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## Connect with JCS!



Follow Jenison Christian School on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/JenisonChristianSchool](http://www.facebook.com/JenisonChristianSchool) to see what's happening at school!

## JCS Events Calendar

- December 3 **Elementary Christmas Program**  
7:00PM @ Fellowship Reformed
- December 5 **Middle School Christmas Program**  
7:00PM @ JCS
- Dec 16 & 17 **Preschool Christmas Programs**  
6:30PM @ Baldwin St CRC
- Dec 23 - Jan 3 **Christmas Break**
- January 16 **Early Childhood Open House**  
6:00PM-7:30PM @ JCS
- February 6 **EOCS Concert**
- February 14-17 **Winter Break**
- March 15 **School Auction @ JCS**
- March 20 **Celebration of the Arts**  
6:30PM-8:00PM @ JCS
- April 25 **PK-8th Grandparents' Day**



## Passing on the Faith!

The Annual Fund need for the 2024-2025 school year is \$165,000. Many of you have faithfully supported this fund each year with your gifts. All money raised for the Annual Fund directly impacts our PK-8th grade students with support to our tuition assistance, curriculum enhancements, classroom and staff support, and other various experiences throughout the school year. We have raised nearly \$40,000 of the total need. **Thank you for your support to each PK-8th grade student at JCS this school year!**

Donations toward the Annual Fund can be made by mail to JCS 7726 Graceland Drive Jenison 49428, or online at <https://www.jenisonchristian.org/support/giveonline.cfm>.

# Reveal

Jenison Christian School Education Foundation Newsletter

## Who is the Foundation?

Welcome to December! It is a wonderful time of year as school routines have settled in, cooler weather is here, and the holiday season has started! Yes, those much anticipated family gatherings are right around the corner! I am sure most of us have sat around a table with family members and had enjoyable, or slightly awkward, small talk. Whatever your conversations are, these two common questions are destined to come up. How is your family? How is work going? Since we are all family, I will answer that second question for all of you!

The work at Jenison Christian School is undeniably following God's plan for our students and staff. Over the last 4 years, JCS has grown by 43%, or over 150 students. We have turned all former empty spaces to kid-filled classrooms. Over half of our building has been remodeled and updated to meet the needs of 21st century learning. This past summer we added on to the building for the first time in 30 years. JCS has added necessary staff the last 4 years to meet the growth of our student population. The Lord is working here and we are following His lead. The work is good! But what does that mean to all of you?



Principal Joe Oosterheert

Each year the JCS Foundation distributes 5% of their funds directly to the school. That money goes right back to the work we are doing every day. It pays for curriculum and supplies to help educate our students from a distinctly Christian perspective. Those funds help lower the cost of tuition for each of our families. They cover some of the cost to employ our staff members. That money goes to help keep the lights on! Every dollar is used to further God's work at JCS!

What if we could increase that contribution from the JCS Foundation? We can! The larger our endowment fund grows, the more money that JCS, the students, our staff, and the families can use for the kingdom work we are doing. Please consider making that gift and helping the next generation experience what a wonderfully unique Christian education at JCS is like. Let's continue to make the work at JCS something extraordinary to talk about!

In Him,

Mr. O

*Dedication Ceremony  
of the new 4th Grade  
Classroom at JCS.  
August 23, 2024*



December 2024

Who is the Foundation?

What is the JCS Education  
Foundation?

Spiritual Emphasis Week

Passing on the Faith

Psalm 78:4, 6 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born..."

## Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) at JCS

Each year our entire school takes one week in September to spend additional and intentional time focusing on this year's school theme. Through special chapels, worship, class and art activities, students and staff focused on the importance of being On Fire for Christ, our theme based on Acts 1:8. A highlight of the week was the Community Outreach Day where students shared their time and talents at various serve sites in our community. It is amazing to see God at work as our students give back!



## Leaving a Legacy at JCS

You've heard us asking for donations for various fundraisers at JCS throughout the year, addressing immediate needs for our students, staff, and the curriculum. Your gifts greatly support our daily activities!

