



# HOUGHTON ACADEMY

# GIVE WITH PURPOSE

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL FUND

With deep thanks and appreciation for a recent major donation of \$75,000, the gap in meeting our Annual Fund need for this year is closing!

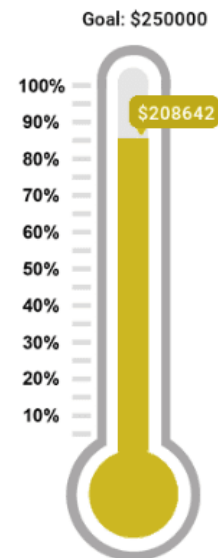
The major donation was made by a couple whose family members have been part of the Academy for generations. Their contribution reflects their gratitude to God for HA's impact and influence on their family and an investment in what God is doing and will do in the future.

We are praying for an additional \$41,358 to complete our goal for this year. Please pray with us and make a contribution if you are able.

[DONATE SECURELY ONLINE](#) or mail your donation to Houghton Academy Annual Fund, 9790 Thayer Street, Houghton, NY 14744.

Thank you!

Donate



Record-Breaking Scholarships



The halls of Houghton Academy were buzzing with excitement as the Class of 2024 celebrated an extraordinary achievement: **unprecedented college scholarships**.

### **A Remarkable Milestone**

One of the most telling signs of the exceptional Christian educational ministry at Houghton Academy lies in the generosity of scholarships bestowed upon our graduates by colleges and universities around the world. While the national average in the USA for college-bound high school graduates hovers around \$4,200 annually (equivalent to \$16,800 over a four-year degree program), our Houghton Academy alumni have shattered expectations.

### **Beyond the Ordinary**

The numbers tell a remarkable story for the Class of 2024. Drumroll, please! This year, the average college scholarship award per Houghton Academy graduate stands at an astonishing \$135,676.28! Yes, you read that right—over thirty times the national average.

### **A Standing Ovation**

As we raise our hats to the diligent students, dedicated faculty, and supportive families, let's applaud the resilience, hard work, and commitment that led to this remarkable feat. These scholarships aren't just financial rewards; they represent dreams realized, doors opened, and futures brightened.

Dr. Toby A. Travis, Head of School, beamed with pride, saying, *"Our graduates are not merely scholars; they are trailblazers, visionaries, and change-makers. Their impact will resonate far beyond our campus."*

## A Legacy of Excellence

The Houghton Academy Class of 2024 has etched its name in the annals of academic achievement. Their journey doesn't end here—it's a stepping stone toward greatness. As they embark on their college adventures, we wish them success, growth, and the courage to continue breaking barriers.

So, to the Class of 2024: **Congratulations!** Your scholarships aren't just numbers; they're a testament to your brilliance and the unwavering support of the Houghton Academy community.

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## 2024 Commencement Challenge



[Pictured: Dr. Travis presenting diploma to James Adenuga, recipient of the Isaiah 61:3 Award, the Academy's highest honor].

Dr. Travis' challenge to the graduates focused on the importance of ongoing and continual **character development** and the call to **serve others**.

Click on the link below to read the text of the full address.

 [Commencement 2024 Challenge by Dr. Travis.pdf](#)

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## Welcome our New Academic Dean



# Welcome to the team



**Karen  
Pennington, M.A.**

[karen.pennington@houghton.academy](mailto:karen.pennington@houghton.academy)

To view all Faculty/Staff visit:  
[www.houghtonacademy.org/staff](http://www.houghtonacademy.org/staff)

**Academic  
Dean**

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**Curriculum / Child  
Development Specialist**

**Author**

In a momentous stride toward academic excellence, Houghton Academy is thrilled to introduce its newest addition to the leadership team: **Mrs. Karen Pennington, our esteemed Academic Dean.**

Dr. Toby A. Travis, Head of School, proudly announces Mrs. Pennington's appointment. With a wealth of experience and a heart devoted to authentic Christian Education, Mrs. Pennington embodies the spirit of Houghton Academy's mission to offer young people a college preparatory education within the framework of a Christian worldview, and prepare students to LIVE authentically, LEARN deeply, LEAD globally, and LOVE boldly for the glory of God.

Here are highlights of Mrs. Pennington's remarkable journey:

- **Education Ministries:** Mrs. Pennington holds a B.S. in Education Ministries from Houghton University, where she imbibed the values of integrity, compassion, and purpose-driven teaching.
- **Christian Education:** Her passion for Christian education led her to pursue an M.A. at Union Seminary, where she honed her skills in shaping young hearts and minds.
- **Theological Pursuits:** Ever the lifelong learner, Mrs. Pennington is completing her M.Div. at Fuller Theological Seminary, delving deeper into theological foundations underpinning transformative education.

### **A Multifaceted Trailblazer**

Mrs. Pennington's impact extends far beyond the classroom. Her two decades of experience resonate through various roles:

- **Senior Editor:** She has wielded the pen, shaping educational content with precision and creativity.
- **Education Director:** Her strategic vision has steered institutions toward excellence.
- **Resource Development Specialist:** Mrs. Pennington knows how to unlock potential in students or educators.
- **Child Development Specialist:** Understanding the nuances of growth and learning, she champions holistic development.
- **Curriculum Maven:** Crafting engaging curricula that ignite curiosity and critical thinking.
- **Community Advocate:** Mrs. Pennington bridges the gap between schools and communities, fostering collaboration and understanding.
- **Classroom Maestro:** Her presence in the classroom inspires students and fellow educators.

### **A Bright Future**

As Mrs. Pennington steps into her role as Academic Dean, she brings a legacy of excellence. Her commitment to nurturing compassionate, competent, and curious learners aligns seamlessly with Houghton Academy's ethos.

