



JAPHET SCHOOL

AWARD-WINNING NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER



Celebrating 40 Years! 1973-2013

Upcoming Events

November 27, 11 AM
Gratitude Service

December 10, 5:30 PM
Spaghetti Supper & Family Service Night

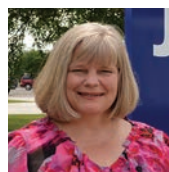
December 19, 7:30 PM
Holiday Giving

February 9, 1-3 PM
Open House

March 7, 10 AM-12 PM
Invention Fair

March 16, 1-4 PM
Science Extravaganza, Dessert Auction, and Open House

A Journey of Courage



Japhet School has faced many obstacles in the past 40 years, and this past year presented the greatest

challenge in our history.

Learning that our lease would not be renewed for the 2013/2014 school year created an immediate need to speed up our Strategic Plan efforts regarding relocation. We spent many months searching for a home of our own, signed final purchase papers on June 21, had the building completely renovated over the summer, moved in on August 28, set up classrooms and offices with the help of 55 volunteers over the Labor Day weekend, and opened for our first day of school on September 6.

To accomplish all this, Japhet acquired a mortgage and launched a \$1.5 million capital campaign to cover the cost of

purchasing the building and completing the renovations. Funds are coming in, and we are one-third of the way toward our goal.

“Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless.”
— Jamie Paolinetti

With commitment to our mission and the vision of providing a Japhet education for generations of children to come, we swam with courage against a current that contained doubts and delays

... and we emerged brightly with a beautiful building in September. I am so grateful to the trustees, donors, faculty, staff, parents, and many friends of the school for supporting this journey.

Turn the page to see students in action in our new home and a photo timeline of an amazing transformation that turned a building into a school. You are also welcome to stop by – I’d love to give you a tour!

— **Cathy Mohan**, Head of School

TECHNOLOGY Q&A

We have significant upgrades to technology that positively impact the learning experience for our students, the efficiency of our teachers, and even our paper consumption. It's all new! Upgrades include:

- full wireless capability throughout building with eight access points
- 20 Chromebooks (small laptops)
- Google Apps for Education
- new laptops for teachers
- digital phone system with voicemail for all employees
- satellite television and
- a centralized IT room, housing it all.

Joe Mohan, Technology Director, and Liz Grunow, Integrated Technology Teacher, explain the upgrades.

How is the technology experience for students different from what it was before?

JM: There's almost no comparison. Instead of a wired-down lab of large computers, we now have a mobile lab with brand-new Chromebooks. These wireless mini laptops enable collaboration among students and their

teachers. Students can access their work from any computer at home or school without having to keep a flash drive or worry about having the right software.

LG: Technology comes to students now, instead of students going to tech. And it can come to them in any class – Global Studies, Language Arts, even Life Skills. They are discovering how mobile technology – a tool, not just a toy – allows them to explore concepts in and out of the classroom.

Why Google Apps for Education? How is it being used?

JM: It's free, and it's easy to integrate into any subject. Ten students can work on the same document – write text, insert pictures, embed links, and chat – all in real time from anywhere. They can turn in papers with a simple click of their mouse. When speaking at InSPO, they just open their Google Drive, pull up their presentation, and go.

LG: A great example is the *Japhet Free Press*, a student newspaper produced by the fifth- and sixth-grade class. We use Google Calendar to share

due dates and Google Docs to trap interview notes, write, and share articles with each other. It's a very green process: not until the paper is in its final form do we need to print.

What inspires you as you see students using this new technology?

JM: I'm also a member of the tech department at Brother Rice High School. To know Japhet is now on par with private schools like Rice is very rewarding. The technology might be different, but the student experience is the same.

LG: Our transformation has reminded me that students can absorb and learn anything. I plan to explore computer programming with older students this year. Learning the language of computers will give students a tremendous advantage.

Japhet's technology upgrades complement recently acquired equipment we brought with us, including interactive whiteboards in classrooms, ceiling-mounted projectors, and online teaching tools that accompany textbooks.

From a Building to a School

839 S. Crooks Rd. underwent quite a metamorphosis from the architect, reliable contractors, selfless volunteers, and dedicated



On June 26 we said goodbye to our home of 35 years. More than 1,500 boxes were put into moving trucks.



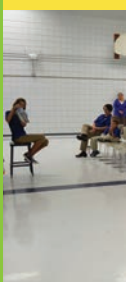
Our school used to be the YWCA. Our sign, American flag, and school flag now greet thousands of passersby every day.



Throughout summer members of the administrative team checked in on the building.



Uh-oh, we're spontaneously unpack, we're





Mrs. Grunow helps Primary Class students navigate Japhet's new Chromebooks.

