

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

How is vulnerability defined? It is the state of being exposed to the possibility of being harmed, attacked, or hurt—physically or emotionally. It describes a lack of protection, a known weakness, or an openness that can be affected by external forces.

For our annual family vacation this year, we rented from a different agency than usual. With our growing family, now including grandchildren and a few new sons-in-law, our needs are changing. We still search for the most reasonably priced option while keeping our space requirements in mind. I begin looking early each year. There is something enjoyable about planning in anticipation of filling a rented home with the love, laughter, and activity of family.

The home we rented appeared to be a perfect fit, at least according to the online description and virtual tour. To be fair, it was a wonderful place. Truthfully, any place is a great place when my whole crew is together. However, the pictures were a bit misleading. The photos did an excellent job of concealing the minor flaws and presenting everything in a way that was just a little more polished and appealing than reality.

I suppose that is a bit like all of us, isn't it? We naturally want to present our best selves. There is nothing inherently wrong with that. Yet, there comes a point in our spiritual journey when we are called to be our authentic selves before God and others, without the carefully chosen camera angles, filters, and touch-ups.

This is at the heart of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." To experience God's power, we must first acknowledge our weaknesses.

Likewise, in 2 Corinthians 4:7, Paul reminds us that we are "jars of clay," fragile vessels carrying the treasure of God's presence.

Recently, I have also found myself reflecting on a church located near my home. The beautiful stained-glass windows of this historic church have been covered with protective plexiglass. In theory, I understand the reasoning. These works of art are valuable and vulnerable to damage. Yet over time, the plexiglass has become cloudy. While it provides protection, it also obscures the beauty of the windows themselves. The view becomes distorted and beauty diminished.

Perhaps, we do something similar. We place protective layers around ourselves to guard against hurt and disappointment. We fear that

if others truly see us, our weaknesses, insecurities, and failures, we might be rejected or broken. So, we build barriers that keep us safe, but often at the cost of being fully known.

I am certainly not suggesting that we expose ourselves to unnecessary pain. However, allowing ourselves to be genuinely seen is essential for growth. This kind of vulnerability happens within supportive relationships, trusted communities, and most importantly, in our relationship with the Lord. Psalm 139 beautifully reminds us, "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me." No amount of plexiglass or carefully crafted images can alter God's view of us. He sees us completely and loves us fully. We do not need to impress Him. We only need to come before Him honestly.

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Events

Graduation 2026

Congratulations to the class of 2026. Graduation was held on May 29 at Faith Baptist Church. We lift them up as they've made plans (see below) and pray the Lord determines their steps (Proverbs 16:9).



- ShaLynn Favor *LaSalle University, Nursing*
- Cambria Kabler *Penn Highlands Community College/Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Interior Design*
- Hannah McRae *Workforce*
- Emilee Nale *Penn Highlands Community College, Nursing*
- Hope Ressler *University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Early Childhood Education*
- Malia Sorg *Gap Year & Workforce*
- Lillian Werner *Gap Year & Workforce*
- Jaydon Yoder *University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Engineering*



Feed the Need

During our Feed the Need campaign, we raised student awareness of Bangladeshi children’s poverty and genuine need. Our food went to the largest refugee camp and orphanages in Bangladesh.

Our 7th All-school Packing party was held on Friday, March 20. Music, fun, and fellowship filled the gym as students and staff worked together to pack 10,080 meals.

These meals are used to connect with refugees, spread the good news of the Gospel, and show Christ’s love through ministry partners on the ground. Funds raised will bridge the tuition gap and develop long-term financial sustainability at JCS. We thank God for the opportunity to be part of His work in feeding families in need through this campaign. Please join us in praying for the safe delivery of the food, and that it would be a blessing to the families who receive it. Most importantly, pray that through this gift, they would have the opportunity to know and love Jesus.

FEED the NEED

2026 SPONSORS
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Middle School Retreat

The middle school retreat took place on April 30-May 1 at Camp Allegheny and was full of fun, competition, and willingness to learn about the Lord. Miss Erin McDonald spoke to students over the course of four sessions using examples of Paul's nephew, Esther, and David to encourage students to stay strong in their faith and rely on their "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Students made new friends, worked together in relay races and sports games, and dove deeper into their faith. As a result, everyone had an amazing time!



- Ava Giardina, 8th Grade

Spring Festival

The sounds of laughter, fellowship, live music, and excitement filled the air on May 9 during our 45th Annual Live Auction. Guests enjoyed delicious food and an afternoon of community while bidding on many wonderful items, including a beautiful handmade quilt donated by Women in Missions from Kaufman Church. Proceeds from the Spring Festival continue to help bridge the tuition gap for our students and families.

