



HOUGHTON ACADEMY

NEWS & UPDATES

Recent News / HA Updates

Houghton Academy New Beginnings: August 29, 2025



**PROVERBS 3:5-6**

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

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## Welcome to our Boarding Students



Mid-August brought many new and returning faces to the Academy campus. Mrs. Stockin kindly baked cookies and made calligraphy for each dorm student, and, when they arrived, they found these, plus other items donated by Mrs. Pritchard, as a warm welcome. Thank you, ladies, for providing this personalized care.





As new Academy students visited Houghton University, they met Academy student, Silas Miller, working at the Welcome desk.

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**Back-to-School Bonfire!**



After completing the first week of school, students were invited to the Stockin/Davidson home for an evening of fellowship and a bonfire. For many students, this was their first time roasting marshmallows and eating s'mores. We look forward to a great year of gathering together and building relationships.







Thanks to Micah Gena, son of our self-defense instructor, for bringing his guitar along!

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## From the Boarding Director, Melissa Pritchard

This year, we've placed a special focus on enhancing the dorm living experience for our students. From updating dorm spaces to creating a more welcoming and comfortable environment, we are investing significant time and attention into improving the quality of life on campus.

We are also incredibly grateful for the generous support from our local community. Over the past few weeks, families, friends, and supporters have donated kitchen items, furniture, and decor, as well as their time, energy, and creativity to help transform our dorm spaces. Their contributions have already made a noticeable difference, and our boarding students have already expressed their sincere gratitude.



## Some dorm snapshots



Boys' Dorm lounge





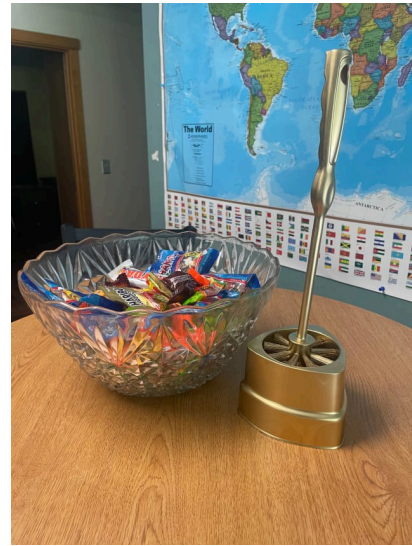
Boys' upstairs lounge with kitchen



Girls' dorm lounge

As an incentive to keep things clean, Mrs. Pritchard has instituted the **Golden Brush Trophy**. The dorm

that wins the trophy the most times during a quarter gets pizza!



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## Update from the new Boys' Dorm Parent

My name is Timothy Foss, and I am honored to join Houghton Academy as a Middle School history teacher, dorm parent, and member of the ELL support staff. I grew up locally in Buffalo, New York, where the beauty of the seasons and the grit of daily life shaped my love for story, place, and purpose. Although I was raised in a secular home and spent my early years as an atheist, my heart gradually opened to Christ in young adulthood. That transformation changed the course of my life and led me to pursue not merely a career, but a calling.

That calling led me overseas to teach in China, where I met my wife, Liyi, a fellow educator from Guangdong Province. Despite our different cultural backgrounds, we discovered deep alignment in our values and a shared curiosity about life, humanity, and meaning. Our friendship became love, and today we are raising our two-year-old son, Augustus, a joyful and inquisitive boy who fills our home with laughter and wonder. As a family, we enjoy road trips, deep conversation, and exploring the beautiful world God has made and continues to shape.

We feel deeply blessed to live and serve in the Houghton community. From the first time I walked these halls as a student teacher, I sensed something rare in modernity: a warmth, a purpose, and a genuine desire to shape not only minds, but hearts. History, to me, is not merely a subject, but a way of connecting past, present, and future in the light of His truth. We are grateful to be part of this mission and look forward to the journey ahead."





