

## Volleyball Team Missions Trip Fundraiser



### Who doesn't love a chicken dinner?

The Houghton Academy Volleyball team is holding its first fundraiser for its upcoming missions trip in April. You can purchase a ticket for a chicken dinner (BBQ chicken from [Krolicks](#), salt potatoes, macaroni salad, a roll, and a cookie) directly from a volleyball player or the school office.

**Each dinner is \$17.** Tickets must be **purchased by October 11**, and dinners can be **picked up at the academy on October 22nd from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.**

Thank you for supporting the team's first mission trip!

## New Students Continue to Arrive



One of the distinctives of Houghton Academy is that we offer international students **"rolling admission."**

In other words, students may enroll at the Academy any day of the year, provided there is space. Thus, if their visa paperwork is delayed, they are not penalized by having to wait until the beginning of the next semester or school year.

Over the past couple of weeks, new students have continued to arrive - and more are expected in the coming weeks. Pictured above are several new students being greeted by Dr. Travis.

**Welcome to HA!**

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# THE ANNUAL FUND

*Today | Tomorrow | Every Day*

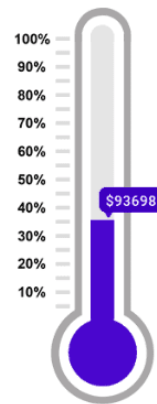
**Our Annual Fund giving continues to rise!**

We are grateful to God and to all those participating in this year's Annual Fund. Over the **past two weeks, the Academy has received \$5,862.00 in donations!**

Your donation, of any amount, small or large, makes a difference. Learn more about the Annual Fund and its vital importance to the Academy's success at [www.houghtonacademy.org/giving](http://www.houghtonacademy.org/giving).

**Thank you for your partnership in Christian Education Ministry!**

Goal: \$250000



Donate Today!

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## Updated Policy Spotlight



### Continual School Improvement

At Houghton Academy, we are dedicated to ongoing school improvement. We continually and consistently review and revitalize our policies to meet the evolving needs of our student body. As we reflect on each policy, we commit to ensuring it is backed by research-based best practices and contextualized to the unique setting and ministry of Houghton Academy, supporting every student's success.



This year, we are featuring examples of policy updates in this newsletter. Parents and students are advised to frequently access the [Student/Family Handbook](#) when seeking clarification of Academy policies and procedures. Updates are made regularly to this "living document" as we seek to continuously improve the academy's operations.

For example, based on exposure to additional research that was brought to our attention on the topic of **Progressive Discipline Plans that support Restorative Justice**, we updated our [Discipline Policy](#) accordingly, thanks to those who brought the additional research to our attention.

Today, we announce the update to our [Valedictorian / Salutatorian Eligibility Policy](#).

The benefits of the updated Val/Sal Policy include:

- Encouraging students to strive for excellence not only in their academic coursework but also in leadership and extracurricular involvement.
- Research shows that students who engage in leadership roles and challenging coursework are more likely to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills, which are essential for success in higher education and future careers (Kuh, 2008). Leadership experiences in high school also foster personal growth, responsibility, and a sense of contribution to the community (Dugan & Komives, 2007).
- Additionally, students who take on rigorous coursework, such as university-level classes, are better prepared for the academic demands of college. Studies indicate that students who complete advanced courses in high school have higher college completion rates and perform better in their first year of postsecondary education (Adelman, 2006).
- By broadening the criteria for Valedictorian and Salutatorian beyond GPA alone, this policy ensures that top students are recognized for their academic achievement and their holistic contributions to the school and readiness for future success.

Parents and students are encouraged to review the full policy. Click on the button below to access the current Student/Family Handbook.

Yours in the ongoing pursuit of excellence for the glory of God!

~ Dr. Toby A. Travis, Head of School



- We have updated our **school dress code policy**. [Click here](#) to see the policy. One notable change is that Houghton Academy now permits students to wear solid-colored athletic pants as long as they are clean and free from holes or tears.
- Our new **Shout Out** initiative encourages faculty, staff, and students to build each other up by placing notes of praise and encouragement in the "Shout Out" box outside of Dean Pennington's office. The notes are delivered to the person about whom they are written and included in a biweekly "**Shout Out Report**." [Click here](#) to see the first biweekly Shout Out Report.
- Houghton Academy will take interested 10th-12th grade students to a **career fair at the YMCA in Olean on Wednesday, October 2**. Space is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis. [Click here](#) for more information. Interested students should email Dean Pennington.
- It is not too early for 11th and 12th graders to start looking at college scholarship opportunities. [Click here](#) for a website where you can research **scholarship opportunities** and sign up for regular email updates.
- We are almost halfway through our first quarter at Houghton Academy. **Midterm grade reports will be available next week**. Grades are accessible at any time through the Veracross student portal.

