

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 Janus Community,

This is a bittersweet note that I am writing as it is my last one as Head of School for The Janus School. I have been in education for over 40 years, starting in a public-school system on the westside of Chicago (one of the roughest areas to be), onto two international schools in London, back to the Chicago area, and then Janus. Before coming here, I always thought there had to be a better way to teach students to advocate for themselves and come to understand their unique learning style.

When I walked through the doors of The Janus School I knew I had found my dream school – a place where the community supports every child. It's a place where teachers put in the time, effort, and dedication to figure out the “puzzle” of each student; where it is known and accepted that a strategy may work one day but not the next, and that's okay because it will most likely work again at some point. Janus students are also challenged to be the best that they can be, while being fully supported to reach that goal.

(continued on page 2)

I have often used the word “magic” when describing Janus to people, and it truly is a magical place where amazing and life-changing events occur not only for students, but for families as well. The small “ah-ha” moments when a teacher can see the connection has been made; a light bulb has turned on. It’s the smile, cheer, and the gleam in the eye of the student. Sometimes it’s a big event like finally figuring out long division, but often it’s a small thing like reading a paragraph fluently or writing a sentence correctly, complete with capitalization and punctuation!



At Janus, we celebrate all students and their accomplishments. Because we are a small school, we are able to do things “in the moment”, and this immediate feedback is important. The students know instantly that they are heard and seen. This is done because the faculty who grace the hallways are dedicated and passionate about reaching every student. I have been honored to work with such a phenomenal group of educators. They are the heart of the community, the people who make everything come together.

In the future, I will stay connected with Janus; it has a very special place in my heart and always will. Thank you to everyone for your support while I was the Head of School.

It has been a remarkable journey.

Best Regards,

Head of School



Thank You, Jan

BY LISA HERSHEY, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Many words come to mind as we reflect on Jan Gillespie’s years of service as Head of School:



Jan has made a positive and significant impact on every student who has walked through the Janus doors over the past 12 years. At the same time, Jan has touched families, and built and nurtured a team of faculty and administrators who make the Janus magic happen.

Jan has put her heart and soul into her role at The Janus School. She has given her best through good and challenging times so our students who learn differently can become their very best!

From all of us at Janus, a heartfelt thank you and best wishes to Jan in the next chapter of her life.



Raising Spirits 2023 - April in Paris

We were thrilled to have 115 guests join us for our annual fundraising gala, *Raising Spirits*. This year, the theme was *April in Paris*. We're thankful for the team at STRAY Production Services in Lititz and also the generous donation of equipment by Atomic Design who helped transform our gym into Paris. Many thanks also go to Joe Hess and his crew at Cracked Pepper Catering.

And most of all, we thank the donors. After expenses, we raised \$45,000 in one evening to support general operations and financial aid for students who couldn't otherwise attend our incredible school - the only one in South Central PA for students with learning differences.

Merci beaucoup!



ANNUAL FUND & SUBSCRIPTION GIVING

June 30th is the end of our fiscal year and we've raised over \$100K! This does not include state grants, foundation grants, Raising Spirits, or EITC gifts from PA businesses. *This money comes directly from generous supporters and we thank you.*

Please consider 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.

To make a gift to our Annual Fund or to join The Sentinel Society, click here: TheJanusSchool.org/giving.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR 2023 SUMMER PROGRAM](#)

2023 Summer Program

THE JANUS SCHOOL



2023 SUMMER PROGRAMS

June 26 - July 28

Academic engagement & summer adventures await students entering grades 1-12. Children learn to identify and develop learning strategies while having fun in a supportive environment.

WHO: Students in Grades 1-12
Programs created to offer amazing experiences customized for children with dyslexia, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, and other non-verbal and executive functioning learning differences.

WHAT: Academic Engagement & FUN
Direct instruction through experiential and collaborative learning to build academic and social skills.

WHEN: June 26-July 28 (Monday-Friday)
Morning & Afternoon Programs Available! Except July 3rd and 4th.

WHERE: The Janus School
205 Lefever Road, Mount Joy, PA 17552

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Morning Academic & Afternoon Enrichment Programs

Choose either the Morning Academic or Afternoon Enrichment Programs, or choose *both* for a full day of enrichment, adventure, and fun.

Morning Academic Program (Grade 1-12) 8:30*AM to 11:45AM

Students will engage in learning through multi-sensory and experiential activities as they receive specific instruction in Language Arts, Math, and World Cultures.