The Foss family: Timothy, Liyi, and Augustus

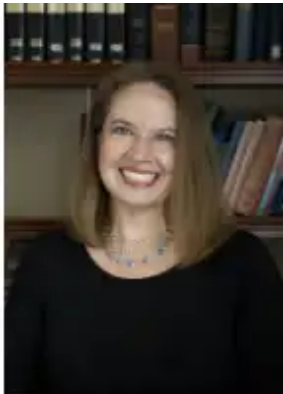
## **Update from the new Girls' Dorm Parent**



Beth Brubaker speaking to a student on back-to-school night

Beth Brubaker grew up on a dairy farm and was homeschooled most of her life. She was raised 40 min south of Wellsville, NY, in a little town just across the PA border. She earned a degree in Missions and has worked with kids for years. God has truly provided so much for her here at Houghton Academy. This place is an answered prayer. Already, in the midst of week one, she truly believes God wants her here and she is truly happy to be here.

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For those who are not aware, I will soon be departing my position at Houghton Academy as Academic Dean. While I am excited to be able to focus more on family with this move, I will also miss you all (faculty, staff, students and families) very much. This is an exceptional community, and I count it a great honor to have served alongside you all over the past 15 months. I pray for God's peace, guidance, and provision to saturate your lives, and I look forward to seeing updates about how God continues to work in and through you.

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## Volunteers?

We are looking for volunteers in many areas, including but not limited to: substitute teaching, English language training, evening or weekend club leadership (do you love to hike? knit? fish? play chess? Chances are there are students who would love to join you once a month for a special activity.)

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# Note from the Houghton Academy Board

A lot has been going on at Houghton Academy since our update on August 1st. On August 7th, our Interim Head of School, Mr. Philip G. Stockin held two meetings: one with employees and one with parents. In both meetings, Mr. Stockin discussed the changes taking place at the Academy since Dr. Toby Travis's departure. Parents and staff asked questions, expressed concerns, and received frank answers from Mr. Stockin. Matters discussed included Mr. David Pritchard's new role as Principal, changes to the Academy's dress code, the elimination of student fines and Saturday detention, and the current financial challenges faced by the Academy. One thing was obvious at both meetings; the Academy family is growing closer together and our current staff and faculty are infused with team spirit and camaraderie. On August 19th, the Academy celebrated Back to School Night where students, parents, faculty, and staff met in the auditorium. New and returning students were presented, faculty and staff were called to the stage and introduced themselves, Mr. Stockin welcomed all to a new school year, and the entire assembly adjourned to an ice cream social. As we begin the new school year, we are happy to highlight the Academy's great volunteers who are teaching courses, working in the front office, doing construction, improving our music program (choir, additional music classes, recorder club and more) coaching soccer, sewing curtains for the boys' dorm, and much else. Volunteerism is a long-standing Houghton Academy tradition, and this year it seems stronger than ever!

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## Update from the Principal



As the school year begins, I find myself in that place of missing those that have graduated or gone on, but celebrating the new students that I will get to know. I am fortunate to be able to continue teaching, which is my passion, while also navigating this new position as Academic Principal. I am grateful to have Mr. Stockin here as a guide, and cherish his wisdom and experience in this new role. I pray daily for wisdom and guidance, and for our school to be a place where God's presence is felt. We recently had an agent visit our school and he said that it is indeed a place that feels different. He loved the family atmosphere, the uniqueness of our school, and the positive impact our staff and faculty have on the students. It was very encouraging and rewarding to hear.

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## Volleyball and Soccer Update



The volleyball team is just a few days away from wrapping up pre-season! We had a record number of 22 girls come out for the teams. We will have two teams this year: JV and Varsity.



Both teams have been working hard each practice to get to know each other and build a team culture of positive attitudes and strong work ethic. It is so exciting to see each team taking shape! Varsity's first scrimmage is Sept 2nd, and our first home match is Sept 15th. JV has their first home game on Sept. 17th.



Training for the soccer season is going well. Twenty boys came out for the varsity team, and we hope to add a few more as late arrivals make it to school. If you are local, check out the sports calendar at [Houghtonacademy.org](http://Houghtonacademy.org) and come support the team!

