

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Gratitude is by definition; “the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.” As a word, it is a noun, which from my previous role as a third-grade teacher, is simply a name of a person, place, thing, or animal. It is a thing and what a powerful thing it is. Gratitude changes us and potentially those around us. As I sit in my office at JCS, I am looking at a note on my door from a second-grade student. This student wrote me a “grateful for you” card stating that I was the best school leader in North America. This made me smile. I’m glad to know how I compare to the Canadians and leaders in Mexico! But, I keep it posted, so on those more challenging days, I am reminded of the reasons why I do this job. So, thank you second grade friend - your words have the power to help change my attitude.

Middle school students also wrote “gratitude letters.” I received one of those too. It is in my desk, top drawer, and it is so powerful it brings tears to my eyes. I appreciate that our teachers are helping our students to understand the power of gratitude. In my opinion, it changes the giver and the receiver. Gratitude expressed is included in our curriculum because it is part of our mission of “engaging minds, building character, deepening faith, and creating community to glorify God.” These activities engage minds through written expression; however, they spill over into character, faith, and community. Gratitude is an important piece in what we hope to develop in our students.

These students have caused me to ponder the ways I express gratitude to others. Do I exhibit a “readiness to show appreciation”? These students and their teachers are teaching me. Yes, this was an assignment, so they had to pick someone to express their gratitude towards,

but, as a follower of Christ, isn’t that an assignment for all of us? We talk about the ego-centeredness of young people. Some of this for early learners is part of their development as they move through the preoperational stage and learn about understanding others and their perspective. As children age, our culture and social media influences cause a “me” focus. These pressures make gratitude difficult for young people, but in reality, for all of us.

May we all find  
time to focus  
solely on the Lord  
in an expression of  
gratitude.

I just finished a short book by Timothy Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*, subtitled *The Pathway to Christian Joy*. I could argue the subtitle could be the Pathway to Christian Gratitude. Ultimately, expressing gratitude requires I focus solely on the receiver of my gratitude. In the example of my card and letter from students, for a moment they had to focus on me and what I do makes them grateful (tears again).

Gratitude toward people is powerful, but what about when it is focused toward heaven? May we all find time to focus solely on the Lord in an expression of gratitude. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son” (John 3:16). As a Christ follower, that requires a “readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.”



*Celeste Sprankle*

Celeste Sprankle, Administrator

# Events

## Homecoming 2024

Congratulations to the 2024 Homecoming Court & Class Representatives. Homecoming was held on Saturday, October 5. Congratulations to Josh Berkey and Lydia Hostetter who were crowned King and Queen.



Left to Right: Noelle Lushko, Lydia Hostetter, Levi DiGuardi, Ellie Speigle, Josh Berkey, ShaLynn Favor, Joey Sorg, Lily Lushko, Dorin Cook, and Sybella Mack.



## Harrisburg, PA

Freshmen and Sophomores traveled to Harrisburg on September 27. Our day started with a quick stop at the fish hatchery, followed by some apples at Ridgetop Orchards. We then made our way east to the Pennsylvania State Museum, followed by a special tour of the Capitol building. We packed lots of information, fun, and memories into a day that will be remembered by all for a long time!

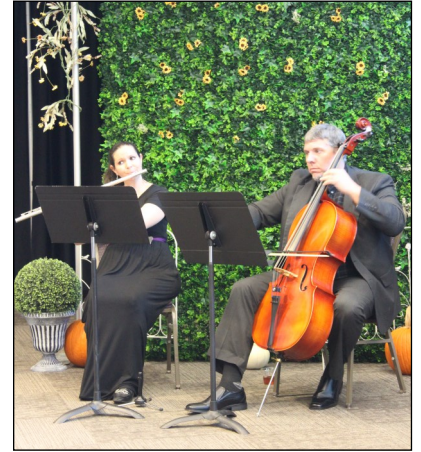
~Jason Crissman, History Teacher

## Fall Banquet 2024

Fall Banquet 2024 was a blessing. It was a great night celebrating 80 years of JCS and God's steadfastness towards us. This school year, our theme comes from 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." This year we have been remembering His steadfastness – past, present, and yet to come. In addition, we have contemplated how His steadfastness leads us to be steadfast.

As an alumna, patron, and teacher, our speaker, Jason Crissman, reminded us of God's specific faithfulness to JCS, but also challenged us for the future and the extreme importance of JCS's work. He quoted Neil Postman, "Children are the living message we sent to a time we will not see." Isn't that the value of Christian education: passing on the legacy of faith to generations to come?