Individual tutorials and diagnostic testing are available to students who were not enrolled in the 2022-2023 school year.

*Students may arrive as early as 8:00AM.

Lunch Break 11:45AM to 12:30PM

Afternoon Enrichment Programs 12:30PM to 3:30PM

Enjoy hiking, creek exploration, art in nature, games, sports, and more.

Outdoor Adventures - Monday-Friday (Grades 5-12)


Sports & Movement- Monday-Friday (Grades 1-12)

Dungeons & Dragons -Tuesdays & Thursdays (Grades 6-12)

Video Gaming - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (Grades 6-12)

Creative Writing & Performing Arts - M/W/F (Grades 9-12)
T/Th (Grades 6-8)


LNP Readers' Choice Awards Vote for Janus!



THE JANUS SCHOOL

Not all great minds think alike

Vote for Us for Favorite Private School!



TheJanusSchool.org

The LNP Readers' Choice Awards are coming up. Beginning May 8th, please vote for The Janus School as "Best Private School".

Please share with friends and family members and let them know the transformative impact that Janus has on students' lives.

Voting ends June 2nd.

[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN VOTING ON MAY 8](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4: Open House - Virtual - 7pm

May 10: All school trout release

May 14: Happy Mother's Day

May 19: All School Play - 7pm

May 25: Field Trips

May 25: 12:30pm Dismissal; 1-5:30pm Parent-Teacher Conferences.

May 26: Parent-Teacher Conferences

May 29: Memorial Day - No School


May 30: Parent-Teacher Conferences

May 31: Field Day and Creek Walk

June 1: Art Fair

June 2: Last day of school; Convocation; 12pm dismissal

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TheJanusSchool.org

Nicki Liss



We were happy to reconnect with alumnus Nicki Liss who attended Janus from 1st-4th Grades, 2002-2005. Originally from Lititz, she is in her second year as a Pre-K-4th Grade art teacher at the Sanford School in Hockessin, DE. Nicki, who has ADHD and a math and reading learning difference, shared: "I appreciate Janus and all it did for me in my early years. I'm fortunate that I didn't feel ostracized because I was at a school that really understood me."

Nicki worked hard, persevered, and graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown. While there, she became a leader in a mentorship program called Eye to

Eye, specifically for individuals with learning disabilities. The program paired her with a student with a similar learning difference and Nicki served as a mentor, which she loved. She then attended Tyler School of Art at Temple University before beginning her work at Sanford.

Nicki remembers her favorite teachers, RoseMary Walker and Rachel Schmalhofer. "They were incredible in supporting me, motivating me to be the best that I could be."

Her advice for students with learning differences? "Never give up. If you have a learning difference, you have to work twice as hard and carry the extra load. Do the work, take pride in it, and do the best you can."



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



Ms. Link

We're turning our spotlight on Ms. Link, who's been at Janus for 13 years during a 30-year teaching career. An educator at heart, Link (as many call her) first taught piano lessons to her neighbors when she was in 6th Grade. She is an Education Psychologist/Reading Specialist from Columbia University's prestigious Teachers College and has taught in New York City, Boston, Italy, and Brazil. Link was also the Academic Director at Chartwell School in Seaside, CA. At Janus she currently teaches Reading and Writing to Upper Division students, and Math in the Middle Division. "Janus has heart. I love this school. It's my favorite place I've ever worked. Where else would I have the most humanitarian relationships at work?" Thank you, Link, for the laughter, love, and master teaching you bring to every classroom here at Janus.

ABC Construction Wars!

7th and 8th Grade students participated in ABC Keystone's yearly Construction Wars in March. It's an interactive career exploration event that offers hands-on activities with the help of construction professionals. Students learned of the many career paths the construction industry provides. During this Construction Wars event, students built wood benches, tested electrical circuits, and bent sheet metal to make toolboxes. Thank you, ABC Keystone!