We are grateful for God's continued blessings as our school grows. Please continue to keep JCS in your prayers as we relocate classrooms and add an additional third-grade classroom to accommodate our increasing elementary enrollment. With growing class sizes, we are currently utilizing our space to full capacity. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, funds raised during the 2026 Spring Festival Project were enough to purchase new desks and chairs for 20 students in the new third-grade classroom.

Save the date and plan to join us for our 46th Spring Festival on May 8, 2027!

FINE Arts

6th Grade Band Festival

On Friday, April 10, 185 students from 28 different school districts combined at Portage Area High School for the 2026 PMEA 6th Grade Bandfest. Mr. Johnathan Neff, Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at St. Francis University, was the guest conductor.



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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

This truth is important for all believers, but it is becoming increasingly challenging in the culture our students are growing up in. They are immersed in a world of filters, Photoshop, artificial intelligence, and carefully crafted social media posts. In such an environment, showing up in real and vulnerable ways can feel difficult, yet authenticity is essential for meaningful relationships and genuine spiritual growth.

As educators, parents, and mentors, we must create spaces where students can be honest about their struggles, questions, and imperfections. We must encourage them to understand that vulnerability is not weakness; it is often the doorway through which God does some of His greatest work.

When we allow ourselves to be seen by God, by others, and even by ourselves, we open the door for growth and transformation. In our weakness, His strength is revealed, and His grace is made evident. May it be so in us!



Celeste Sprankle

Celeste Sprankle
Head of School

Three students represented JCS this year: Colton Rudnik (Tenor Sax), Geiselle Padmore (Tuba), and Sean Fassnacht (Horn). All three practiced hard prior to and during the festival and contributed to the wonderful concert put on by all of the students Friday evening.

- Mr. Fassnacht, Band Director



District 6 Chorus Festival

Three students represented Johnstown Christian School at the PMEA District 6 Chorus Festival held at Richland High School on January 7-9, 2026. Matthew Boland, Dorin Cook, and Issak Stanley joined their voices with more than 170 musically talented students from four counties in PA. Mr. Jason Bizich, director of Chorus Studies at Harriton High School in the Lower Merion School District, directed the honor choir.

- Kristen Lloyd, Choral Director

Drana Presentation of The Old Faith, Hope, and Charity

Johnstown Christian School took a different approach in drama this year as they performed the play *The Old, Faith, Hope, and Charity*. Our heartwarming cast of characters, hard-working crew, and production staff brought this endearingly charming and funny show to life and left the audience with a smile and bits of wisdom. As the comedic character Ernie put it so appropriately, “I love you a bushel and a peck.”

This year, we celebrated the 30th year of our drama team at JCS. We want to thank you, the community, alumni, family, and friends for always supporting us along the way.



Cast: Front Row. Daniel Harper; Jaydon Yoder; Jeremiah Taylor; Kendra Johnson, Isabella Williams, Julia Taylor

Back. Hannah McRae, Lily Werner; Dorin Cook, Hope Ressler; Malia Sorg



Crew: Oriana Yoder; London Matsumoto, Kinzey Sorg, Sydnee Sorg

Tour Choir

The JCS Tour and Handbell Choirs enjoyed five days of ministry in May! We shared our music and message, “Walk Worthy” reflecting on Paul's prayer for believers in Colossians 1:10-14. Students shared music, verses, and testimonies centered around pleasing God, bearing fruit, growing in knowledge, being strengthened by the Lord, and giving things for God's redemption and forgiveness.

Congregations and communities across New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were encouraged by the music and testimonies that the students shared.

We were able to reconnect with JCS Alumni who attended our concerts, renewed old friendships, and made new friends along the way. Some of the songs the choirs performed included “Take Time to Be Holy,” “Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven,” “God Has Spoken,” “Be Strong in the Lord,” and “Power of the Cross.” The powerful message through the songs we sang and scriptures we shared touched the hearts of the congregations and the choir members as well!

Here are some quotes from JCS students about 2026 Choir Tour:

“I went on Choir Tour and it was honestly such a cool experience. There were so many times when I was performing that I felt like God was actually speaking to me through the lyrics of the choir and bell songs. It didn't just feel like I was playing for the fun of it, it felt like a real, personal connection, and the music really hit me in a way I didn't expect. It was also awesome to see how much our music meant to the people we played for. You could tell it was making a big impact on them, which made all the practice worth it.”

