

The JANUS JOURNAL



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower students who learn differently to become creative lifelong learners by giving them the skills, strategies, and confidence to achieve academic and personal success.

**THE
JANUS
SCHOOL**

TheJanusSchool.org
717.653.0025

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Message from Head of School



Dear Friends of Janus,

Welcome to 2023! This will be a year of change at The Janus School and we are diligently working to ensure a smooth transition for all.

Heather Strunk, Director of Academics, will be the new Head of School on July 1, 2023. We are meeting regularly to review procedures and share thoughts and ideas about the future of Janus. Heather has been

at Janus for 13 years and is an excellent choice as the next Head of School. She loves Janus and I know she will bring innovative ideas to the table.

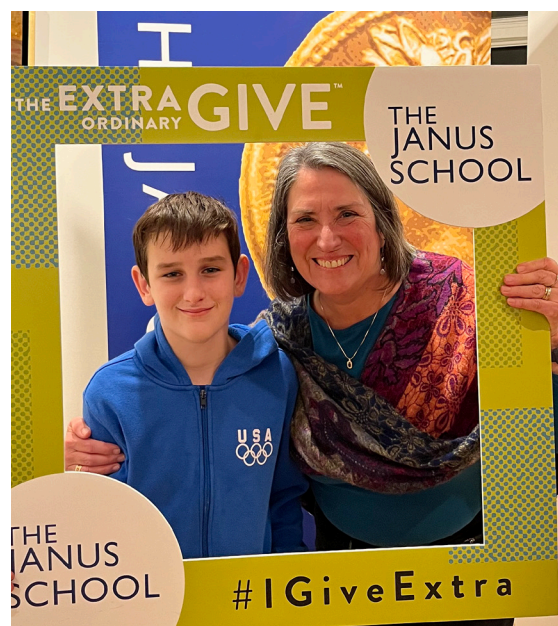
I'm also happy to announce that Lower Division teacher Brenda Keller will assume the Director of Academics position. Brenda knows Janus well, managed a pre-school prior to being here, and is adept at scheduling, ordering, and programming.

I look forward to staying involved with Janus throughout 2023 and into 2024. I'll be working with the new leadership as we launch 30th Anniversary initiatives to celebrate Janus's past and secure its future.

Best Regards,



We appreciate PA businesses who donate to Janus through the state's EITC program. MidPenn Bank stopped by in November to drop off a check for \$5,000!



Jadon and Jan at the ExtraGive party.

A Season of Giving - We Are Thankful

We're over halfway through fundraising for the yearly Annual Fund and we're thrilled that we've raised \$84,000! (This does not include state grants, foundation grants, or EITC gifts from PA businesses.) *This money comes directly from generous supporters and we thank you.* As we look ahead to the rest of the 2023 fiscal year, our goal is to raise \$100,000 by June 30th. Please help us reach this goal by making a gift today to support our students and faculty.

As part of our Annual Fund strategic plan, the ExtraGive is an important part of Fall fundraising.

In one fantastic day of giving, we raised \$16,000. Thank you to all who donated during this extraordinary day and to those who joined us at The Freiman Stoltzfus Gallery for a fun evening of food, wine, and music.

Special thanks to our neighbor on Main Street in Mount Joy - Everence Financial. During December, employees collected cards, games, and other classroom supplies for Janus and delivered them to our doors.

As we continue to build community partnerships, we are thankful to businesses like Everence Financial who come to us with generous hearts.



Ellie and Sara deliver classroom donations. Thank you, Everence Financial!

SUBSCRIPTION GIVING You can now set up a recurring monthly gift for the year and be part of The Sentinel Society. As a monthly subscriber: it's convenient for you and your budget planning, you support Janus's annual budget planning, and you experience the impact your monthly gift makes through special, personalized communications from students and faculty.

To learn more about giving or to join The Sentinel Society, click here: TheJanusSchool.org/giving.

Rogan Motter



Rogan Motter was a student in the first class at Janus in 1991 and attended until 1998. From there, he graduated from York Country Day School and went on to earn his MA from Penn State in 2015.

