook and Instagram. Join us for updates throughout the week. The Facebook feed is also on the home page of our website [www.johnstownchristianschool.org](http://www.johnstownchristianschool.org).

Please call 814-288-2588 or email [kmack@jcsfamily.org](mailto:kmack@jcsfamily.org) with alumni news.

### ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL OR LIVING LEGACY FUND

*If you would be interested in pursuing either a Memorial Fund or a Living Legacy Fund in order to honor a loved one, contact Celeste Sprankle, Administrator, at [csprankle@jcsfamily.org](mailto:csprankle@jcsfamily.org).*



# Johnstown Christian School

Engaging Minds  
Building Character  
Deepening Faith &  
Creating Community to Glorify God



## LEAVE A

# Legacy

### HOW DO I NAME JCS IN MY WILL OR ESTATE PLAN?

JCS is a 501(c) (3) non -profit. Our ministry is identified as:  
Johnstown Christian School  
125 Christian School Rd, Hollsopple, PA  
15935  
Federal Tax ID: 25-1005200

*Thank you for considering a gift in your estate plan for JCS. Including JCS in your future plans leaves a legacy that will bless our ministry for generations to come.*

### WHY IS AN ESTATE PLAN IMPORTANT?

An estate plan ensures your desires and values are honored and that your assets will go to the people and organizations you select.

### WHAT IS A PLANNED GIFT?

A gift that utilizes charitable planning strategies to maximize your charitable impact and achieve your personal planning goals.

### HOW CAN I SUPPORT JCS WITH AN ESTATE GIFT?

You can name JCS as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, insurance policy, bank accounts, and/or establish an Endowment fund. These future gifts are changeable during your lifetime.

### WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

A fund that is invested permanently, and part of the income is spent annually to support the ministry; the fund grows over time and provides financial stability to the ministry.

If you have any questions about this type of giving or wish to talk about your desire to give, please contact our Business Manager, Ms. Amy McDowell  
(814) 288.2588 or [amcdowell@jcsfamily.org](mailto:amcdowell@jcsfamily.org)





**JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
125 Christian School Road • Hollsopple, PA 15935-8419  
[www.johnstownchristianschool.org](http://www.johnstownchristianschool.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
JOHNSTOWN, PA  
PERMIT NO. 5

WE MAKE IT OUR  
**AIM** TO PLEASE HIM



2 CORINTHIANS 5:9



*Johnstown Christian School 23-24*



