



**October 2025**

## **Your Giving Matters**

### **From the Interim Head of School**

As the first quarter comes to an end, I want to personally thank all of you who have stepped up and responded to the extremely challenging financial situation the Academy is experiencing this year. The gifts of all sizes...from \$5 to \$50,000...along with many encouraging notes have often brought tears to my eyes. Being reminded of the many ways lives have been influenced for good by experiences at Houghton Academy has strongly affirmed our mission.

Last fiscal year gifts totaled \$251,000. This year, through October 20, the Lord has already led alumni and friends to give \$293,000. If you are among the donors, my deepest thanks. If you have not yet given, please consider doing so. The need remains acute with gifts often covering needs just as the situation becomes ominous - the Lord truly does provide.

The students continue to do well, as you can see from the other news notes, and the faculty/staff serve faithfully as they input the Christian worldview into the young lives the Lord has brought to campus this year.

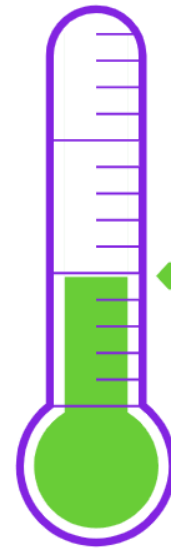
Thanks again, and please join with us as we continue to "...call upon the Lord to show us great and mighty things which we know not."

Sincerely, Philip G. Stockin



Fundraising Goal

**\$850,000**



Raised  
**\$293,000**

Donate Today!

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## What's Happening at Houghton Academy

**From the Houghton Academy Board Chair, Mark Getzin**

This year, the Academy Board Chair also has the privilege of teaching Spanish part-time, providing an opportunity to see students, faculty, volunteers, and staff interact on a daily basis. I would like to share a few vignettes of daily life as we work together to make the year a resounding success.

Thursday afternoons, we have Chapel followed by small groups at Houghton Academy. Our chapels begin with songs led by our Worship Team, an outstanding multinational group of Houghton Academy musicians who ably lead students, faculty, and staff. Typically, the music is followed by a chapel speaker. Our guest speakers come from "in-house" folks like girls' dorm parent Beth Brubaker or locals like Pastor Jon Cole from Houghton Wesleyan Church. After the service, we break up into small groups; boys with male group leaders and girls with female group leaders. I'm privileged to lead a wonderful group of young men from the USA, China, and Indonesia who particularly love the snacks I bring. The conversation may start with the chapel topic, but it soon turns to a free-ranging discussion about almost anything. When the bell sounds at 3:15, my room fills up with students looking for leftover snacks. I love these moments!

For the second year in a row, it has become a tradition for many middle-schoolers to bring their lunch to the Spanish classroom, which is located next to the cafeteria. They like to spend their lunch period eating, chatting, and joking in the cozy confines of room 100, away from the noise, tumult, and occasional bedlam of the cafeteria. The only downside to this custom is that the Spanish teacher must often run the vacuum after lunch to pick up their crumbs!

What a blessing it is to work with these young people!



Worship Team



Middle School Lunch with Mr. Getzin

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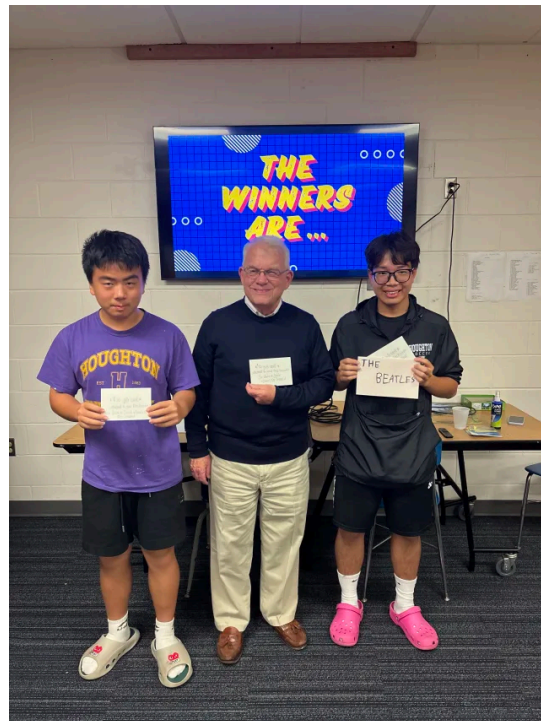
## College Tour

On September 27th, a group of Academy students had the opportunity to visit Cornell University. The students began their day with lunch at one of the many dining halls on campus, the highlight being the ice cream bar! Afterwards, they attended the College of Arts & Sciences Information Session. They learned about life on campus, the wide range of majors offered, and tips for the application process. They also heard from a student panel about their experiences as students at Cornell. The final activity of the day was a guided campus tour, where students enjoyed the sunshine while discovering fun facts about the university.