Of course, our night would not be complete without hearing from current JCS students, whom we are equipping to be steadfast. We heard that message in song and in presentations. How powerful it is that these students have the narratives of His works in their hearts and proclaimed by their words.





## **Carnegie Museum of Natural History**

On October 25, the sixth through eighth grade students traveled to the Carnegie Museums of Natural History and Art in Pittsburgh. Students enjoyed completing a scavenger hunt locating fossils and rare minerals. Students also marveled at the world's third largest exhibit of dinosaur bones, dioramas of animals in their various habitats, exhibits on Native Americans, famous artwork, Ancient Egyptian artifacts, and much more. It undoubtedly was a memorable experience for all!

~ Eric Yacko, Science Teacher

## **RoboJay Juniors**

The RoboJay Juniors are making their debut this school year as a First Lego League Explore team! They have been working hard at practices, where they build with legos and code! The theme this year is SUBMERGED, which focuses on the oceans and its layers. The students will attend their presentation day at St. Francis University in March.

~Coaches  
Miss Harclerode and  
Miss Wolfe



## **Book Jays**

This fall, the Book Jays, consisting of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students, read 42 books and practiced answering comprehension questions about the books. The students competed in the local competition on November 12th at Bellwood Antis High School and received second place with 45 points. Way to go, Book Jays!

~ Coaches Miss Harclerode and Ms. Maddy



## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you JCS family for participating in the ministry of Operation Christmas Child! Through generous donations of items and funds, each student got to be a part of the packing process. We sent 162 boxes full of school supplies, health care items, and special toys to the main distribution center, where they will be shipped to other countries. The best part is that many of the underprivileged kids who receive the boxes accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior! We are able to bless them physically and spiritually through the simple gift of a shoebox. Thank you for serving God together in this way! ~ Seniors Lydia Hostetter and Ella Lushko



A shout out to the following student team who coordinated this project: *Lydia Hostetter, Hope Ressler, Sydnee Sorg, Malia Sorg, Oriana Yoder, Clara Harper, Ella Lushko, Jaydon Yoder, Jeremiah Taylor, and Dorin Cook*

## #GivingTuesday 2024

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who gave on #GivingTuesday. The monies raised will go towards the purchase of a second 15-passenger van.

## Washington, D.C.

Our Juniors and Seniors were blessed to explore Washington, D.C. again this year. We ate lunch at the USDA farmer's market, and explored the Sackler and Freer Smithsonian museums of art, as well as the Holocaust Museum. It was a full day, brimming with opportunities to learn more about the world: the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is an awesome privilege to be able to help students see the world through the lens of a Christian worldview, to be able to ask questions, and to enjoy great fellowship. Thank you to the Community Foundation of the Laurel Highlands fund that makes this trip possible. ~ Jason Crissman, History Teacher



## HS Retreat

This year's retreat was a nice mixture of having fun with friends while also spending time delving into God's word and challenging students spiritually. Usually there is only one speaker for retreat, but this year there was a different speaker for every chapel session, so each session was unique in its own way. Our overall theme this retreat focused mainly on being Socially, Emotionally, Physically, and Spiritually connected to the Lord while also living as a teenager in today's world. This year, I was able to connect with the student body through the team games. I personally value connection to one another, so I feel blessed to be given these opportunities at JCS. Overall, High School Retreat is a time of bonding and of spiritual growth, and I'm forever grateful for it.

~Josh Berkey, Senior



## Haylee Beauseigneur - Kindergarten



You can find Mrs. Haylee Beauseigneur in Kindergarten. She is our teaching our first 5-day Kindergarten class. Mrs. "Beau" has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from UPJ. Haylee and her husband Tristan reside in Ebsburg and attend Emmanuel Church. When asked what she enjoys most about JCS,

she replied, "I enjoy the amazing staff and all of our loving families. JCS is a special place, and I am so blessed to be a part of this environment". Her hobbies include painting, crafting, and hiking with her husband.

## Caitlin Carroll - PK3



Mrs. Caitlin Carroll will be working with our smallest Blue Jays, our PK3 class. Mrs. Carroll has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from St. Francis University. When asked what she likes most about JCS she said "I have found purpose and meaning of God's will by teaching and loving the littlest

learners. It's pure joy to watch them explore their mind, heart, and spirit. I strive to make sure all children feel loved and accepted." Her hobbies include crafting, decorating, and gardening. She and her husband Logan reside in Windber and attend Emmanuel. They are the parents of Marleigh (Kindergarten), Scarlett (PK4), and Laina (age 1).