“I know our concerts made an impact because one of my ‘host moms’ ended up messaging me and thanking me later. Not only was my service impactful for others, but also for me. Choir Tour allowed me to meet new people and hear their stories and allowed me to get to know more people. It also allowed me to serve God and share His love with others.”

Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful trip for your glory!

Kristen Lloyd, Music
Teacher



Achievement AND Accolades

RoboJays

The RoboJays competed this season in a FIRST LEGO League tournament at Central Cambria on January 31. This year, the team built and programmed a robot to complete missions related to the season's archaeology theme. The team also designed a prototype for a mobile artifact preservation chamber that archaeologists could use while conducting fieldwork. At the competition, the team placed third out of more than 40 teams in robot performance and also won a second-place Core Values trophy. The RoboJays demonstrated outstanding teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills this season.

-Eric Yacko, Advisor



Front: Eric Yacko, Advisor; Mollie Conway, Zachary Berkebile, Grant Greathouse, Gage Claycomb Back. Marvy Ayad, Kendra Regan, Sean Fassnacht, Abram Ayad, Bryston Gardner, Klayton Daily

Robojay Jrs.

The RoboJays Jrs had a great year! They worked from September to March, preparing their presentations for the FIRST LEGO League Expo. They learned about archeology, used creativity to build, and coded to make their excavator move.

-Coaches, Jeni Wolfe and Jeanna Harclerode



William Ace, Mara Knipple, Jacob Mallozzi, Cambria Ledwich, Mave Tyrrell, Sofia Condezza, Weston Hostetter, Theo Grove

Engaging Minds, Building Character, Deepening Faith, and Creating Community to Glorify God

Book Jays

The Elementary Book Jays read 40 books and competed against 50 schools in the Spring Competition at Forest Hills High School. These students worked hard reading books and answering questions. Their hard work paid off, earning them second place in the competition.



Front: Sarah Kotch, Nash Claycomb, Carmine Bellich Middle: Charis Havener, Violet Marks, Lia Marks

Back: Parks Crissman, Andra Hostetter, Marvy Ayad

The Middle School Book Jays competed in their very first Spring Competition at Forest Hills High School. The team read 30 books and answered 90 questions! They worked hard, had fun reading, and recalled information to answer questions. Great job to our pioneer group of Middle School reading competition students.



Front. Alex Hensel, Sean Fassnacht, Gavin Custer

Back. Amelia Overdorff, Isabella Kotch, Aubriella Twardziak, Carolyn George, Geiselle Padmore

-Coaches Jeanna Harclerode and Melissa Maddy

Spanish Honor Society

On April 7, 2026, JCS inducted five new members into el Capítulo Miguel Cervantes de La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica. The evening included worship in Spanish and English led by new inductees; a recitation of the history of the chapter; an encouraging word from the speaker, Miss Jeanna Harclerode; and the official induction of new members. The SHS advisor is Mrs. Jillian Walker.

Students in Spanish III were recognized for their dedication to continued language learning, and senior Lillian Werner was awarded honor cords.



Pictured are the newest members of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, Miguel Cervantes Chapter: Oriana Yoder, Noelle Lushko, Levi DiGuardi, Isabella Williams, and Sydnee Sorg.

National Spanish Exam

Congratulations to Oriana Yoder, who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2026 National Spanish Examinations. She earned an honorable mention medal. Students from Johnstown Christian School have a long history of high achievement on these exams and were taught by Mrs. Jillian Walker.



National Honor Society

The Johnstown Christian School chapter of the National Honor Society held its induction ceremony on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Juniors Jeremiah Taylor and Daniel Harper (pictured L to R) celebrated their induction at a reception with their families. For consideration, a student must earn and maintain a minimum 3.6 GPA, take honors courses when available, and exhibit qualities reflecting leadership, service, and character.

Rev. Durean Coleman, Executive Director at Peniel Residential Drug/Alcohol Treatment Facility, gave the Charge. The NHS Advisor is Mr. Jason Crissman.

Robotic Doges

The Robotic Doges had an awesome experience competing on a global stage alongside 72 international teams at the 2025-26 #runfortherobots Premiere Event. On the competition field, they raised their season-high match score from 264 to 400, advanced to playoffs as the second-seed alliance with Fe2O, and made it through to Semi-Finals. They missed Division Finals by a mere 24 points due to rippling effects of a servo breakdown on their alliance partner's robot just before playoffs began, but both teams battled hard and still came out smiling. Go FIRST teams!