## Trivia Night

On September 27th, the teams met in the cafeteria and volunteer Mrs. Heidi Miller, mother of students Silas and Sadie, offered an array of homemade treats. Doug Flitcroft (History teacher) was the master of ceremonies and volunteer Bryanna Prentice served as both question designer and official timer. There were forty questions covering movies, literature, science, food, sports, and Houghton Academy history. Trivia Night is just one example of weekend events open to both boarding and dorm students, designed to foster fun and friendship. The winning team was a talented trifecta of intellectual power. There were prizes for the first, second, and third place; however, if there were a prize for the most boisterous team, it would have no doubt gone to soccer players Josh, Lucas, and Sean! A big shout-out to all the volunteers and to Student Council for their help in making the event a huge success!

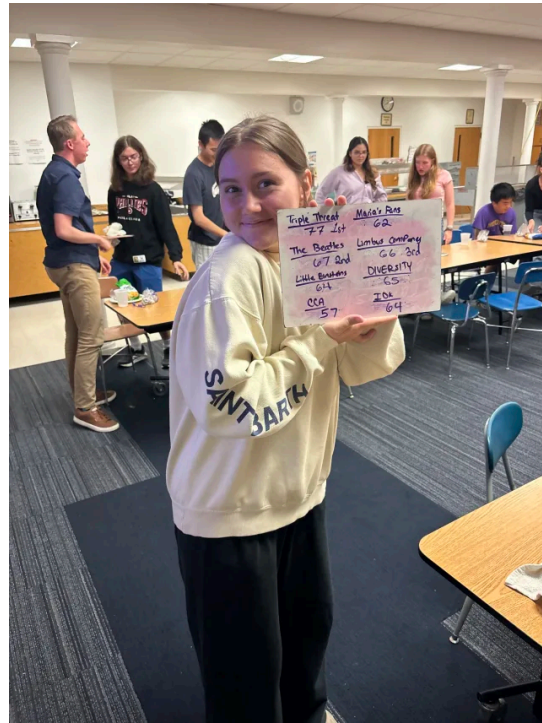




First place trivia team "Triple Treat": Arthur Wang, Jack Jordan, and Silas Miller



Second place trivia team "the Beatles": Kevin Zhang, Mark Getzin, and Harry Hung



Third place trivia team "Limbus Company": Yuki Shen, Luc Sompie, and Rebecca Wang

Trivia score-keeper Jaqi Dover (senior)

### National Cookie Day

Students kicked off October by celebrating National Cookie Day with a delicious spread of homemade treats. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, everyone enjoyed classic favorites like chocolate chip, peanut butter, and sugar cookies with a few surprises, including matcha macarons! It was a sweet way to start the month and bring the school community together.



### Bingo Night

On October 11th, we had a fantastic turnout for Bingo Night! Students brought their laser-sharp focus as they raced to fill their cards and be the first to shout "Bingo!" The night was

packed with snacks, friendly competition, and prizes for the winners. Thank you to everyone who donated snacks and prizes!



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### Fall Athletics Update

The year has had ups and downs, but the boys' soccer team shows incredible resiliency and friendship. The team has grown over the season and had to adapt to a new coach, which they have done very well. It has been a great pleasure to work with these fine young men. Jerry Pham in goal has been as good as any keeper in the league and Josh Davidson is one of the top Section V scorers with 18 goals, not bad considering he spent 1/3 of the season as a defensive player.

Coach Gidman





The Houghton Academy volleyball teams are on the tail end of their regular season. Besides learning basic volleyball skills, the JV team has been learning how to play in positions and remember rotations. It is exciting to see them grow in understanding of the game and ability to play as a team. The varsity team is 10-3, with 5 matches left in the season. So far this season senior setter Ellie Brubaker has racked up 265 assists and 45 kills, and senior middle hitter Julia Winkens has scored 121 kills and 37 aces. The team is working hard to set itself apart as a unified group working to serve each other and God with both their words and their actions both on the court and off. We are looking forward to finishing the season strong and celebrating all our senior players!

Coach Hilsher



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## Clubs

Volunteer extraordinaire, Mrs. Rebekah Gena, reports that the **Intermediate Self-Defense class** is studying kicks, while the Advanced Self-Defense Club will have its first meeting soon. Meanwhile, the Life Skills class will be discussing healthy hygiene. Mrs. Gena is also working with student Sean Sompie to preserve Houghton Academy's history by organizing the school's archival material.



**Recorder Club**, which meets on Thursdays under the leadership of volunteer Diane Emmons, has been playing 4-part arrangements of hymn tunes and show tunes (from The Sound of Music.) They are quickly realizing that producing beautiful harmony on wind instruments can be lots of FUN! To play well together, recorder players must watch or listen for the downbeat, remember the meter and key signatures, and then produce their individual parts from the same musical score. This is both enjoyable and challenging! They are learning new fingerings and experimenting with soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorders.



### **Art Class**

Mr. Mulindwa's students tried cyanotype printing on a beautiful fall day (9/23) It was a first for everyone!