## Kelly Kessler - 5th Grade



Joining us in 5th and 6th Grade is Mrs. Kelly Kessler. Mrs. Kessler has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from UPJ. Kelly resides in Johnstown with her husband Terry. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Kelly enjoys hiking, golfing, and spending time with her family.

They attend church at Emmanuel. When asked what she likes best about JCS, she replied, "I love serving at JCS because strong academics are emphasized and Bible principles are reinforced. Also, the faculty are warm and welcoming."

## Laura Mele - Elementary Aide



Mrs. Laura Mele joined the JCS staff this fall. She is assisting in the P K 3 class. She is a 2009 graduate from Pitt Johnstown. Laura and her husband Frank are the parents of Tanner (3rd) and their newest addition Levi (age 1). The Mele's attend Emmanuel church where her husband works. In their free time, they

enjoy being outdoors fishing, biking and boating. Laura enjoys cooking, learning about food and nutrition and playing outside with her children. When asked what she likes most about JCS, she said "The school is set apart in the way that they love people, treat each other like family and genuinely care for one other. It is a joy and privilege

to work at JCS and come alongside my children as they obtain their education in a Christ centered environment.”

### **Jordan Wilkinson - Secondary Language Arts**

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Joining us in Middle School is Mrs. Jordan Wilkinson. Mrs. Wilkinson has a Bachelor's degree in Middle-Level Education with a concentration in ELA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. We're excited she'll be sharing her love of ELA with our 7th and 8th grade students. Jordan and her husband Michael attend Emmanuel

church and reside in Westmont. They are the parents of Mabel (age 2). She is currently pursuing her master's in Reading through Bowling Green State University. In her free time, she enjoys putting puzzles together, reading, baking, crafting, and drinking coffee. Jordan likes “how family oriented JCS is and that you truly feel loved, supported, and appreciated here.”

### **Jenny Hostetter - Discovery**

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Mrs. Jenny Hostetter returns this year, joining the faculty in the Discovery Center. She is working with young elementary students in the Search & Teach program. Welcome back, Mrs. Hostetter!

### **Sarah Hensel - Business Manager**

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Mrs. Sarah Hensel joins the staff this year as Business Manager. Sarah has many experiences she will draw on from engineering, to running a small business. She and her husband Chuck live in Upper Yoder Township and are the parents of Haundray, Ashley ('17) Alex (5th), Dixon (Kindergarten) and Jesse (PK4). They worship at Westmont Global Methodist Church. In her free time, Sarah enjoys traveling, camping, and watching her kids grow.

### **Rebekah Ace - Kitchen & Cleaning**

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Mrs. Rebekah Ace joined the staff assisting in the kitchen and cleaning this fall. She and her husband Robert are the parents of William (2nd), Amelia (1st), and Simon (PK4). They reside in Johnstown and attend Emmanuel Church. When asked what she likes most about JCS, she replied “I love the sense of family that JCS provides and I am grateful for the ability to help my children be a part of it. My children are developing true friendships which have led to a few of my own for which I very blessed.” In her free time Rebekah enjoys reading, baking, and hiking.

### **Marsha Carr—American Sign Language**

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We are excited to welcome back Mrs. Carr (former 4th grade teacher). She is teaching American Sign Language to students in Kindergarten through Grade 6.

### **Laura Courtney—Secondary English**

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Miss Laura Courtney returned this fall as a long-term substitute in Secondary English. She was in for Mrs. Walker, who was on maternity leave welcoming baby boy Dane. Thanks Miss Courtney!



**Somerset All-County Band**

JCS was represented by nine students at this year's Somerset County Band Festival. Students traveled to Conemaugh Township High School on Wednesday, December 4, where they joined students from 13 other Somerset County schools. Just over 200 students made up the Junior High, Senior High, and Percussion Ensembles. Sadly, due to inclement weather, the second day of the festival, which included the concert, was cancelled. The students were able to perform a few of their songs for the other ensembles at the end of the day on Wednesday.

~Steven Fassnacht, Band Director

*Front: Vayda Urban, Ava Giardina, Gianna Mallozzi, Anthony Burkey, Matthew Boland*

*Back: Molly Coleman, Mr. Steven Fassnacht, Ella Harr, Isabella Kotch, Jeremiah Taylor*

**Volleyball (CT Co-Op)**



Congratulations to Cambria Kabler and the CT Lady Indians on an outstanding season! The team ended their season as Heritage Champs and were silver medalists for D5. Well done ladies!