JCS Members: Dorin Cook and Elsie Overdorff

JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Elementary Speech Meet

Congratulations to the following students who won a superior ribbon at the Elementary Speech Meet on March 6, 2026.

1ST GRADE

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET WINNERS
2026



Delilah Kabler - Poetry & Elena Szarka - Bible

2ND GRADE

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET WINNERS
2026



Sebastian Krause - Poetry, Colson Neal - Bible, Lucas Rummel - Fables and Folklore

3RD GRADE

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET WINNERS
2026



Harper McDonald - Fables and Folklore, Aubrey Lepley - Poetry, Avery Kaufman - Bible, Jackson Marks - Bible

4TH GRADE

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET WINNERS
2026



Everly McLaughlin - Fables and Folklore
Jacob Mallozzi - Poetry

5TH GRADE

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET WINNERS
2026



Charis Havener - Bible, Marvy Ayad - Poetry, Ian Sferro - Patriotic Oration, Eben Golla - Bible Prose

6TH GRADE

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET WINNERS
2026



Luca Desrochers - Bible Prose, Colton Rudnik - Bible, Natalie Regelman - Patriotic Oration, Jocelyn Furdella - Poetry

Boys Varsity Basketball

The boys' team is defined by a culture of resilience and spiritual growth. Competing in the ACAA, they use the court as a classroom to build character, emphasizing that how a player carries themselves is just as important as how they shoot the ball.



Hayden George (statistician), Shea Tyrrell, Keyahno Richardson-Toney, Daniel Harper, Matt Blough, Levi DiGuardi, Jaydon Yoder, Dijon Coleman, Jeremiah Taylor, Coach Andrew Taylor

Girls Varsity Basketball

The girls' team showed great pride and determination, ending the regular season with an 18-2 record. They ended the season finishing 1st place in the Western Division and 4th in the ACAA Conference.



*Daisy Click, Noelle Lushko, Oriana Yoder, Lily Lushko, ShaLynn Favor, Hope Ressler, Danielle Coleman, Hannah McRae, Gianna Mallozzi, Coach Kevin Yoder
Not Pictured: Coach Chris Lushko and Hayden George (statistician)*

Archery

With many new archers joining the team this season, growth was evident at every level. Numerous athletes achieved personal-best scores at practices and tournaments, making it rewarding to see their hard work and dedication pay off throughout the year.



Front: Briar Claycomb, Oriana Yoder, Isabella Williams, Matthew Moore, Dominick Bellich, Anthony Burkey, Mollie Conway, Aubrielle Twardziak, Emilee Nale, and Hanna McRae

Back: Coach Burkey, Dorin Cook, Cambria Kabler, Kinzey Sorg, Jaydon Yoder, Hayden George, Matthew Blough, Adam Habecker, Thaddeus Held, Mafia Sorg, and Coach Sprankle

Jr. High Basketball

The girls had a very successful year. Their basic skills improved throughout the season. They learned new basketball strategies and ideas. The team finished with a 10-5 winning record.

The boys showed growth this season, improving in all parts of basketball. They proved that not giving up pays off. The team had three come-from-behind victories and finished the season 8-7.



Girls: Sally Regelman, Dalis Wolfe, Julia Taylor, Molly Coleman, Aubrielle Twardziak, Isabella Kotch, Ella Harr, Carolyn George, Kendra Regan

Boys: Elijah Harr, Anthony Burkey, Corbin Overdorff, Coach David Sprankle, Ava Giardina (statistician), Jaxon Empfield, Cameron Ledwich, Hayden Kramer

Not pictured: Celeste Sprankle, Asst. Coach



Conference All-Star Basketball Team

Congratulations to the following athletes who made the Conference All-Star basketball team and played in the ACAA East-West Classic on March 10 at Belleville Mennonite School.

1st Team: Danielle Coleman ('28)

2nd Team: Lily Lushko ('27) and Noelle Lushko ('28) Representative: Levi DiGuardi ('28)

Representative: Levi DiGuardi ('28)

Co-Ops

A shout-out to the following students who participated in co-ops with Conemaugh Township:

Varsity Track and Field



Isabella Williams ('28), Adam Habecker ('28),
and Amaira Lopez ('28)

Jr. High Track and Field



Isabella Kotch ('30), Sally Regelman ('31),
and Aubrielle Twardziak ('31)

Varsity Baseball

Shea Tyrrell ('29)





Darlene Custer Kitchen & Janitorial

Darlene Custer joined the staff late last fall, 2025. She is working between Kitchen and Janitorial duties. Darlene is a 2000 graduate of Westmoreland County Community College. She is the mother of Gavin (7th Grade). The Custer's attend Central City Methodist Church where Darlene is the Administrative Council Chairperson and also teaches kids' Sunday School and Lenten Bible School. She enjoys spending time with her son and family, volunteering at church, and helping with Windber AYSO. Her favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 40:31. When asked what she loves most about JCS, she replied, "I love JCS because of the loving Christian family environment where lives are changed for Jesus."