## Panther Profiles

### **Kerrie Stockin ('90) Davidson: Club Leader, Receptionist... And Host Mom to half of Brazil**

If you've ever stepped into the Davidson/Stockin house, you know it's never quiet. With nine people under one roof (including three of the six Brazilians who ended up in Houghton), Mrs. Kerrie Davidson has turned her home into a kind of international hub, carrying on the tradition set by her parents, Philip and Donna. At school, she is just as active as a volunteer: greeting students at the front desk, helping with drama sets, washing lunch dishes, and leading clubs like Creative Arts and Skiing.



She grew up in Houghton, in the very house she lives in now, and attended both the Academy and University. After 25 years of moving around from California to Virginia (and many other places in between) during Mr. Davidson's military career, she returned to the small town that never really left her heart. "I always wanted to be a mom more than a career person," she says. Judging by the household she runs, that mission has been happily accomplished.

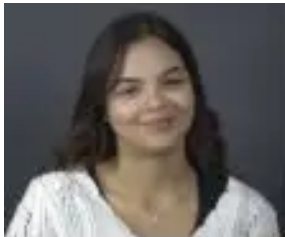
Family is central to Mrs. Davidson's story. She and Mr. Davidson met in choir class at HU in the '90s, and today their family keeps them both busy and proud. Their oldest son, Andrew, is married, attends law school in Chicago, and is father to Arthur, the grandson who instantly promoted Mrs. Davidson to her favorite title: Grandma. Evie, their daughter, is a nurse and will soon move to Delaware to begin a NICU residency. Wes is a sophomore at Indiana Wesleyan, majoring in business accounting with a Spanish minor. And then there's Joshua, a

senior at Houghton Academy. On campus, he's best known for his contributions to the athletic teams, and he hopes to join the Houghton University soccer team next fall.

At the Academy, Mrs. Davidson is involved in nearly everything. She leads clubs, brainstorms ways to support the drama program, serves as a board member, and keeps the front office running, all with her characteristic smile. In her free time, she helps manage the family art collection ([www.Ortlip.art](http://www.Ortlip.art)), and she and her husband enjoy slowly renovating their home, a hobby she admits they are still learning.

When asked about snow days, she smiles: a trip to see Arthur, crocheting, reading, or catching up with friends are her favorite options. Cooking, however, is not on the list. With a full house to feed, her free time is spent elsewhere. She also has clear ideas about school life: "I'd like more boarding students to be able to live with host families, to really share daily routines with them. It's life-changing for both the boarders and the family!" And on that note: if anyone wants to host me, Maria, in their house, I'm available. I can cook, I'm super nice, and I promise not to eat all your snacks.

The desire to connect and encourage others is central to who Mrs. Davidson is. "I hope people remember me as kind, friendly, and encouraging. I like to see the good in people and help students reach their potential." In her opinion, success is not about recognition or careers. "It doesn't matter if you're the best lawyer or the most famous doctor if you haven't met Jesus," she believes. "As a Christian, I try to ask myself every day how I can serve someone." Her life shows that faith, family, and service to the community go hand in hand, filling both her home and Houghton Academy with warmth, joy, and purpose.



*Article by Maria Andrade (11th grade, Brazil)*

## **A Few of Their Favorite Things**



## 7th Grade Class

Carley, Liberty, Liam, Gabe, and Alden are our 7th graders. All of the students live locally. Liberty says her favorite place at the Academy is the gym. Gabe likes the Commons. Alden and Liam like the Spanish room. Carley prefers the art room. Several students have a similar theme of what they love about the Academy. Liberty loves the students and Alden said specifically the international students. Gabe agreed, he appreciates the people. Carley told us that the Academy is welcoming and accepting. Liam loves the Christianity and that everyone's always so nice all the time. The 7th grade agrees that is what makes Houghton Academy unique.

They feel that only here can students get to know everyone. The combined middle school grades are another factor that make our school unique. For the bell music between periods, Liberty recommends Subway Surfers. There were other requests for video game music as well as a funny song. When asked what they would like to have for lunch at school, they had a variety of answers. Pizza was the number one request as well as ramen, cake, and "something unique like a double fish sandwich or a vegan thing." What are weird food combinations that these students actually eat, you ask? Mac and cheese and ketchup or mac and cheese and hot sauce, peanut butter and ketchup, and our favorite- pickles and cupcakes!

Everyone has a dream pet. Carley would like a fox. Alden dreams of a hamster. Gabe and Liam already have cats but want more! Liberty has her heart set on a dolphin. The big question- to sky dive or not to sky dive? This class is divided, acknowledging the risk factor just for having some fun.

Lastly, we welcome Lucy from China to the 7th grade. She is our newest addition to Houghton Academy.



Interviews by Yin (Melody) Luo (11th grade, China) and Avalon Taylor (11th grade, USA)

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Live, Learn, Love, & Lead at Houghton Academy!

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