**Cross Country (XC)**

JCS Varsity Cross Country had another excellent season! **Lydia Hostetter ('25)**, **Jeremiah Taylor ('27)**, and **Hudson Lease ('28)** advanced to the state meet in Hershey, PA. This is JCS's 11th trip in the last 15 years advancing to the state competition.



*Front: Lydia Hostetter, Clara Harper, Ellie Speigle, Isabella Williams*

*Back: Jeremiah Taylor, Dorin Cook, Isaac Marsh, Hudson Lease, Jaydon Yoder, Brayden Kibbee*

**Jr. High Team**

*Daisy Click  
Julia Taylor  
Matthew Moore*



## GV Soccer

The Lady Jays had a fabulous “All for Him” season with a blend of athleticism, teamwork, and personal growth. Their hard work and determination was evident in the 10-3-1 regular season record. With a winning record they captured second for the ACAA West division. We advanced to the semifinals of the tournament with one of the best games of the season only to be defeated by PK’s (penalty kicks). The team ended in 4th place. Way to go Lady Jays! ~ Coach Jo



*Back: Coach Dave Sprankle, Isabella Williams, Molly Coleman, London Matsumoto, Ellie Speigle, Lily Lushko, Hope Ressler, Danielle Coleman, Sydnee Sorg, Coach Jo Habecker*

*Middle: Peyton Weyant, Lydia Hostetter, Olivia Lushko, Noelle Lushko, Oriana Yoder, Briar Claycomb, Sybella Mack*

*Front: Ava Giardina, Daisy Click, Giana Mallozzi*

## BV Soccer

As a team, we often talk about what it means to be a 'man of God'. As we grow and learn together, it has been so encouraging to watch these guys push themselves daily to become tougher, more skillful, to rely on their teammates more, and to do it all while showing Christ's love to each team we encounter. I am proud of how far we've come as a team, and I'm encouraged and excited for what the future holds for these young men of God.

~ Coach Brian



*Front: Jaydon Yoder, Brayden Kibbe, Carter Rudnik, Levi DiGuardi, Malachi Dean, Dominick Bellich, Cameron Ledwich, Shea Tyrrell*

*Back: Coach Jeff Grove, Jeremiah Taylor, Dorin Cook, Issak Stanley, Elijah Swart, Matthew Blough, Daniel Harper, Adam Habecker, Keyahno Richardson-Toney, Coach Brian Grove*

## 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 November 1 in State College.

*Isabella Williams, Ellie Speigle, Lydia Hostetter, Danielle Coleman, Hope Ressler*



## Santa Classic

Congratulations to **Lydia Hostetter ('25)** and **Ellie Speigle ('25)** who represented JCS in the Santa Classic game on November 21.



*Dorin Cook,  
Matthew Blough,  
Brayden Kibbe*

## Engagements

Noah Stockett engaged to **Sadie Sprankle ('13)**  
on October 14, 2024.

**Drew Taylor ('21)** engaged to Mellany Bowser  
on June 25, 2024.

## Marriages

Shawn Holmes married **Holly Jo Berkey ('96)** on  
October 26, 2024

**Taylor Clark ('12)** married **Chey McKelvey ('12)** on  
October 19, 2024.

**Jeremy Pyles ('15)** married Lexie Mattingly on  
October 11, 2024.

Timmy Johnson married **Adrianna Thomas ('19)** on  
June 29, 2024.

Ethan Detwiler married **Sydney Holsopple ('20)**, on  
June 15, 2024.

**Jacob Hartnett ('22)** married Mylene Adamczyk on  
October 9, 2024.

## Births

**Colt ('12)** and Rachel McKelvey  
*Daughter, Nora Ruth, born on July 21, 2024.*

Dillon and **Maddie (Sprankle) ('16)** Dorian  
*Daughter, Delaney Anne, born on October 19, 2024.*

Nathan and **Kara (Waters) ('16)** Homyak  
*Son, Walter Robert, born on December 6, 2024.*

**Levi ('17)** and Leah Peruso  
*Daughter, Talia Elizabeth, born on July 5, 2024.*

Jordan and **Abigail (Holsopple) ('22)** Morack  
*Daughter, Hadley May, born on October 11, 2024.*

## Alumni Updates

**Seth Crissman ('05)** was selected by Eastern Mennonite University's Alumni Association and its Awards and Nominations Committee as the 2024 Outstanding Young Alum for his work through the collaborative faith based ministry, The Soil and The Seed Program. Congratulations Seth!

*"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*

OWEN LEHMAN

*Anonymous*

## 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

*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.



## 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

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



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# STEADFAST

1944-2024  
80 Years



1 Corinthians  
15:58