Dr. Travis shares, *"Mrs. Pennington's arrival heralds a new chapter where innovation meets tradition, hearts are kindled, and dreams take flight."*

Mrs. Pennington is also a featured author, speaker, and podcast host. Learn more at [www.karenmariepennington.com](http://www.karenmariepennington.com).

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## **Dr. Nicholas Nicassio Appointed as Music Program Coordinator**



# Welcome to the team



## Dr. Nicholas Nicassio

[nicholas.nicassio@houghton.academy](mailto:nicholas.nicassio@houghton.academy)

To view all Faculty/Staff visit:  
[www.houghtonacademy.org/staff](http://www.houghtonacademy.org/staff)

## Music Program Coordinator

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Principal Conductor  
Artistic Coordinator  
Music Instructor

Harmonious notes of achievement resound through the corridors of Houghton Academy as we proudly announce Dr. Nicholas Nicassio's appointment as our Music Program Coordinator.

### **A Crescendo of Excellence**

Under the leadership of Dr. Toby A. Travis, Head of School, Houghton Academy continues its commitment to nurturing artistic brilliance. Dr. Nicassio's arrival marks a symphonic moment—a crescendo that promises to elevate our music program.

### **A Maestro's Journey**

Let's explore the rich tapestry of Dr. Nicassio's musical odyssey:

- **Principal Conductor and Artistic Coordinator:** His baton has graced the stages of Grammy-winning ensembles, including the National Children's Chorus. His artistry transcends mere notes; it weaves emotions into melodies.
- **Director of the Brooklyn Conservatory Chorale:** Dr. Nicassio's leadership has harmonized voices, creating choral magic that resonates across boroughs.
- **Playgroup Theater's Music Director:** His compositions have danced alongside theatrical narratives, infusing drama with rhythm.
- **Educator:** Dr. Nicassio has orchestrated learning journeys from secondary schools to college classrooms, nurturing the next generation of musicians.
- **Church Music Director:** His hymns have lifted spirits, bridging the sacred and the sublime.
- **Assistant Conductor and Teaching Assistant:** At Rutgers University, he fine-tuned harmonies, shaping young voices into distinguished choirs.
- **Tenor Extraordinaire:** The Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Los Angeles Opera Chorus have witnessed his vocal prowess—a tenor whose timbre lingers in memory.
- **Film Composer:** His original score for the feature film "[When the Moon Was Twice as Big](#)" wove emotion into celluloid frames.

### Degrees of Harmony

Dr. Nicassio's academic journey mirrors the complexity of a symphony:

- **B.A. in English Literature:** The University of California laid the literary foundation for his musical storytelling.
- **Master of Music in Voice:** Manhattan School of Music—where vocal cords met passion, and arias soared.
- **Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting:** Rutgers University—a crescendo of scholarship, where he earned a full scholarship and teaching assistantship.

### A Standing Ovation

As the curtain rises on this new chapter, we applaud Dr. Nicassio's dedication, artistry, and commitment to nurturing Houghton Academy's musical program. His baton will lead us toward harmonious futures.

Dr. Travis shares, *"Dr. Nicassio's arrival isn't just a note on the staff; it's a symphony waiting to be composed. Nick has a passion for blending his love of music with his love and commitment as a follower of Jesus Christ. With great anticipation, we watch to see what God accomplishes through Nick's ministry at the Academy."*

So, let the overture begin this coming August!

Learn more about Dr. Nicassio at [www.nicassiomusic.com](http://www.nicassiomusic.com)

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## Get Your Summer HA Gear



Take advantage of the 20% discount and new low prices! Tees starting at \$14.99. [SHOP NOW](#) and support Houghton Academy.

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## Coming Soon...

### JULY

- 1- 4 - Office Closed
- 31 - Student Medical Form Deadline

### AUGUST

- 7-11 - ELL Camp
- 12-14 - New Student Placement Tests
- 12-15 - Faculty/Staff In-Service
- 16 - New Student Orientation / All School Picnic / Parent Welcome/Orientation
- 19 - First Day of Classes
- 22-23 - All School Retreat
- 26 - Athletics Pre-Season Practice Begins
- 28 - School Picture Day



View times and details on the [Academy Calendar](#).

View the Athletic Calendar [HERE](#).

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## Post Your Review - Win \$1,000!



Reviews and testimonials that publicly share stories about parent/guardian, student, teacher, and administrator experiences at Houghton Academy (HA) are critical for helping new families discover our school and understand what it's really like.

Please leave a brief review on Niche to help other families consider HA for their child. **Click [here](#) to be taken to a web page where you can leave your review.** It only takes a few minutes!

Here are a few helpful tips for a helpful review:

- It doesn't need to be lengthy—2-3 sentences is plenty!
- Be specific about your role in our community (e.g., parent/guardian, grade, how many years you've been a part of the HA community, etc.)
- Write about your experience interacting with students, teachers, and staff members.
- Write about your experience in and out of the classroom or personal/social/emotional growth
- Write about the HA community/culture.

That's it!

**As a bonus, you'll be entered to win \$1,000 from Niche for sharing your story.** Click [here](#) to leave your review today!

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**WE ARE  
HIRING**

**JOB POSITIONS:**

- CAFETERIA MANAGER / COOK
- EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BUS DRIVER
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER



[houghtonacademy.org](http://houghtonacademy.org)

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## Did you miss an earlier update?

Visit the Academy website's "[Recent News](#)" page to catch up on recently published Head of School Memos, Newsletters, and Ministry Updates.



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**LIVE - LEARN - LEAD - LOVE**

*"...that they might be called trees of righteousness." - Isaiah 61:3*

Small school care. Large school opportunities!



**Houghton Academy**  
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Houghton, NY 14744

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[www.houghtonacademy.org](http://www.houghtonacademy.org)