



Houghton Academy Episodes

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Passion Project Exhibition Night is April 1

Passion Project season is here with Houghton Academy students in English classes with Mrs. Hilsher or Mr. Pritchard preparing a public presentation on their interests.

Students will publicly showcase their work from 7PM to 9PM, on Tuesday evening, April 1.

The Passion Project aims to help students grow in the talents that they are interested in or improve the individual skills they already have.

It has been in Houghton Academy for five years.

Mrs. Hilsher believes each student's gift from God is unique and important.

She hopes students can pursue their gifts, interests, and talents, while also using English Language Arts skills in a way that is fun and meaningful to each student.

This year there are 66 students involved in this project in two English classes. The projects range from cooking to art, business, fitness, music, dance, and much more.

"Seeing students actively engage their curiosity and show pride in their work is the best part of passion projects from my teacher perspective," according to Mrs. Hilsher.

Students don't just get the benefit of gaining knowledge about their subject, they learn English skills including research and documentation, persuasive and reflective writing, and public presentations. They also gain life skills that involve planning, making goals, self-evaluation, and networking.

Each student is required to find an expert as a mentor in the field that they're working on.

Passion Project isn't as easy in some ways as it sounds, it's hard to evaluate if the goals are realistic or challenging enough on the project students choose to do.

Mrs. Hilsher says that "my hope is that the expert will help them set challenging yet realistic goals and will offer some evaluation about how successfully students have met those goals."



Volleyball team prepares for mission trip to Nicaragua

Houghton Academy ladies are preparing for their week-long mission trip to Nicaragua coming up in mid-April.

There are eight student volleyball athletes going on the trip, accompanied by Mrs. Hilsher, volleyball coach, and Mrs. Dover, volunteer coach.

The volleyball ladies will be partnering with athletes on the National Federal Teams, an organization in Nicaragua.

They will be serving young Nicaraguan athletes through volleyball, a local elderly feeding program, and spring cleaning in a local school.

They also will be given the opportunity to show and talk about their faith in Nicaragua through the services they will be doing.

This mission trip is a ministry and using the sport that the athletes have for volleyball to have beautiful connections and opportunities to serve and share God's love towards others, like Nicaraguans.

One of the best things about coaching in a Christian school is the opportunity it provides not only to share Christ and His love with the athletes on my team but also to help my athletes see the opportunities that sports give them to share Christ and His love with others, Mrs. Hilsher said.



Even with language and cultural differences, sports create a common bond that allows athletes to share life and truth in a very special way, she added.

The volleyball ladies will be learning how to trust God's providence through traveling and safety, and money concerns.

Prayers are requested that each of the student athletes are going to experience God's goodness, grace, and love, that they can build relationships with the people they are serving in Nicaragua and they will hear about God's love for them.

Each of the athletes will feel a deeper connection with God through His love and provision. They also will be able to see God's amazing work as they serve and build a stronger relationship with each other as a team.

The volleyball team has been raising money for transportation, lodging, meals and supplies for their work in the schools, the local feeding program, and also supporting the National Federal Teams in Nicaragua which is helping the volleyball team with their mission trip.

Anyone who wishes to support the Volleyball Girls in their mission trip can donate through a link at <https://secure.igniteinternational.org/havbnic>.

HA teacher spotlight

Mrs. Mulema is a high school science and math teacher and has been teaching at Houghton Academy for the past two years. Mrs. Mulema came to Houghton Academy with her husband, who also currently serve as the boys' dorm parents, and three children from Uganda.

Although Mrs. Mulema has been teaching 13 years, it wasn't her first choice to become a teacher.

She originally wanted to be a doctor but found out that majoring in teaching was cheaper in Uganda due to the lack of teachers in the math and science field at that time.

The tuition fee was expensive to be a doctor and the government back in Uganda was willing to pay full-price tuition to whoever went into the science and math major to be a teacher. However, Mrs. Mulema later found a passion for teaching and she decided to continue to be a teacher instead of a doctor.

She found joy in seeing students solve problems in math in many different ways and seeing students apply the concepts of science in many ways as they understood the materials.

Mrs. Mulema decided to work at the Academy because she wanted to teach in an environment where she could talk about God and share her faith with her students.

She learned about Houghton Academy through the Association of Christian Schools International, and she felt a calling from God to work in the Academy.

Mrs. Mulema was raised in a Christian family and decided to stay in her faith because she saw the amazing work of God in different ways through scripture and science which gave her a strong belief in God.

She will continue to teach at Houghton Academy because of her students, the Houghton community, and the Houghton Academy staff. She said that with the support which has been given to her and her family, she is even more motivated to teach at the Academy.



Welcome!

Welcome to *Houghton Academy Episodes*, a new center point of our school's news, where student happenings take center stage.

Here, we bring you engaging, interesting stories, and achievements of Houghton Academy's students and staff. Whether in-depth features or personal narratives, we are dedicated to keeping our school informed and engaged.

Houghton Academy Episodes has the ability to enlighten, unite, and spark meaningful discussion. Our mission is to provide accurate, and compelling stories that you'll be interested in. Through student-led discussions and activities, we strive to foster a culture of awareness and critical thinking within our school community.

Join us as we explore the stories that shape our personal worlds, from highlighting student accomplishments and covering campus events, to staying connected and informed.

If you would like to be part of this journalism journey please see Summer Lee or David Jatta, both seniors and members of the Journalism Club.
