

# Japhet School

Character | Academics | Leadership



1 Preschool teacher Carrie Huber plays with her students. 2 Students in 3rd-8th use their Chromebooks daily for class work. 3 The Intermediate Class employs teamwork, equilibrium, and tension to relocate a small object suspended by strings. 4 Yoga is a recent integration in P.E. to help students practice calmness. 5 A Middle Class student shows a piece she worked on as a service integration.

## INNOVATE! Keeping learning alive, fresh, and creative

When asked to define “innovation in the classroom,” some might jump to the use of new gadgetry, virtual classrooms, or Google Hangouts. But true innovation is much more than that. “It’s looking at the ways we’re teaching and changing them up,” says Janet Andersen, Primary Class teacher and a veteran staffer of 30+ years. “It’s making learning alive and personal, helping students become self-aware as learners, and teaching them how to be alert to the needs of others, too. Students learn differently. We can reach all students when we use innovative teaching.”

“Innovation can be as simple as tailoring your lessons to the ‘personality’ of the class,” says Liz Grunow, Middle Class teacher and one of two curriculum coordinators. “It is reinventing our lessons

each year -- even though we’re teaching the same concepts -- based on what will resonate with that class of students. Innovation is ‘newness,’ it doesn’t need to be techy or expensive.”

Mrs. Grunow shares an example of an early American Settlers unit. “We talked about how Pilgrims built one large house for everyone to live in while they worked together to create a small town,” she says. “Students didn’t understand the problems that might involve. So we built our own general house in our classroom and worked and had recess inside of it for a week. The challenges involved in building our structure and giving one another personal space helped illustrate this part of Pilgrim life better than any video or reading selection.” Students also

immensely enjoyed having the structure to do regular activities in. It brought excitement to their everyday learning by working in a different space.

Carrie Huber, Preschool teacher, sees innovation as a gateway to creativity. “Students in an innovative teaching environment enjoy learning because they are allowed to explore and learn on their own,” she says. Japhet School’s early childhood classrooms emphasize play, open centers, and student-led discovery. The primary outcome is that children discover the joy of learning, setting them up for a successful formal education. Mrs. Huber especially loves the excitement of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) and is leading a STEAM Camp for children in preschool through

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

See full calendar at [japhetschool.org](http://japhetschool.org)

**May 15 & 16**  
Spring Sharing

**May 17**  
Spring Sharing Gala

**June 7**  
Graduation

**July 8 - August 8**  
Summer camps



## How Does Your Garden Grow? Message from the Head of School

***“Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden.”***

As a passionate gardener, I’m always looking for ways to improve my gardens -- to take a fresher and more educated approach to plant selection and the care and nurturing of all the foliage and blooms in my gardens. And it’s also good to revisit the many ways to express creativity. There’s a trust that, although the emerging new growth has yet to sprout, its arrival will come when warm weather finally appears. Also, establishing a proper foundation of soil and its nutrients are important to the growth of the plants. Although I’ve enjoyed years of gardening experience, I know that I can always improve my skills with fresh ideas using innovative thinking to inspire and guide my planning.

That same innovative thinking used in encouraging my gardens to reach full bloom is easily applied to the education of children -- specifically to our students at Japhet School. It’s that kind of approach to learning that energizes students and teachers alike -- a fresh, inspired approach to gaining new information and joy to see it explored by students! It’s the freedom to be flexible in teaching, realizing that there are many different strategies with which to communicate information, and that sharing the joy of learning certainly motivates students. One of Japhet School’s philosophy statements is, “Students learn best when information is shared with creativity, enthusiasm, and in a variety of ways that supports different

learning styles.” Japhet School’s teachers and staff are mindful of the many new ways to bring information to students and seek innovative teaching in action.

The following are statements from teachers from around the world who participated in a TED-Ed Innovative Education program. These teachers have purposefully focused on innovation in their lesson planning and in their schools:

- ***“Innovation in education involves constant collaboration with colleagues -- a total last-minute redo of a teacher’s lesson plans because there was something else out there that he or she had to try, a change in the direction of a class because the students are driving the instruction.”***
- ***“Innovation in education happens when educators ask, ‘How can I make this real, relevant, interesting, student-centric and personalized?’”***
- ***“Innovation in education is about more than just technology. It’s about how you can use technology to empower students to become lifelong learners who are agents of change.”***

So, join me as we look forward to spring and to the anticipation of emerging foliage and blooms! Just as we are able to depend upon the perennial beauty each year, so can we expect renewal and

growth of fresh ideas! Excitement is just around the corner at Japhet School with our Summer Camp Program -- STEAM Camp, Fun and Games Camp, Kids in the Kitchen Camp, Musical Theater Camp and Camp Variety Week.

