



2024-2025 School Year Begins!



Hello HA Community,

The 2024-2025 school year marks a momentous milestone as Houghton Academy enters its **141st year of Christian education!** This year promises to be one of incredible growth, excitement, and anticipation as we look forward to all that God has in store.



Our campus is alive with energy as more students join our community each week. As of today, we are thrilled to announce that **103 students have officially enrolled, alongside 37 dedicated faculty and staff.** Together, these 140 individuals—and counting—are united by a powerful commitment: to **LIVE** authentically, **LEARN** deeply, **LEAD** globally, and **LOVE** boldly, all to the glory of God.

We invite you to join us in prayer for a year overflowing with God's continued blessings as we embark on this exciting journey together.

~ Dr. Toby A. Travis, Head of School



We are excited to announce the exceptional faculty and staff for the 2024-25 school year at Houghton Academy. Our team of dedicated professionals brings a wealth of expertise, passion, and a deep commitment to student success. This year's faculty represents a vibrant diversity of cultures, with teachers from around the world (i.e., Uganda, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, China, Ecuador, Native American) enriching our students' educational experiences with global perspectives. Their collective backgrounds span multiple continents, and they are united by their dedication to fostering a dynamic, inclusive learning environment. At Houghton Academy, we are proud to offer our students a truly world-class education guided by Christian educators of the highest caliber.

Your prayers and support of our faculty and staff are deeply appreciated.

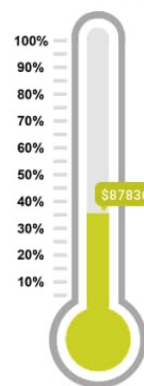
THE ANNUAL FUND

Today | Tomorrow | Every Day

What is the Annual Fund?

- Gifts to the Annual Fund are critical to the Academy's annual operating budget.
- It is the money we spend first during the current fiscal year to ensure every student has the best educational experience possible.
- We ask every parent, alumni, staff, community member, volunteer, and faculty member to contribute to the Annual Fund and help propel the Academy from an excellent school to an exceptional school.

Goal: \$250000



What does the Annual Fund support?

- Hire, retain, and professionally develop skilled faculty and staff
- Enhance and maintain campus infrastructure (buildings, sports fields, etc...)
- Expand technology and innovation, including updated computers and classroom software.
- Support the athletics, arts, and music programs (uniforms, equipment, etc...)
- Provide financial assistance to students whose families demonstrate need and would otherwise not be able to attend HA, allowing for an increasingly diverse population.

Can I restrict my gift to a certain program or area of student life?

- The Annual Fund supports the school's current annual operating budget, so unrestricted gifts are extremely important to the success of a balanced budget.
- When you give an unrestricted gift, you give where it is most needed. Unrestricted donations help in all aspects of student life, including keeping the student-faculty ratio 8 to 1, enhancing our sports and fine arts programs, improving campus technologies, and hiring/retaining the best teachers.

Why does Houghton Academy ask for contributions instead of simply increasing tuition?

- Augmenting tuition through charitable gifts helps keep tuition competitive and provides many important programs and improvements essential to our mission.
- For many, it is also a way to receive a deduction on income tax to the extent allowed by law.

How can I contribute, and is it tax-deductible?

- **Gifts by check are the most common and efficient way to donate. Mail to: Houghton Academy Annual Fund, 9790 Thayer Street, Houghton, NY 14744**
- Gifts of appreciated securities have beneficial tax implications. Please contact the Business Office at 585-567-8115 for more information.
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express credit cards are accepted for gifts, and the Academy website at www.houghtonacademy.org/giving can process secure transactions for these donations. (Please be aware that by using a credit card to make your donation, the Academy incurs a fee of 2.75% - 3.00%.)
- Gifts can be pledged depending on the timeframe and designation.
- All Annual Fund gifts to Houghton Academy are tax-deductible based on the school's 501(c)(3) charitable status.

Donate

Updated Policy Spotlight



Continual School Improvement

At Houghton Academy, we are dedicated to ongoing school improvement. We consistently revitalize our policies to meet the evolving needs of our student body. As we systematically review each policy, we commit to ensuring it is backed by research-based best practices, supporting every student's success.

This year, we will feature examples of the policy updates in this newsletter. Parents and students are advised to frequently access the [Student/Family Handbook](#) when seeking clarification of Academy policies and procedures.

Our newly updated [Progressive Discipline Policy](#) is a prime example of this effort, reflecting our commitment to a *restorative justice* approach. This approach prioritizes student growth, accountability, and the healing of the school community. Rather than focusing solely on punishment, we aim to address the underlying causes of behaviors, encourage personal reflection, and provide opportunities for making amends. Research shows that restorative justice and progressive discipline foster safer school environments, reduce repeat offenses, and improve long-term student outcomes (González, 2012; Gregory, Clawson, Davis, & Gerwitz, 2016).

Key Benefits for Students:

- **Promotes Accountability:** Students learn to take responsibility for their actions, fostering personal growth and maturity.

