

The JANUS JOURNAL



Message from Head of School

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

FOLLOW US



Dear Janus Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the long summer days and spending time with friends and family. Only a short month ago we gathered at The Janus School to celebrate the accomplishments of our entire community, especially those of our seniors. Now, we look forward to the promise of the new school year and adventures to come.

I also look forward to my first year as Head of School at Janus. Going into my 14th year, I am honored to have this opportunity to serve our community after having the privilege of working in the classroom as a faculty member for five years and the Director of Academics for 8. Janus is a place where students feel safe to take risks and trust that our caring faculty and staff will support them and help turn any mistakes into learning opportunities. It is a place where students are met and supported where they are so that their independence grows. At Janus, we care for one another and celebrate the time we have together.

Our mission is clear: we empower students to be the best versions of themselves, life-long learners, and problem solvers who are given the strategies they need to achieve academic and personal success. Our strong team of faculty and staff live that mission every day, with the greatest reward being the success of our students. Thank you for supporting our students and helping them to achieve.

Sincerely,
Heather
Heather Strunk

2022-2023 Giving

Our Annual Fund is over for the fiscal year and we're happy to announce that we surpassed our \$100,000 goal and reached \$128,500! Thank you to all our new and loyal donors for your generosity to support the gift of education at The Janus School for children with learning differences. Without you, many of our students would not experience the transformations that happen at Janus.

We're also thankful to our EITC/OSTC partners whose donations were \$175,000. Both programs directly benefit our students by providing financial aid to those who need it most. We're always looking to foster new relationships with businesses, so if you know of any business that might have a heart for Janus, contact Tim Steffen.

With state grants, total giving this year was \$1.3M!

We can't do this without all our friends, community partners, and support from the state that help us fulfill our mission and vision for every student. *Thank you!*



Steve Atland, Senior Vice President of PeoplesBank, visited us in April. We always welcome our community partners for a tour and to experience the Janus magic that happens every day. PeoplesBank has been an incredible EITC donor since 2017.

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 the 2023-2024 Annual Fund or to join The Sentinel Society, click here: TheJanusSchool.org/giving.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 22: Janus Family Social
- August 23: First Day of School
- September 4: No School
- September 12: Back to School Night
- September 27-29: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- October 9: No School
- November 17: ExtraGive

Convocation

On June 2nd, our 32nd Convocation took place to celebrate our eleven graduating seniors. We also honored all of our students and those who won our yearly awards. It was a beautiful and heartwarming day of gratitude and excitement for the end of the school year, the beginning of summer vacation, and the new adventures that await our graduates.



Graduate Tina and family



Graduate Dylan and family



Graduate Sebastian and family



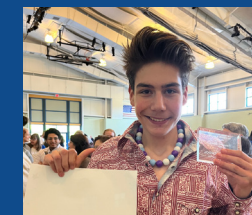
Heather, Jan, and Baord President, Lisa Hershey



Graduate Tyler and family

STUDENT AWARDS

STEINMAN FOUNDATION CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Chayton Mathna and Colton Troup



Tabyn McCormick

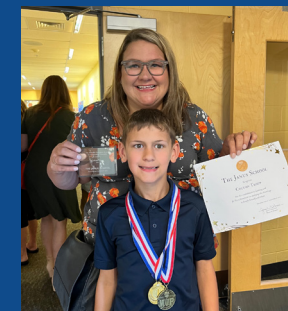
FOUNDERS AWARD FOR DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP
Alex Pantoja and Katie Rauch



Andrew Bell

DOUGLAS ATKINS SCHOLAR AWARD
Em Stinchfield and Claire Jackson

NANCY COOK AWARD FOR CREATIVITY IN THE ARTS
Caleb Marcott and Tabyn McCormick



Colton Troup

DAVID NEWHOUSE COMMUNICATION AWARD
Andrew Bell and Jacob Butcher



Alex Pantoja

Celebrating the End of the School Year

The end of the year is an exciting time filled with many Janus traditions, including a creek walk, field day, trout release, and field trips.

HEAD OF SCHOOL FOR THE DAY

In May, Tabyin McCormick served as our Head of School for the day and planned escape rooms, epic dodgeball, and other fun activities for students.



TROUT RELEASE

Students released 138 rainbow trout into Little Chiques Creek on our school campus in May. This fun, hands-on, outdoor learning experience is part of Janus's *Trout in the Classroom* program. Students closely monitored, fed, and cared for the fish for five months while learning about the environment, the importance of conservation, and how to care for a species.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE WGAL REPORT ON OUR TROUT RELEASE!](#)



SCHOOL PLAY

This year's play was *Raise Your Voice*, a Broadway Junior musical review! Many thanks to directors Robin Payne and Ms. Emily.