Connect 4



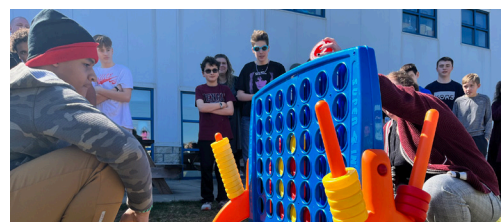
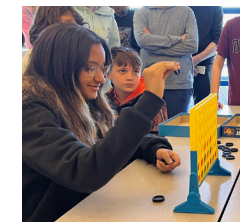
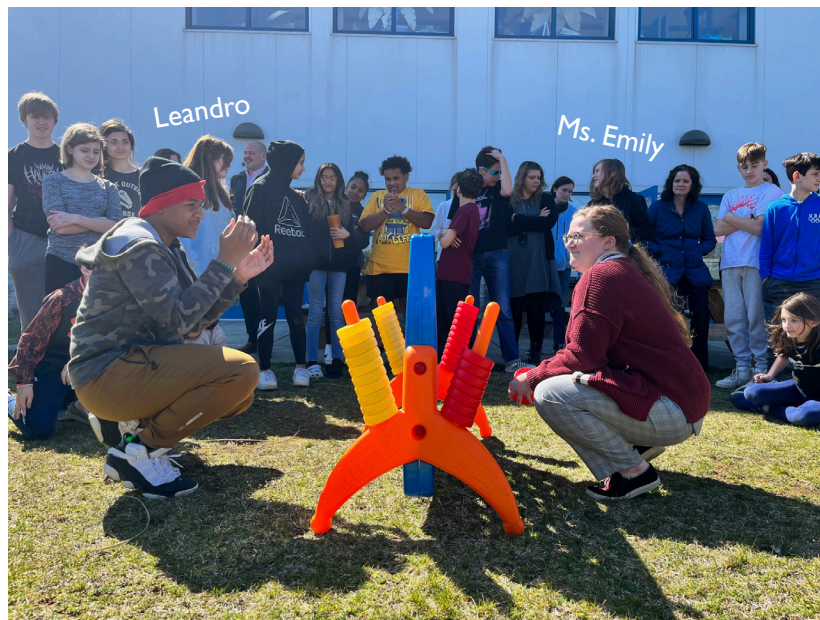
Some say that change is the only constant in the universe, so it's always bittersweet to see a beloved student move on in their lives. We're always sad to see them go, but we know they will continue to do great things in their lives, so we take joy in that.

Student and friend to all, Leandro and his family moved to Florida in April. The sunshine of his smile will never be forgotten at Janus, and he will make Florida a brighter place.



Leandro happens to be a master Connect 4 player. In honor of him, on his last day of school at Janus, we held a Connect 4 tournament. The tensions were high (and fun) as teachers, staff, and students battled it out, but in the end it came down to Ms. Emily and Leandro.

During a nailbiting match, Leandro lost to the inimitable Ms. Emily, but he's *always* a winner to us. Best wishes, Leandro, for your next adventures.



Reflections on the Present and Future

As graduation for our seniors approaches, we asked them to reflect on their current internships and also what lies ahead for them.

Every year, each senior takes part in an internship in the Spring. It's part of the Senior Success class to offer them the opportunity to pursue their interests and see what it's like to be out in the world on a job site.

Internships include the following:

- GEARS Kids Center
- Lancaster STIR
- Messick's Farm Equipment
- Hertiage Creek Farm
- Hospice and Community Care
- Charles F. Snyder Crematory & Funeral Home
- Elizabethtown Library
- The Janus School - work around the school



I can't wait to take the next step in my life. There's a school I'm interested in attending, so I'm looking forward to that. - Shannyn

I really enjoyed my internship because it gave me the opportunity to work outside. I realized that doing tasks I thought were simple, such as planting vegetables, is harder than I thought. - Tyler

I'm going to HACC for 2 years and transferring to a different school. During the summer, I am going to do a summer program at Penn State Berks that will allow me to live in a dorm and experience life away from home. - Val



I'm going to Millersville and major in computer science in order to work to improve AI for video games. I know I will succeed in college and am ready for the challenges that await. - Carter

I'm looking forward to building upon the foundations I've learned at Janus to work with a team at the Career and Technology Center. - Michael

At the farm internship, I love the workers there and the outdoors. The Senior Center is a very friendly environment where I serve refreshments to the guests and play games with them. They all seem to enjoy my loyalty. - Aidan



Being at a daycare center is more than just watching children - you need to acknowledge them and show them your interest in know more about them. - Tina



I plan to pursue a degree in music production at the Tell School of Music at Millersville University. It will be a bittersweet moment for me to leave Janus, as it has brought me memories that will last a lifetime, but I'm ready to head to Millersville. - Caleb

At Messick's, I show up on time and am working hard. I like doing things hands-on and can see myself doing this in the future. - Dylan





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

last 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. Because of them, Janus has received \$115,000 in EITC funding for this fiscal year, and we're *not done!*

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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