I’m also pleased to announce that beginning the 2019-2020 school year, I’ll be introducing and leading a Garden Club for Japhet students.

***O the summer borders tumbling with colors that never clash, cascading with diversity, originality, individuality, rich beyond human wealth, patterned beyond human art, rooted by rain and blossomed by sun into a symphony of riotous bloom!***

This poem, by Fenella Bennetts, shares the importance of the uniqueness of each individual -- diversity and originality -- and just how there is a special place for each individual, “a symphony of riotous bloom!” Each of our Japhet students has a special place and uniqueness of their own in the Japhet School family -- and that’s what makes our garden such a symphony. How does our garden grow? Our garden grows with nurturing and care, inspired by new and fresh ideas that lead to steady growth and renewal!

**Kerri G. Vizena**  
Head of School



## CLASSROOM WINDOWS

Japhet School students are engaged in learning as joyful explorers of new knowledge and experiences. From top left, and left to right: 1 Preschool in Library class; 2 Upper Class in Life Skills; a Preschooler 'reads' a book to her classmates; a Preschooler paints; a Primary Class student at recess; a Kindergartener in class; an Upper Class student prepares Hot Lunch; Middle Class students learn how to use a sewing machine; Upper Class in Music; a Primary Class student counts 100 items for 100th Day; and Intermediate Class students (last three pictures) engaged in daily work.

# GIVING STORIES: WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO GIVE?

## Donor spotlight on Frank Edwards and Ann Williams -- alumni parents and volunteers

Ann and Frank began visiting Japhet School when their two sons were toddlers. Still considering what would be the best educational environment, they dutifully attended several open houses and got to know teachers. In 2007, Japhet received Conor and Devan as Kindergarten and Preschool students. The boys grew up at Japhet School, are now in high school -- Cranbrook and Roeper, respectively -- and each doing well.

Frank is chairman of the Board of Directors and vice-president of Nylube Products Company, LLC., a member of the Cranbrook Academy of Art Board of Governors, and is president of Japhet's Board of Trustees. Ann holds a BFA in graphic design and is a self-employed graphic designer and volunteer.

### Q: What led you to choose Japhet for your children?

**A: Ann** "We were impressed that the students led the tours. It was a perfect fit for both our boys -- they felt so at home and at ease. At other schools, I felt lost. These schools were so big -- how were they really going to get to know us?"

### Q: You've been connected to Japhet School for a very long time and been a part of some important transitions. What progress have you seen?

**A: Ann** "Getting our own building ... Japhet School is definitely visible in the community now! More people know the school when I tell them our sons went to Japhet."

### Q: You began as Hands of Hope donors, and now give at the "Creating Dreams" level. You've also participated in Trustee Match campaigns and the Lasting Legacy campaign. Why do you choose to give at this level?

**A: Frank** "We see what a difference Japhet makes in a child's life. It is important that we give as many children as we can the chance to have that. There was never a day that our boys did not want to go to school -- Ann and I can't say that about our own childhood experiences. For these reasons we give to the best of our ability."



*"We believe all children deserve the opportunity to be their best selves."*

*Frank Edwards*

**Frank Edwards and Ann Williams, with sons Devin J'18 and Conor J'16, are Creating Dreams and Lasting Legacy donors and dear Japhet friends**

### Q: What gives you joy as being a board member and a volunteer?

**A: Ann** "I love doing anything creative, which is my background, and I'm happy to share that with Japhet and the students. Just helping teachers and staff with anything they needed has brought me great joy."

**A: Frank** "I see the commitment the faculty, staff, parents, and trustees have to making this world a better place by raising young men and women who embody the character qualities Japhet School embraces. We continue to donate our time and resources, even though our boys have graduated, because we know that Japhet changes kids' lives for the better. We believe all children deserve the opportunity to be their best selves."

