



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2019

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### **Japhet School Students to Cut Ribbons on Two New Playgrounds**

**\*\*\* MEDIA and PHOTOGRAPHERS WELCOME -- 8:45 AM Monday, September 30 \*\*\***

Clawson, Michigan - Japhet School, an award-winning independent school for children in preschool through 8th grade, recently installed brand-new playground equipment in their two playgrounds on campus. Students, teachers, and staff will celebrate with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8:45 AM this Monday, September 30. **We invite the community to participate!**

Japhet School also has an Open House on Sunday, October 6, from 1 to 2:30 PM.

The playground equipment in the school's outdoor courtyard for early childhood -- located right in the center of the U-shaped school -- now includes a climber, a large covered sandbox, and a "moonrock" climbing bridge. The school's large playground at Crooks and Massoit roads now features a large orange climber, a "Spintastic," and a ga-ga pit. New ground covering also is in place. The ground covering and play structures meet the safety requirements of a state-licensed childcare facility and school, which Japhet School is.

Playground equipment is expensive, and the funds for these improvements are the direct result of a large grant that Japhet School received this summer from The Joseph and Mary Cacioppo Foundation. The full grant of \$145,000 funded three initiatives at Japhet School: scholarship, technology, and outdoor education. The new equipment was funded under the outdoor education initiative.

"Japhet School continues to develop relevant programs and enrich the educational experiences of students," wrote Michael-Anne Young, Trustee/CEO of The Joseph and Mary Cacioppo Foundation. "We are so pleased to witness the positive outcomes along with the determination of staff, all working diligently to care for and nurture the journey of young minds!"

Japhet School students have been overjoyed with their privilege to watch the equipment be installed. Students in the school's middle school grades, acting as reporters, have been taking video footage and interviewing the installers!

Technology improvements under the grant include new Chromebooks for every student in 3rd through 8th grade, iPads for students Kindergarten through second grade, iMacs in several classrooms, and other software and hardware investments.

The grant portion applied to scholarship fund the Mohan Lasting Legacy Scholarship, which provides tuition assistance to families whose children express good character, but tuition is beyond the family's means. Japhet School still has grant funds to share for 2019-2020, and applicants are welcome, as Japhet School has rolling enrollment throughout the school year.

"Excitement and joy abound as we've started a fresh, new school year! We're passionate about the new, enriching opportunities available to our students through the funding of our outdoor education program and technology improvements," says Kerri Vizena, Head of School.

#### About Japhet School:

Founded in 1973, Japhet School is an independent school, serving children in the metropolitan Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. Its mission is to nurture and prepare each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program. The school provides small classes of fewer than 20 students in each, which enables teachers to challenge students with academic material that is appropriate for their intellectual readiness, regardless of age or grade. Integrated with strong academics is Japhet School's national award-winning character education curriculum, which builds a peaceful community within the school. The school's public speaking curriculum gives graduates confidence in leadership roles. Japhet is a National School of Character: it was the first school in Michigan -- and the first independent school in the country -- to receive this award. To learn more about Japhet, visit [japhetschool.org](http://japhetschool.org).

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