

## Connect with JCS!



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**Jenison Christian School Education Foundation**  
7726 Graceland Dr.  
Jenison, MI 49428

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### JCS Events Calendar

May 10	<b>Eagle Walk</b>
May 22 & 23	<b>Last Day of Preschool</b>
May 28	<b>Kindergarten Graduation</b> Baldwin Street CRC
May 29	<b>8th Grade Graduation</b> Ridgewood CRC
May 30	<b>Last Day of School 1st-7th (1/2 Day)</b>
August 12	<b>JCS Golf Outing</b> The Meadows @ GVSU
August 21	<b>1st Day of School, PK-8th</b>
September 6	<b>1st Day of School, Preschool</b>

### Annual Fund Needs Your Help!

The Annual Fund need for the 2023-2024 school year is \$165,000. **With only a few months left in this school year, we are short almost \$40,000 to fulfill those needs!** Over the next few weeks J. Milito and Associates will be calling on you to help support our tuition assistance program and curriculum enhancements, classroom and staff support, and other various experiences.

**Thank you for helping us meet this need for our school!** Donations toward the fund can be made by mail to JCS 7726 Graceland Dr Jenison 49428, or online at <https://www.jenisonchristian.org/support/giveonline.cfm>.



The Jenison Christian School Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible. Please make your checks payable to JCSEF and mail to 7726 Graceland Dr. Jenison, MI 49428. Contact Liz Wiersema at [lwiersema@jenisonchristian.org](mailto:lwiersema@jenisonchristian.org) for inquires or large/estate gifts.



Jenison Christian School Education Foundation Newsletter

### A Visit to the Principal's Office

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1*

**The cloud of witnesses at Jenison Christian School continues to run the race God has marked out for us with great perseverance!** A few weeks ago, we had a serious playground injury to one of our younger students at JCS. Our community rallied around this child and her family in prayer and support as soon as the news of the accident was made known. I was thankful, but not surprised, to see and hear our staff and students instantly turn to our Father in prayer when they heard of the injuries. Within a few hours, JCS staff members had food and gift card donations ready to go. By the end of the week, we had over 350 handmade cards in the office to be delivered to our classmate and friend. It was a joy and a blessing to bring over many gift baskets full of gift cards, gifts, and snacks for the family. This is just one story of the beauty of the community we enjoy at JCS every day.



Principal Joe Oosterheert

Even though we do not like to go through events like this, I am encouraged by the response our community always has. **When we are dealt with difficult circumstances, our cloud of witnesses and teammates rally around the hurt or troubled.** I feel it is very important for our students to see how their teachers respond in these circumstances. They are learning what a Christian community is and how they can be a part of the healing process. They are seeing how to run that race marked out before us. Our lives will have troubles, but God has placed a great assembly around us to throw those entanglements off.

That is what makes JCS special! The response to the hurting, but also the teaching that goes on to the next generation. The great cloud of witnesses is very strong at Jenison Christian! The next cloud is forming each day we are here together. **Let's continue to run that race as a community that prays, comforts, and lifts each other up with the trials of life can easily hinder us.** Thanks for your continued support of JCS as we seek to raise up the next generation every day!

In Him,  
Mr. O



### May 2024

- A Visit to the Principal's Office
- Capital Campaign Update: Construction 2024
- Leaving a Legacy
- A Peek into Middle School Life
- Annual Fund Needs Your Help!

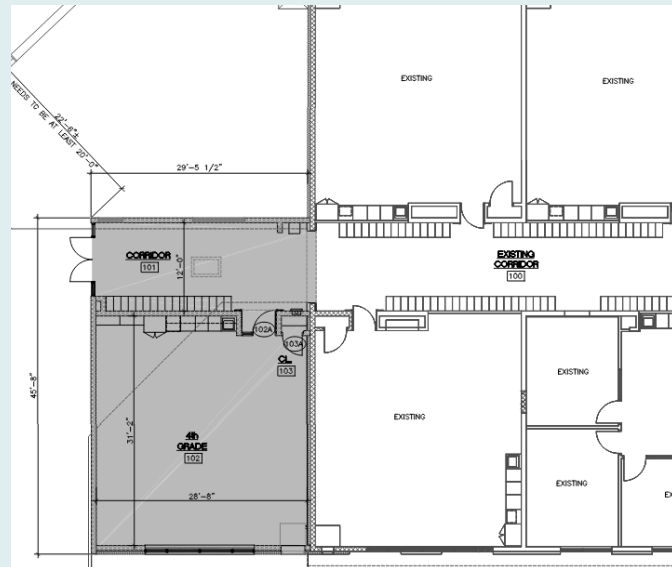
Psalm 78:4, 6 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born..."