### Q: Do you have a favorite character quality?

**A: Frank** "Respect for others. In today's society, there is an overwhelming and disturbing lack of basic manners and respect towards those considered 'different' from one's self in beliefs, opinions, and values. I think Japhet is helping to create a better world by encouraging students to see the inherent value in each person."

**A: Ann** "I am especially fond of courage. I am always happy to see a shy or quiet student progress in public speaking and shine by the end of the year. Japhet gives children the gift of discovering they have a voice, and that they are important in the world."

✂ CUT AND RETURN TO: JAPHET SCHOOL, 839 S. CROOKS RD., CLAWSON, MI 48017



## The JAPHET SCHOOL Annual Giving Fund

Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the **Annual Giving Fund**

Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the capital campaign

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed, OR

divide into \_\_\_\_\_ monthly payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'll give by:  Check  Visa  AmEx  Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_ card #

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**Donations to the Annual Fund are most needed.**

Our primary mortgage has been paid in full, and donations to the capital campaign — still very much appreciated — will go toward our remaining bridge loan.

Donations of all sizes are helpful. Japhet School is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift is tax-deductible. Thank you!

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Josie (Wolverton) Krajny XJ'08** reached out to Japhet recently looking for copies of yearbooks or class pictures. Although she was only here from Kindergarten through 2nd grade, Josie says that Japhet made a lasting impression. A few of her favorite memories include doing the "Japhet shake" in Life Skills class to even out a measuring cup of dry ingredients, and the friends she made including her "first-ever best friend, Jenna Andersen." Josie has two daughters, Jenna and Kendra, and lives in Union City, Mich., where she is a caregiver in an adult daycare. She says she loves the peace and quiet of small town life and the lakes in the area.

## College Graduations to Celebrate



**Madeleine Danaher - XJ'10**  
Graduated from Grand Valley State University in December with a BA in English and Education and an elementary teaching certification. She is a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority where she made lifelong friends. Maddie was awarded the opportunity to study in the Netherlands where she co-taught with a mentor teacher. She also was a volunteer mentor and has special memories of a

family she worked with who had escaped from the Congo as she tried to explain winter weather to them without a common language. Maddie credits her decision to become a teacher to the amazing teachers she had at Japhet.

## Preschoolers in Training



**Tucker J'06 and Allie Blake** proudly announce the arrival of George Ezra Blake on November 18, 2018. George was born in Okinawa, Japan, where Tucker is serving in the United States Marine Corps. The family traveled to Michigan for George's first Christmas.



**Meghan Vivian Furbush XJ'06 and Andy Furbush** lovingly welcomed their daughter, Eleanor Marie Furbush, on October 21, 2018. She was born at 4:02am weighing 8lbs and 11oz. She has brought so much joy and love to her family!



**Pamela Brushaber Fincher XJ'00 and Tyler Fincher** are grateful to announce the arrival of William Isaiah Fincher born on December 1, 2018 weighing in at 10 lbs. 5oz. Pam, Tyler and William live in the Minneapolis, Minn., area. Pam says starting her morning by smiling at William and having him smile back makes the world a wonderful place.

### Do you have alumni news to share?

Please send news and photos to Robin Pospisil, Admissions Director at [robin.pospisil@japhetschool.org](mailto:robin.pospisil@japhetschool.org).

## INNOVATE!

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2nd grade at Japhet this summer.

Innovative teaching reaches across the curriculum. Art teacher Marti Minard, Spanish teacher Nancy Flores, and physical education teacher Sam Herrick all enjoy employing innovative teaching strategies and lessons into their classes as a benefit to students.

"Art class offers daily opportunities to be innovative," Ms. Minard says. "Ideas from the past and present spur imagination. Students use thrift, respect for the environment, and innovation to re-use materials in art." She explains a recent sculpture unit in which students created unique sculptural characters using dish detergent bottles and old wooden spoons.

Sra. Flores employs a strategy called Total Physical Response to help students retain their new language skills and make it fun. She leads physical movements connected to verbal input. The process mimics the way that infants learn their first language, and it reduces student inhibitions and lowers stress. She also enjoys integrating Spanish with other school subjects, like math. "Students are eager to show how they can state a mathematical answer using their Spanish," she says.