WELCOME, MRS. GRUNOW!

Liz Grunow joined Japhet's teaching staff midyear last year as our Integrated Technology Teacher, and she continues in that role this year. Mrs. Grunow studied elementary education at the University of Michigan, taught third grade, was an editor at The Gale Group, and offers freelance editing services. Her three children attend Japhet School.

Mrs. Grunow embraces technology and receives a warm glow of excited faces every day when she rolls the brand-new cart of Chromebooks into class. Students in Primary through Upper Class have integrated technology instruction twice per week, and older students use the Chromebooks in other classes as well. Mrs. Grunow also teaches math daily – Math in Focus, also known as Singapore Math – to Japhet's fourth-grade math group. "I like how Math in Focus teaches multiple models and methods for every math concept, so that one of the models is bound to work for each student," she says. "It builds higher-level thinking skills because it encourages the student to focus on the process of getting to the answer, not just getting the answer."

Cheery in Brand New

The best way to see our new school ...
But in case you can only visit in pictures ...
at what you would see every day ...
learning. They quickly embraced the



Middle Class, situated in a corner, has two walls of windows. Here, students participate in Science class.

From the day we purchased the building on June 21 to opening school on September 6. A thoughtful and dedicated faculty, staff, and trustees made it happen. Here are some photos that document the journey.



Moved too much! After a yard sale and a lot of industry to move, we can now utilize the whole gym.



We love our new courtyard, but it didn't start out looking great. Now it's a wonderful space for group activities and play.



Movers assembled bookshelves throughout our hallways. Today children gather here for Drop Everything And Read time.

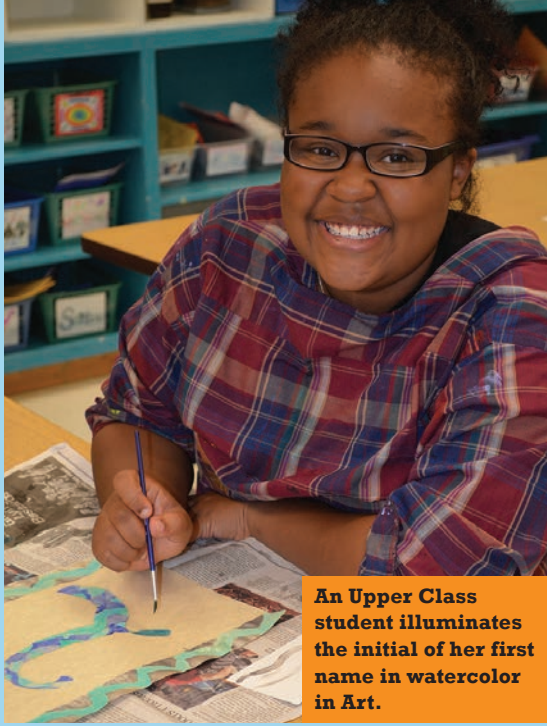


The Preschool room had promise during the renovation phase ... we knew it would be bathed in light.



Faces Spaces

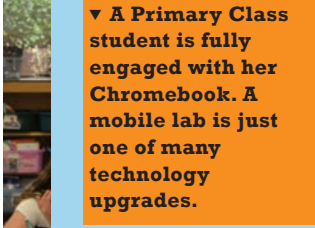
ol is by visiting us!
atures, here's a peek
children engaged in
eir new school home.



An Upper Class student illuminates the initial of her first name in watercolor in Art.



Our new playground is enclosed by a beautiful bronze fence. It is a great place for our much-loved multi-age recess.



▼ A Primary Class student is fully engaged with her Chromebook. A mobile lab is just one of many technology upgrades.



A new student plays and explores in Preschool, where creativity is encouraged and celebrated.



Our Specialists' Room – the home for Art, Spanish, and Music – now houses enough ukuleles so that every student can play.

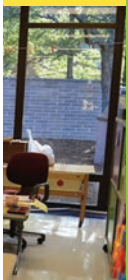


throughout
t would be

Most areas received new walls. Here a drywaller works in what would become Primary Class, a bright new space.

The most extensive renovation took place in the SE corner, which has been converted to Upper (L) and Intermediate (R) classrooms.

839 S. Crooks Road came a long way from June 21, our final purchase date, to opening day on September 6! Come and visit!



Giving Stories

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.” — Maya Angelou

What inspires you to give?

In Place of Presents

When we announced to our students that we were moving to a new building, students jumped at the opportunity to help. They expressed joy, creativity, and generosity. We received \$16.50 in the form of loose change and dollars for new playground equipment, and another child donated the \$180 “proceeds” from a recent birthday party – she asked for charitable donations to Japhet instead of presents. With the upcoming holiday season, perhaps her idea will inspire others.