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## Academy-Owned Residences Re-named



Three Houghton Academy-owned residential houses have been re-named. The house on the hill above the Academy, formerly home to the Montanye Family, is now "Hillcrest House." The house in the hollow, the former home of the Roth family, is now "Hollow House." Finally, the newly restored house on Route 19 has been re-named "Highway House."

We are thankful for volunteer Daryl Stevenson for making such beautiful signs for our newly re-named houses. Speaking of volunteers, we want to recognize Mrs. Anita Jones (nee Montanye) who once lived in Hillcrest House. Anita along with her husband Mr. Casey Jones,

have worked as volunteers with the Academy's budding writers as sponsors of the News Club.

We would be remiss in this article about Academy-owned houses and volunteers if we did not mention, Mr. Tom Machamer, of Houghton, who has been a hero. He has been working as a volunteer, continuing the restoration of Highway House. We are thankful beyond expression for his hard work!

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## Alumni News



*"Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace from day to day..." (-Macbeth)* ... and then one day, you wake up and it's been forty years since your high school graduation. When did that happen? A few of us from the Class of 1985 began meeting in 2024 to brainstorm how we could bring our classmates together in the summer of 2025. While social media

certainly has its downsides, it's also a powerful way to reconnect with old friends. We started spreading the word and gathering input to help select a weekend in July 2025. Although we didn't reach everyone, we connected with quite a few classmates—and even those who couldn't attend in person sent their love and best wishes:

- Dar-Shyang Lee, our class valedictorian, was celebrating his wife's birthday with a family hike in Muir Woods on the day of our class picnic. He sent photos to share, and we passed along some fun memories in return.
- Nfor Tandap messaged to say he was saving up vacation time to visit his daughter, who just had twin girls! We're all thrilled for Nfor and his family.
- Guy Roberts (Class of 1984) had planned to join us but recently relocated to Austin, Texas. Maybe next time!

Those who were able to attend came from near and far. We were thrilled to welcome classmates and Academy alums from nearby towns like Hornell, Canandaigua, and Rochester—as well as from Kentucky, Hawaii, and even Hong Kong! It was incredible to reconnect and reflect on how our time at Houghton Academy shaped our lives in so many positive ways. Speaking personally, as a (former 😊) 16-year-old girl from Angelica, New York (population: approximately 1,000 and lacking in diversity), attending Houghton Academy opened up a world of possibilities. It was an absolute privilege to meet and become friends with students from around the globe during such a formative time. The academic competitiveness of our class pushed me to improve my study habits (to maintain the straight A's to which I was accustomed), and I'm forever grateful to the Academy, its teachers and staff, and the Class of 1985 for the values instilled at the Academy, the friendships, and the inspiration to not only dream, but to pursue those dreams with purpose. Let's not wait another



40 years to do this again. Enjoy the photos—and thank you to everyone who joined us! And to sign off in the words of the alleged cousin of the Class of 1985, President Billy Allen: “Be Good, Do Good, God Bless, Go Bills!” Warmly, Tracee Fleming, on behalf of my co-conspirators, Donny Heinz and Danette (Frase) TinHan **Class of 1985**



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## Your giving matters!

Dear Houghton Academy Community,

As the new school year begins and happy students return to the campus, our financial challenges continue. Due to delays in the issuance of student visas, our population of international boarding students for 2025-26 school is lower than anticipated. Fewer students mean less income and unanticipated budget shortfalls.

We will soon be sharing a more detailed message outlining our specific financial needs, the opportunities that lie before us, and how community members can help with donations, prayers, and volunteering.

As always, your support directly sustains our Christ-centered programs, strengthens our



faculty, enhances student learning experiences, and ensures that we can continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for every learner.

Your participation—no matter the size of the gift— will help us to continue the mission of the school. Please click on the button below to make your gift today via our secure online system. You may also mail your donation directly to:

Houghton Academy Annual Fund  
9790 Thayer Street  
Houghton, NY 14744

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are shaping lives for Christ and for the world.

~ Mark Getzin, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Donate Today!



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