~ Karen Pennington, Academic Dean

## Get Your Fall HA Gear Today!



Limited Time Only! **20% OFF \$75** Code: **TEAM20**

Exclusions Apply

Shop Now and Support HA

## Coming Soon...

### SEPTEMBER

- 21 - Homecoming / Family Picnic
- 23 - Close-Up Washington, DC Trip Information Session
- 24 - ACCA College Fair
- 25 - Student Council Activity Day (TBA)

### OCTOBER

- 2 - Career Fair @ Olean Family YMCA
- 5 - Car Wash Fundraiser for Volleyball Mission Trip
- 10 - Environmental Science Field Trip - Moss Lake
- 11 - MS Field Trip - Genessee Country Village & Museum
- 11-12 - Board of Trustees Meetings
- **14 - No School**
- 15-18 - School Spirit Week
- 16 - Athletics Senior Night
- 18 - Student Council Pep Rally / Lock-In
- 22 - Chicken BBQ for Volleyball Mission Trip
- 23 - Houghton University Rep on Campus
- 24 - End of First Quarter & PSAT/SAT Day
- **25 - No Classes** / Teacher In-Service
- 28 - Recorder Ensemble Performance
- 30 - Student Council Activity Day



Subscribe to the Academy Calendar

Athletic Calendar

## Help Us Share the Heart of HA

### Your Story Matters!



Your experiences as a parent, student, teacher, or administrator make Houghton Academy truly special, and we need your help sharing that story. By leaving a review on Niche, you can help prospective families discover what life at HA is like—through your eyes!

**How to Make a Difference:** Leaving a review takes just a few minutes, and your insights could inspire another family to join our community.

#### Here's how to craft a meaningful review:

- Keep it short and sweet—2-3 sentences is all it takes!
- Mention your role at HA (parent/guardian, grade level, number of years in the community).
- Share your interactions with students, teachers, and staff members.
- Highlight moments of personal, academic, or social growth.



- Capture the essence of our HA community and culture.

**Plus, there's a bonus!** By sharing your story, you'll be entered for a chance to win \$1,000 from Niche.

**Ready to help?** Please leave your review today and make a lasting impact on our growing HA family!

[Submit Your Review Here](#)



The poster features a dark blue background with various school supplies like scissors, paper clips, pencils, and notebooks. At the top center is the Houghton Academy logo, which includes a tree icon and the text "HOUGHTON ACADEMY Est. 1883". Below the logo, the text "NOW HIRING" is written in large, white, bold letters with starburst effects on either side. Underneath, the job titles "EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BUS DRIVER", "\*HOUSE PARENT\*", "TENNIS COACH (MARCH - MAY)", and "TRACK & FIELD COACH (MARCH - MAY)" are listed. At the bottom, the website "houghtonacademy.org" is displayed in white text.

[Apply Today to Join Our Ministry Team](#)



 **New Episode Alert!** 

### HA What Podcast

Join us for an insightful conversation on the challenges of stress and anxiety in today's fast-paced world of school, social life, and future goals. 🌱

Special guests Silas and Sadie, a dynamic brother-sister duo, share their personal journeys of navigating stress, overcoming anxiety, and discovering the power of delayed gratification. ✨ Whether you're a student or looking for inspiration, this episode is packed with relatable insights and strategies for managing life's pressures. 💡



Tune in now!  

Listen on Spotify

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## Did you miss an earlier update?

### Recent News

Click on the images below to read the latest ministry updates from Houghton Academy.



Visit the Academy website's "[Recent News](#)" page to read recently published Head of School Memos, Newsletters, and Ministry Updates.

Read More...

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## LIVE - LEARN - LEAD - LOVE

*"...that they might be called trees of righteousness." - Isaiah 61:3*

Small school care. Large school opportunities! ™



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