Another way that you can bless the students of this school and make an impact on the future of Christian education beyond your lifetime is through estate giving. While this is not always an easy topic to discuss, we are called to be stewards of the resources God has given us, even in our death.

Our trusted ministry partner, Barnabas Foundation, has many resources available to you as you plan for the future. You even have access to personal, confidential support as you plan your legacy giving.

Learn more by contacting Liz Wiersema at (616) 886-4551 or [lwiersema@jenisonchristian.org](mailto:lwiersema@jenisonchristian.org).



## November Food Drive for the Jenison Community

JCS has been participating in an Annual November Food Drive for over 20 years! It is held in the month of November as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Thanksgiving.

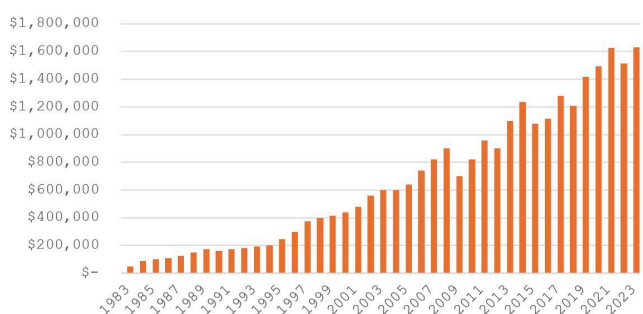
The food drive is a great way for students to not only remember those who are in need this season, but to be the hands and feet of Christ as we provide canned goods, non perishable food items, and many household paper and toiletry products for families. We are grateful to our families for seeing this great need, and blessing many this holiday season!

## What is the JCS Education Foundation?

Back in 1982, ten men had a sustainable vision. The vision was clear and concise and still exists today. The vision: to provide an investment fund that will sustain the longevity of Christian Schools well into the future, specifically Jenison Christian School. These men were: John R. DeWinter, William D. Fles, Robert Grooters, Henry Hilbrand, Kenneth Jipping, Edward F. Strelman, Wilbert Venema, Kenneth Visser, Bernard H. Woltjer, and Donald Wondergem. Thus, is born the Jenison Christian School Education Foundation.

The initial investment totaled \$50,000 mostly in increments of \$500 and \$1,000 donated by families, individuals, some old, some young, but all, very generous and visionary. By 1994, this initial investment was worth \$200,000. And in 2013, the investment tallied over \$1 million dollars. As of August 31, 2024 the investment is worth over \$1,700,000.

JCS Education Foundation Fund Balance



Currently, the Foundation gives a 3 year average of 5% of total investment back to the school annually. Earlier this year, the Education Foundation gave \$76,800 to JCS to keep tuition costs lower for families.

In addition to the gift given to school, the operating costs for the Education Foundation are legal and professional fees, printing costs of the Reveal publication, and fees to Barnabas (our trusted ministry partner for donors and organizations) are approximately \$10,000 per year. If there are events, such as the grandparent day pictures, grandparent's day bowling, or a larger celebration, the Foundation looks to get those largely underwritten or sponsored.

Please consider giving to increase the balance over \$2M in assets and we can steward a gift over \$100,000 a year to JCS to keep tuition more affordable.



## Christ through Community at JCS

Throughout the school year our students experience community and fellowship across grades by participating in Theme Groups, Book Buddies, 8th Grade Buddies, and Classroom Buddies! Establishing these relationships throughout our Childcare-8th grade students provide many blessings to our students: they make friends outside of their classroom, they are given the chance to be a leader, they see Christ in a friend, and they have the opportunity to pray for a fellow student, and to be prayed over!

Our 8th grade buddies (pictured here) get to meet regularly with their 5th grade friend(s) to help with the transition to middle school and be positive leaders to these students throughout their 1st year of middle school. Fellowship time with 8th grade buddies include devotions, sometimes a small craft or activity, and time for open conversation. We love seeing the 8th graders rise up to this leadership role in their last year at JCS.