A New Chapter

We want to recognize our faculty and staff who will be leaving JCS this year for a new chapter.

- **Tarah Mauzy**, thank you for 1 year in Kindergarten.
- **Jeni Wolfe**, thank you for 3 years in 1st Grade.
- **Jenny Hostetter**, thank you for 6 years in Preschool and Discovery.
- **Katie Inman**, thank you for 12 years in Discovery.
- **Troy Burkey**, thank you for 27 years in Math and Shop.

Band Concert

The 14th annual JCS spring band concert was held on May 14th in the school's gymnasium. Band students from grades 4-12 participated in small and large ensembles to showcase months of hard work and dedication. The JCS bands were once again joined by members of the Somerset County Community Band (SCCB). The ensembles were directed by JCS Band Director Steven Fassnacht as well as Jason June and Dan Croft, conductors of the SCCB. Dan Croft mentioned towards the end of the concert that all five people who have previously been or are currently the band director at JCS were in attendance, either playing or conducting. The night was a wonderful celebration of the gift of music that God has graciously given.

-Steven Fassnacht, Band Director



Ann Harris Smith Foundation and Laurel Toyota Donation



JCS was blessed to receive a \$10,000 donation from Laurel Toyota and the Ann Harris Smith Foundation this past December. These funds were dedicated to our youngest learners—the three- and four- year-olds in the preschool program.

Thanks to this gift, we were able to transform an existing space into a bright, open classroom featuring both carpeted and tiled areas. The new classroom is not only functional but also engaging and developmentally appropriate, providing an environment where our youngest students can explore, learn, and grow.

We are deeply grateful to Laurel Toyota and the Ann Harris Smith Foundation for partnering with us to bring this vision to life and for helping JCS equip the classroom with high-quality materials and furnishings. It is truly an honor to collaborate with you in this important work.

Property Acquisition

As JCS begins to move forward with the development of a Strategic Plan for the growth and mission of our school, JCS completed Phase One of the plan. Last Autumn, with God's perfect timing and His provisions, a gracious and generous friend of JCS covered the cost of purchasing an adjacent property in front of the school. Please pray with us for clarity in how to best utilize any acquired property.

Engagements

Leonardo Poppante engaged to **Gwendolyn Price ('16)** on April 19, 2026.

Jordan McEvoy engaged to **Lillie Sprankle ('21)** on January 7, 2026.

Weddings

Caleb McDowell ('18) married Alison Huffman on April 11, 2026.

Anthony Cole married **Sophie Sprankle ('18)** on June 20, 2026.

Mason Dean ('24) married **Clara Harper ('25)** on May 23, 2026.

Births

Luke and **Amelia (Clawson) ('05)** Lindsey Son, Issac William, born on April 15, 2026.

Memorials

In Memory of TWILA CLAYCOMB

*David and Norma Hughes
Marshall and Bridget Hughes
John and Jodi Huston
Joseph and Katherine Inman
Tom Nanna
Donald and Carrie Oswald
Terry and Kathy Shook
Dennis and Sheila Stephenson
Nancy Stephenson
Charles and Constance Sturtz
David and Louann Templeton
Wayne and Dolly Templeton
Timothy and Patricia Weis
William and Earlene Willis
William and Kathryn Witt
Michael and Becky Yager*

In Memory of MEL SPORY

Allen Kaufman

In Memory of JUNE YODER

Allen Kaufman

In Memory of HARRY SHAW

*Sandra Burkey
Cambria County War Memorial Authority
James and Nancy Conjelko
Marikay Corliss
Deborah Cuppett
Ernie Davison
Edward and Jan Emch
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Darren Stockett and Family
Robin and Patricia Tiffany
Brent and Ida Williams
Tom and Leila Wolfe*

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Johnstown Christian School is on Facebook and Instagram. Join us for updates throughout the week.

Events & Announcements can be found on our front page of our website at www.johnstownchristianschool.org.

Please call 814-288-2588 or email kmack@jcsfamily.org with alumni news.



Fall Banquet

Save the Date
November 21, 2026