In our last newsletter, parent and trustee Wendy Hershey shared her memories of “Before The Mast”, a sailing and camping trip in Echo Hills on the Chesapeake Bay that took place in 1994 and 1995.

Students, teachers, faculty, and parents travelled to Maryland to Echo Hills.

Rogan remembers that he absolutely did not want to go on the trip. “I was resistant, difficult, and defiant.” He recalls being hooked to the side of the vessel so he wouldn’t go tumbling overboard as he got sick!

Despite this stormy drama, he resolved to love the adventure - the challenge, the comradery, and the call of the sea.

Rogan says, “It was quintessentially Janus - anxiety and hardship miraculously turned into a beautiful success for everyone there.”

Rogan is currently a performer and special event planner at Ephrata Performing Arts Center. He divides his time between Lancaster and London.

Are you an alumnus who has news to share? Do you need to update your contact information? We would love to hear from you. Please contact Tim Steffen at tsteffen@TheJanusSchool.org.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. K (Chris Koslosky)

Before teaching, Mrs. K was an American Airlines flight attendant for 25 years. Teaching is her second career and the one that has brought her the most joy. Mrs. K says, “Coming to Janus was the fulfillment of a dream because of the great freedom that teachers have here to get to know their students and design their teaching accordingly.” Whether teaching Spanish or Language Arts, her students inspire her: “They’re unique and special to my heart. I’m always amazed by their wit and limitless potential.” Mrs. K enjoys reading, writing, cooking, and acting and directing with local theater companies. Her dream is to bring the world of public domain theater to life on the stage. She’s currently preparing a modernized version of Moliere’s *The Misanthrope* for April with the Orange Mite Shakespeare Company of Dover, PA. *Brava, Mrs. K.!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

RAISING SPIRITS



RAISING SPIRITS is The Janus School's annual fundraising gala. Since its inception in 2002, we have raised over \$1M for programming and financial aid. Join us for *April in Paris* this year and be a part of this important and elegant evening that raises money to provide scholarships for students in need.

Click here to find out more: <https://thejanusschool.org/giving/fundraising-events/>

February 20: Presidents' Day - No School

March 1-3: Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School

March 6-10: Spring Break - No School

March 13: School Resumes

March 30: Open House - In-Person - 9am

April 7: Good Friday - No School

April 15: Raising Spirits

May 4: Open House - Virtual - 7pm

What Inspires Our New Teachers?



Sandra Aloquin



Gabby Conley



Will Eichorst

“My inspiration to teach comes every day from students who build confidence in their learning.”

“I’m a teacher because I want to have a positive, inspiring impact on my students’ lives.”

“I love watching the moments when students ‘get it’, showing them how to apply math to different areas of life, and learning from them how to become a better teacher.”

Autumn Memories



Why Do We Teach?



Debbie Hoffman



Dyane Stillman



Beth Weaver-Kreider

“My inspiration to teach comes from students’ enthusiasm to learn, explore, and grow daily.”

“I teach because it confirms two of my core beliefs: that people can change, and that people can affect change.”

“I was inspired to become a teacher because of the ways in which my own teachers inspired me to think critically and creatively, and I want to pass that along to the next generation.”

Meet Our Seniors



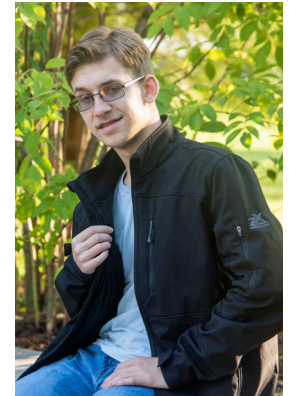
Janus has taught me to be a hard worker and be successful with my learning difference. - Sebastian



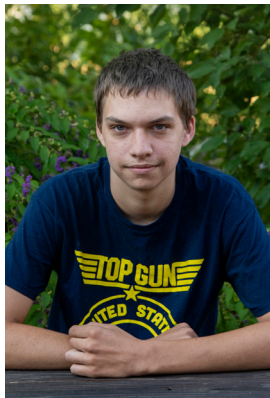
I love how everyone here is always willing to give you a second chance. Janus is what every school should be like. - Aidan