## Capital Campaign Update: Construction 2024

Big news! JCS is adding a classroom this summer! We give glory to God for His faithful support through His people! This is a much needed space to meet the needs of our growing student body. We praise God for this continued growth and the blessing of new space to welcome these kids.

In addition to the construction of this new classroom, JCS will renovate the gym entrance and bathrooms! The generous support at the JCS Auction for this special project, with additional gifts and pledges toward the capital campaign, allows us to complete all of these summer 2024 projects DEBT-FREE. Praise God!



Thank you to our entire community for your continued support of the JCS Capital Campaign, *Something Extraordinary!* Our Giving Tuesday Roof Sit, where our principal braved winter weather for an entire day on the roof of the school, raised \$1 million!

### Creating a Safe Place for Everyone!

We've come so far in this campaign, but the work is not finished! Help us complete the *Something Extraordinary* Capital Campaign by creating safer and more secure entrances and parking lots. The creation of these new entrances come with some addition of space to the building, and will provide a campus that's in line with best practice in school safety.

The cost to finish the Capital Campaign is around \$3 Million, and can only be done with the support of our entire community and beyond! Please pray about what you can give to enhance safety and security at JCS, and share this great need with others who want kids knowing Christ at Jenison Christian School. Reach out to Liz Wiersema with your pledge or gift today!

## 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.



The JCS Education Foundation would like to recognize those who have remembered the future of JCS in their passing, through estate planning or asking others to give on their behalf after they've gone.

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>June Mulder</i>             | <i>Mary Bol</i>          |
| <i>Dan Bloem</i>               | <i>William Nyeholt</i>   |
| <i>Lillian Westdorp</i>        | <i>Carol Poll</i>        |
| <i>Alberta Hoekwater</i>       | <i>Chuck Uugteveen</i>   |
| <i>Ron Elzinga</i>             | <i>Sharon Elenbaas</i>   |
| <i>Roger and Marian Mulder</i> | <i>Grace Laura Musch</i> |
| <i>Ellen Boice</i>             | <i>Wesley Feikema</i>    |
| <i>Mike Lamfers</i>            |                          |

## A Peek into Middle School Life

### 8th Grade Stars Shine Bright in Spectacular School Play!

On January 25 and 26, the 8th grade students at Jenison Christian delighted audiences with performances of the play, "Bestest Bedtime Stories". The play told the story of Grandpa who is a little out of practice when it comes to babysitting, but if he's ever going to get his three grandkids to go to sleep, he's got to remember some bedtime stories *fast*. Or at least something pretty close to them! His creative retellings of the classic fairy tales, Hansel and Gretel, Sleeping Beauty and Jack and the Beanstalk, charmed his grandkids and had the audience roaring with laughter!



The entire cast and crew was comprised of the 8th grade class, and the play was directed by JCS and Unity alum, Anna Riemersma. They worked hard for several weeks leading up to the performance, building sets and practicing lines. Following the Friday night performance, the cast and crew celebrated with a special viewing of their play and a party!

A huge thank you to Cottonwood Church for hosting the production of our play! And bravo to the entire cast, crew and director for a wonderful performance!



### 5th and 6th Solar Eclipse Adventure

The 5th and 6th graders set off on an epic adventure to experience a total solar eclipse! A crew of teachers, parents and students drove to Bluffton, Indiana to experience this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

The students have been studying the solar system this year and went to the planetarium at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in January. While there, our guide encouraged the kids to skip school to witness a total eclipse. Our teachers decided to plan a field trip instead! It was a great showing of God's incredible creation in action.

### Willing to Wait: Equipping our Students for Healthy Relationships



At JCS, we are a school anchored in Christ. Through a curriculum that weaves faith into every aspect of life, JCS builds a dynamic community of students who are prepared to live lives that glorify God in today's society. For the last 10 years, the middle school curriculum has included a partnership with W2W Healthy You™ and their Willing to Wait program, a sexual risk avoidance program.

Our 8th graders have been working through the program that focuses on Biblical view of building healthy personal relationships while addressing many of the issues that our young people face in the broader world. When teenagers around the country were asked what makes the biggest difference in their peer and social decision making, they reported that their parents were the single most influential factor! The Willing to Wait program includes a parent interview; some of the questions students ask their parents included what dating was like when parents were in high school, how common teen pregnancies were, what are advantages of going out in a group, and what advice would you give to a teen to help them have a healthy relationship and others.

According to student surveys in 2021-22, 88% of teens who completed the program say they are better able to set limits in relationships and 86% say they will be able to build healthier relationships because of the program! As our oldest students graduate and move on to high school, they leave with the invaluable knowledge of Christ-centered relationships.



### Finding Comfort in Furry Friends and Friendship

Our 7th graders love hanging out with Chip, our school's therapy dog, who just turned 2 in April!