Mr. Herrick is ardent about helping students live healthy, balanced lives emotionally and physically, and part of that approach is teaching students different relaxation techniques and yoga, a regular part of his classes. "This helps calm stress and anxiety," he says. When students are relaxed, they are free to be their natural, joyful selves in the classroom.

Up in Middle School, where independence and reliability are critical as students prepare for high school, math and science teacher Brenda Gaunt explains how she is working with students on what she calls 'The Science of Organization.' She employs specific tools with students, works with them individually, and communicates with parents about how they can help support their children's productive habits. Mrs. Gaunt believes student growth lies in innovative, open-minded thinking by all involved. "When changes are put into place, everyone needs to be of the mindset that we are working hard to help students succeed," she says. "Be open to re-evaluating as necessary and embrace changes that are made after re-evaluation."

Technology, while not the crux of innovation, certainly does have its place. Mrs. Andersen is buoyed by technology that helps students write. "They may have a great idea, but some do not yet have the skills to physically write it on paper," she says, and technology -- such as verbal recognition software and auto-population of words -- "helps students feel capable and successful as writers. They're doing what their classmates are doing, just in a different way."

"Innovation adds a 'freshness' to the classroom," says Penny Witt, Japhet's Accounting Manager. Mrs. Witt also is a current parent who, as an employee, has the opportunity to see her child learning in class every day. "Students are excited and engaged. I see Japhet teachers doing this successfully. But we can always improve ... and INNOVATE."



# JAPHET SCHOOL

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## JOIN US ON THE FAIRWAYS IT'S FORE THE KIDS!

Our annual **Fore the Kids Golf Outing** is **Monday, June 24**, at Western Golf and Country Club in Redford, Michigan. The outing includes 18 holes with lunch, dinner, awards, and a silent auction. The **shotgun start is at 1:30 PM**, with registration beginning at 12 PM.

The outing costs \$175 per golfer, or \$600 for a foursome. We offer a special alumni rate of \$125, or a dinner/auction-only ticket for \$50.

Sponsors are important partners in making Fore the Kids a success. Sponsorships start at just \$150 as a hole sponsor! Event, golf cart, and the title sponsorship range from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

For more information and to register, visit <http://japhetschool.org/fore-the-kids-golf-outing/>

ANNOUNCING!

### Alumni Legacy Grant

A Japhet School trustee has said, "Japhet School students are prepared to be world citizens through understanding, honoring, and demonstrating character. They have been cultivated to wonder." The Alumni Legacy Grant, which is \$1,000 annually for full-time students and \$500 annually for part-time students, is a special scholarship from Japhet School to the **children of Japhet alumni**, and/or the **grandchildren of Japhet School faculty and staff** (current and former). The grant will be automatically applied toward tuition every year that the grant continues to be available.

## SUMMER CAMPS

We are excited to offer 11 summer camps that run in July and August! Please share this news with Metro Detroit families. Our doors are open to new friends! For all grades listed below, it means the grade in September.

We also provide personalized reading tutoring with Reading Specialist Pam Mazurkiewicz from June through August -- schedules may be arranged individually.

Visit [japhetschool.org/summer-at-japhet](http://japhetschool.org/summer-at-japhet) for our full summer brochure with details and registration.

### STEAM Camp

July 8-11, 9AM to 3 PM  
PreK-2nd

### Birds and Blooms

July 31, 9 AM to 12 PM  
2nd-8th

### Fun & Games

July 15-18, 9 AM to 12 PM  
PreK-2nd

### Garden Porch Pots

July 31, 12:30 to 3 PM  
2nd-8th

### Kids in the Kitchen

July 22-25, 9 AM to 12 PM  
2nd-8th

### Earth Tones

August 1, 9 AM to 12 PM  
2nd-8th

### Makey Makey

July 29, 9 AM to 12 PM  
3rd-6th

### Craft Circle

August 1, 12:30 to 3 PM  
2nd-8th

### Jokers Wild

July 29, 12:30-3 PM  
3rd-8th

### Musical Theater

August 5-8, 9 AM to 3 PM  
2nd-8th

### Intro to Snap Circuits

July 30, 9 AM to 12 PM  
2nd-6th