FIELD TRIPS

This year, Lower Division students visited Indian Echo Caverns. Middle Division enjoyed the climbing wall and ziplining through the woods at Refreshing Mountain. Teachers took part, too! Upper Division first went to Crystal Cave and then to Goggle Works Center for the Arts in Reading. Jackson Geiger (9th Grade) won the vase design contest. During their visit, they watched the glassblowers create the vase.



[BUY CAVE TICKETS](#)



Jackson hands off his design to the glassblower.



The final work of art!

FIELD DAY & CREEK WALK



Best Wishes for Your Next Adventures!

We will miss Mrs. K and Jonathan Back, but offer our thanks for their many years of dedicated service to our students.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Emily

We're turning our spotlight on Lower Division teacher Ms. Emily who's in her 8th year of teaching, which means she's been at Janus for eight years! She's a teacher who wears many hats - Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies. Ms. Emily always knew she wanted to be a teacher. "I love to work with people to find solutions to challenges, and I love nothing more than watching a student understand something after working hard to figure it out!" *Why Janus?* Her brother attended Janus and graduated in her first year of teaching here. She says, "I watched my brother grow into an amazing young man, and Janus helped him understand himself - his strengths and challenges. I knew Janus was something special." Thank you, Ms. Emily, for your dedication to all our students.

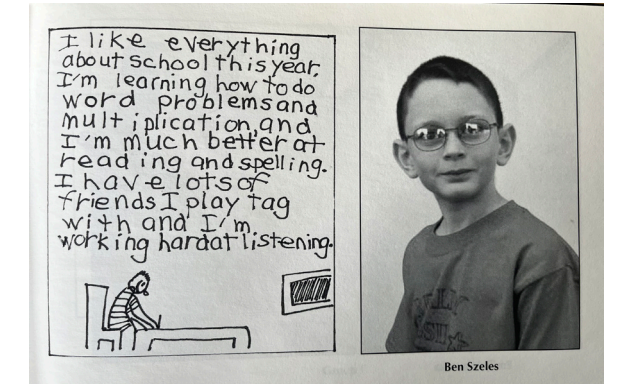
Ben Szeles

"Before Janus, I went to a public school, but they didn't have enough teachers who specialize in teaching kids with learning differences." That's when alumnus Ben Szeles ('12) and his parents heard about The Janus School from educational experts. Recently, Ben reflected on his time at Janus, which he attended from 3rd Grade in 2001 until his graduation in 2012.

Raised in Harrisburg, Ben is on the autism spectrum and is thankful for all the incredible teachers who taught and supported him. He remembers three very well: Rosemary Walker, Val Domoto, and Ginger Goudie.

He recalled, "Rosemary was my first homeroom teacher. She was kind and loving to everyone, and she understood my needs. Val was my tutor who helped me a lot with the areas I was struggling in, and also with social skills. Ginger was my last homeroom teacher who guided me through the internship program and got me ready for real-life challenges."

After Janus, Ben learned the basics of carpentry at the Hiram G. Andres Center, a trade school in Johnstown. He then enrolled in the Association of Builders and Contractors (ABC) where he learned more advanced carpentry skills and received on-the-job training while working for Calabrese Drywall. After four years, he graduated from ABC and has been working for Calabrese ever since then.



2002

When asked to offer insights for Janus students, Ben said, "My advice is no matter what challenges come our way, if we set our minds to it by working hard and not being afraid of failing, we can plow right through them."



2023

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.

JANUS REFLECTION

Better Because of Janus

by Larry Keating, Trustee and former Janus parent

My wife heard about Janus in one of those desperate conversations that mothers have among themselves when nothing they do for their child seems to work.

After that she told me, "We have to visit The Janus School."

"Good," I said.

"I don't know what else to do," she said. "Nothing is working. Our son has an IEP, he's on his second tutor, and none of it makes any difference. He comes home every day hanging his head, pacing, circling the house, sobbing. I heard Janus works, so we gotta go."

"Okay."

Three days into Janus, the pacing and sobbing stopped. Smiles appeared. Not long after, someone asked me to join the Janus Board, and I did.

Our son not only has a bachelor's degree, but a master's degree as well. He isn't fixed; he's better. He still has Janus-kid logic. He's better because of Janus. He's one of the smartest guys I know. Am I glad he went to Janus? "Oh, yeah," I always say.

And I'm still on the Board - since the last century! I ask myself when I'm up for renewal, "Is there any better use of my time?" Nope.

People often say that the Janus Board is the best one they have ever served on. *It is.*

Janus magic isn't just for kids, although that would be enough. It's for all of us. You, me, staff, faculty, parents, grandparents, and more.

I ask myself each time my term is up, "How am I so fortunate to spend time with some of the best people in the world?" I don't know, but I'm going with it. You bet. Count me in. Thank you.



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

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 \$175,000 in EITC funding 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



THE JANUS SCHOOL