- **Encourages Reflection:** The system helps students reflect on their behavior and understand its impact on others.
- **Builds Skills for Future Success:** Students develop problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills that benefit their academic and social lives.
- **Reduces Recidivism:** A tiered system allows students to correct their behavior without the immediate imposition of harsh penalties (American Psychological Association, 2020).
- **Supports Mental and Emotional Health:** By focusing on repairing harm rather than punitive measures, students feel more connected to the school community and experience improved well-being (Thorsborne & Blood, 2013).

Our updated policy consists of three progressive levels, each offering increased support and consequences (e.g., students who incur a Level 2 violation may also be placed on [probation](#)).

Additionally, we have implemented *policy infraction fees* as part of this update. Research suggests that introducing reasonable financial consequences can encourage students and parents to take school policies more seriously, reinforcing accountability (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008). These fees are thoughtfully designed to be fair, ensuring they do not disproportionately impact students from lower-income families. Paired with restorative practices, these fees aim to create positive behavior change rather than solely punitive measures.

Parents and students are encouraged to review the full policy [HERE](#).



- On the morning of **October 24**, Houghton Academy will administer standardized tests from the **SAT Suite to students in grades 8-12**. This will not affect students; grades, but the scores will help identify their literacy and fluency in English, Mathematics, and college readiness. In some cases, exceptionally high scores could lead to college scholarships. For more information, you may contact Dean Pennington or visit this site: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/>
- **Alfred State College is waiving the college admission fee** for prospective students who apply before November 1, 2024. For more information on how to apply, call 1-800-ALFRED or visit

the [AlfredState.edu](https://www.alfredstate.edu) website.

- For those **seeking help funding their college** years, you may find information on college scholarships at <https://studentscholarships.org>.
 - To better prepare and assess students for more advanced work, the College Board now offers graduated standardized **practice testing for grades 8-12**. Those who wish to better prepare for a standardized test may visit <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/>.
-

Get Your Fall HA Gear Today!



Limited Time Only! **20% OFF \$75** Code: **TEAM20**
Exclusions Apply

[Shop Now and Support HA](#)

Coming Soon...

SEPTEMBER

- 13 - Welcome Buddy Ice Cream Social
- 21 - Homecoming / Family Picnic
- 23 - Close-Up Washington, DC Trip
Information Session
- 24 - ACCA College Fair
- 25 - Student Council Activity Day (TBA)

OCTOBER

- 2 - Career Fair @ Olean Family YMCA
- 5 - Car Wash Fundraiser for Volleyball Mission
Trip
- 11-12 - Board of Trustees Meetings
- 14 - No School
- 15-18 - School Spirit Week
- 16 - Athletics Senior Night
- 22 - Chicken BBQ for Volleyball Mission Trip
- 23 - Houghton University Rep on Campus
- 24 - End of First Quarter & PSAT/SAT Day
- 25 - No Classes / Teacher In-Service
- 30 - Student Council Activity Day



[Subscribe to the Academy Calendar](#)

[Athletic Calendar](#)

Help Us Share the Heart of HA

Your Story Matters!



Your experiences as a parent, student, teacher, or administrator are what make Houghton Academy truly special, and we need your help to share that story. By leaving a review on Niche, you can help prospective families discover what life at HA is really like—through your eyes!

How to Make a Difference: Leaving a review takes just a few minutes, and your insights could inspire another family to join our community.

Here's how to craft a meaningful review:

- Keep it short and sweet—2-3 sentences is all it takes!
- Mention your role at HA (parent/guardian, grade level, number of years in the community).
- Share your interactions with students, teachers, and staff members.
- Highlight moments of personal, academic, or social growth.
- Capture the essence of our HA community and culture.

Plus, there's a bonus! By sharing your story, you'll be entered for a chance to win \$1,000 from Niche.

Ready to help? [Click here](#) to leave your review today and make a lasting impact on our growing HA family!



 **New Episode Alert!** 

HA What Podcast

Kick things off with our Head of School, Dr. Travis, and one of our amazing students, Summer! 🙋🎓 Join us as we dive into a fun discussion about Introverts vs Extroverts and how understanding your learning style can impact your school experience. 📚🌟

Don't miss out—tune in now! 🎧👉



[Listen on Spotify](#)

Houghton Academy / University Partnership



We are blessed to continue our unique and enriching partnership with Houghton University, offering our students the incredible opportunity to experience live, in-person, university-level education.

This semester, 28 Houghton Academy students are expanding their horizons through courses in a wide range of subjects, including Writing, Psychology, Finance, Management, Bible, Science, Criminology, German, Linguistics, Math, Physics, and more!

This collaboration enhances their academic journey and prepares them for the future with real-world knowledge and skills. We couldn't be more excited to see our students thrive in these challenging and rewarding courses!

Thank you, [Houghton University!](#)

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.



LIVE - LEARN - LEAD - LOVE

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

Small school care. Large school opportunities! ™



Houghton Academy
9790 Thayer Street
Houghton, NY 14744

585-567-8115
www.houghtonacademy.org