



A message from the Interim Head of School:

Houghton Academy's Commencement celebration for the Class of 2026 was a grand event. We are so thankful that the Seniors, a wonderful group of young men and women, were able to complete their high school years at the Academy with exposure to a full dose of Christian worldview. God is not finished with the Academy yet!

Through the prayers and giving of so many friends and alumni, the seemingly unreachable goal of \$850,000 is almost in hand. As I write this update, we have received \$826,000.

The end of June completes our fiscal year and the need is just \$24,000 more. With the regular monthly giving and a few extra gifts, we are confident God will provide what is needed.

I am fully aware that many of you have gone above and beyond in supporting the Academy this year.

Dare I ask you one more time to help the Academy finish on a solid financial foundation?

As you know, there are significant challenges ahead as we seek to increase enrollment, present a balanced operating budget for next year, and fill a few remaining faculty/staff positions.

I began this year quoting Jeremiah 33:3 and I end this year with the same emphasis. We continue to "call upon God to show us great and mighty things which we know not." Thank you for continuing to call upon the Lord with us and, as God leads, participating in the "mighty things."

With praise and thankfulness,
Philip G. Stockin
Interim Head of School



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Academics

The Culmination of their Journey

On Saturday, May 30th, 23 seniors joined the ranks of proud Houghton Academy Alumni in the commencement ceremony held in Tysinger Auditorium. A brief address was made by Philip G. Stockin based on 2 Chronicles 21:20. Jehoram, a king of Judah, departed this world to no one's regret. Seniors were challenged to live authentically, love boldly, learn deeply, and lead globally so that this would never be said of them! Ellie Brubaker, valedictorian, and Julia Winkens, salutatorian, also shared brief remarks. Please enjoy a recording of the celebration here.

[View Here](#)



The seniors enjoyed the traditional photo on front steps



Senior Leila Pagano performs an original song composed by her for the occasion



Valedictorian, Ellie Brubaker



Salutatorian, Julia Winkens



Interim Head of School Philip G Stockin '63 congratulates his grandson Joshua Philip Davidson '26 - the third generation to attend Houghton Academy



Student Life

Senior Trip

The seniors worked hard all year at fundraising and were able to take an amazing trip to the Williamsburg, VA area. Highlights included participating in a mock-trial, singing on the Colonial Williamsburg shuttle, playing at Virginia Beach, touring the VA aquarium, hanging out at the hotel pool, eating great food, and spending many hours together on the yellow school bus! Thanks to everyone who supported them.







Prom 2026

The 10th - 12th grade students enjoyed dancing the night away at the Palmer Opera House in Cuba, NY. A good time was had by all!



Thanking Interim Head of School Philip G. Stockin

On July 1, 2026 Mr. Philip G. Stockin will again step down from his role as Houghton Academy's Interim Head of School. I'm challenged to find adequate words to thank Phil for his service during the challenging 2025-2026 school year; financially one of the most difficult years in our school's 143-year history. Frankly, by the logic of the world Houghton Academy should have closed its doors at Thanksgiving. However, we serve a God who does not work by the world's logic! Instead, at the beginning of the school year, Phil Stockin stepped forward, offering leadership, financial management, and faithfulness to God, our ultimate Head of School. These traits and the trust Phil earned from alumni, board members, parents, staff, faculty, and other stakeholders brought us through the year. Thank you Phil and praise be to God!

Of course, Phil Stockin was able to rely on many years of experience to steer Houghton Academy during difficult times. He is an alumnus (a member of the class of 1963) beginning his professional career at Houghton Academy in 1971. He retired as Head Master in 2011; however, that's not the end of the story. He first served successfully as Interim Head of School from 2022 to 2023 during a period when our school struggled back to post-covid normalcy.

Now, we again gratefully bid goodbye to Phil as Interim Head of School, and welcome him to his next critical role. He has agreed to serve as our Chief Financial Officer for the up-coming 2026-27 school year. Thank you Phil for all of the sacrifices you and your family have made and continue to make for Houghton Academy!

With gratitude,

Mark Getzin, Chair, Board of Trustees



Interim Head of School Philip G. Stockin passes the baton to new Interim Head of School Mike Burgett. Mr. Stockin will be moving to a CFO role for the upcoming school year.

Celebrating 81 years!

On June 12, 2026 Interim Head of School Philip G. Stockin turned 81. He celebrated this morning with a cake (short a few candles!). Please join us in not only thanking him for his service to the Academy but also wishing him Happy 81 years young!