A Living Legacy

A longtime friend of the school and donor had included Japhet School in his trust, so that we would receive a financial gift upon his future passing. This is a wonderful way to give, and we have received many bequests from loving donors who are no longer with us. This particular donor, however, being close to Japhet, knew of our financial predicament as we were weighing the pros and cons of purchasing our own building. “I decided you’re never too young to give,” he said, and he converted his planned bequest into a living legacy gift. “Japhet needed my gift today. And by giving now, I get to see the wonderful result.”

*“I decided
you’re never
too young
to give.”
— Japhet Friend*

Enable What Matters ... to You

Funds are most needed for day-to-day operations and toward the \$1.5 million capital campaign. However, some donors also choose to direct their giving to scholarship, music, or something else. One donor, who is also an alumni parent, is passionate about technology. With the new building’s open construction, he saw an opportunity for brand-new infrastructure. His directed donation for technology enabled Japhet to have wireless Internet throughout the school, a cart of 20 Chromebook laptops for students, an all-new digital phone system with voicemail for every employee, and new laptops for several teachers. Passionate about a playground with climbing equipment? Could you provide Japhet the shelter and security of a new roof? Interested in underwriting the cost of our new fence? While general donations are most needed, a directed donation makes a specific impact on our community for which we will always be grateful.

To contribute to Japhet School, send your donation with the form below. Your donation will make a world of difference. Thank you!

To donate, please return this portion with your gift.



The JAPHET SCHOOL Annual Fund

Please accept my gift of \$ _____ to the Annual Fund.
I’d like to give an additional \$ _____ to the Capital Campaign.
TOTAL: \$ _____ I’ll give by: Check

Visa AmEx Mastercard _____
card # _____ expires _____

I have donated via PayPal.
(For this option, go to www.japhetschool.org, click “Support Us” and then “Donate.”)
signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

My employer will match my gift. (Please obtain a form from your HR office and include it with your contribution.)

Please do not publish my name as a donor.

FALL 2013 | www.japhetschool.org | 248 585-9150



Please consider an additional gift to our Capital Campaign, Japhet’s Journey Home.

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success.”

— Henry Ford

Major gifts are a great help, but donations of all sizes are greatly appreciated. Japhet School is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift is tax-deductible. Thank you!



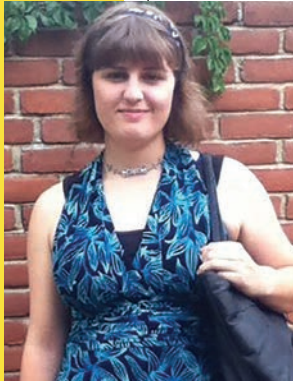
JAPHET SCHOOL

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Alumni News

Abigail Strub, J'08 — Abby has thoroughly settled into college life at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. Abby is majoring in English and Political Science with an eye toward a career in law down the road. She is in the choir and holds the position of choral assistant while continuing her study of piano and voice. Abby also writes for *The Principia Pilot* newspaper as the conservative political columnist. She hosts the campus' only political radio show, "We the People," on Principia Internet Radio. She has been accepted for a semester abroad to England to study Shakespeare. She has some sage advice for Japhet's Upper Class students: "Don't slack off during your freshman year of high school. That will require you to work twice as hard to achieve the same level in grades and accomplishments in the other years." She adds that high school students should try a variety of subjects and extra-curriculars to be sure that they really know what they want to pursue. "Explore your options!" she implores. Abby feels that the high level of trust between the faculty and students at Prin is a validation of the importance of all of those character lessons at Japhet.



Joey White, J'10 — Joey is enjoying his senior year at Royal Oak High School. Beyond the usual class requirements, he is taking engineering and mechanical shop classes at the Oakland Schools Technical Campus. Joey hopes to make these classes a stepping stone to a degree and career

in engineering. He was recently accepted at Michigan Technological University and is currently writing for scholarships. Joey continues to be involved with the Royal Oak FIRST Robotics Team and is looking forward to playing one last year of varsity lacrosse for the Ravens. Last summer Joey participated in the Counselor Training (CT) program at Camp Leelanau. Japhet students attending the Leelanau Outdoor Center (LOC) had an opportunity to see and utilize the Human Foosball court built by Joey's CT group. Joey has always enjoyed the camp and sees its lessons as an extension of the Japhet character qualities. He feels the positive lessons learned at Japhet, LOC, and at Camp Leelanau made him who he is. Joey says that it is always great to get reinforcement of the good ideas and actions you believe in.



Japhet students played "Human Foosball" on this court that Joey helped create at camp.



Do you have alumni news to share? Please send news and photos to Robin Pospisil, Admissions Director at robin.pospisil@japhetschool.org.