At Janus, things got better for me. Being here helped me improve and not be so hesitant to ask for help. - Tina



Janus has become a place where I'm around people who have challenges just like me. It feels like we're family here. - Michael



I'm thankful for the help of the teachers and tutors. They have worked with me to better understand how I learn best. Janus has changed my life for the last 7 years. - Dylan



Janus helped me find my way of learning, the accommodations I need, and strategies I can use to help me after Janus. I look forward to my next journey! - Caleb



Janus has made learning fun and interesting. It's helped me expand my knowledge of the world. -Val



Janus made me feel less alienated because I'm not the only one to have a learning difference. The teachers understand students better than anywhere else. - Tyler



Senior Success Class teacher Kate Kilkenny (center) prepares our seniors for life after graduation. Thank you, Kate, for the important work you do every day!



Janus has changed my life. It's allowed me to take higher level math classes so I'm prepared for future employment. - Carter



Janus helped me explore what kinds of art I could work on, as well as furthered my knowledge of the craft. - Shannyn



At Janus, I've excelled for the first time in years. It has done more for me than any other school I've had in my life. - Tristan

JANUS REFLECTION

VOCATION

by Tim Steffen, Director of Development

I never thought I'd work in education. I had no interest until a teacher friend of mine asked me if I could substitute teach at her independent school in New York City. I was a freelance writer at the time and thought, *Why not?*

After my first day in a kindergarten classroom, I knew I wanted to be an educator. I'd found my vocation. I say vocation, and not job, because the word derives from the Latin word *vocare*, which means "to call". Teaching was a calling for me, as I believe it should be for all who enter the field of education.

I taught for 11 years and then Teachers College at Columbia University offered me a position as a staff developer. My role was to work in New York City public schools and travel to other schools around country to instruct teachers in the teaching of reading and writing. I loved this time because it gave me an opportunity to work with people from diverse educational communities.

When the development director position opened at The Janus School, I applied. With my past experience in development and education, it was a perfect fit. The school's mission to empower students who learn differently, the faculty, staff, the students and their families, and the nurturing culture of this amazing school – this drew me here.

As director of development, I see the daily impact of fundraising on the lives of the children I pass in the halls, the ones I see playing Frisbee during recess, the teachers who benefit from the professional development they receive because of the donations from our generous supporters.

Besides the annual fund, the yearly Spring gala, reaching out to new donors, and all the other hats I wear during the year, my happiness also comes from cultivating a



culture of giving in our school community. This is vital, and it applies to faculty, staff and administrators, parents, alumni, the trustees.

It's not always about giving money, but the gift of one's time and effort to promote the school, to volunteer, speak at an open house, to be part of a community that understands the importance of the time and effort of giving back.

I see the daily impact of fundraising on the lives of the children I pass in the halls...

People here have heard me say it before, and I'll say it again: out of all the many schools I've been to in my career, Janus is the best. Being the director of development is an extension of my vocation as an educator. I wouldn't want it any other way. I'm thankful to be here and never regret that first day as a substitute teacher that led me to Janus.

Do you have a Janus memory you'd like to share in our next newsletter? We'd love to read it! If so, email your story to Tim Steffen: tsteffen@TheJanusSchool.org



EITC GIVING

PA makes it easy for you to support K-12 education for our underserved students through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Did you know that if you pay \$3,500 or more in PA State Taxes, you can redirect up to 90% of that to fund scholarships for students at The Janus School? Individuals with an adjusted gross income of more than \$115,000 annually qualify for the EITC program, but how does it work?

Tami Clark, Executive Director at Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund, led a webinar

in October with Janus. Click below to watch the video that takes you through the process to get started and support Janus through the EITC program.

[Click here to view the video.](#)



Many thanks to our community partners below. Because of them, Janus has received \$68,000 in EITC funding so far for this fiscal year!

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



YOUR SUPPORT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
THANK YOU!

The Fulton Family
Foundation

The Stabler Foundation

Clark Associates Charitable
Foundation

The Leader Family
Foundation

The Stuart H. & Marie T.
Raub Fund



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