



Congratulations, Seniors!

A Look at our Graduates'
Experiences at TPH and Beyond

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

We are continually amazed and delighted by the way God moves in the lives of our students, parents, and staff. This year is no exception, as the threads of renewal and resilience continue to weave stories of God’s faithfulness. We chose “Enter The Story” as the theme at our New Friends Banquet in April.

We had a **100% graduation rate** this year, with our class of **55 students** crossing the stage to receive their diplomas. This newsletter will highlight a few stories from our senior graduating class. Some of our students have survived tragedies and trauma and continue to heal as they face the future. Others have been consistently supported at The Potter’s House as they navigate the cultural issues of our times. All of our students are provided a firm Christ-centered foundation of academic excellence and authentic community.

- Jonathan tells of his transformation at TPH, from a vulnerable refugee child (hindered by a language barrier and trauma) to an articulate and confident high school graduate.
- Ivy shares how TPH offers an authentic, culturally rich community with honesty and grace, empowering her to make a difference in the world.
- Clara, our 2024 valedictorian, speaks on her academic and spiritual formation with the support of TPH partners, teachers, staff, and peers.
- Perry recounts his early struggles with self-image and how he found acceptance as a beloved member of the TPH community. Our May Term experiences expanded his understanding and prepared him for a career in aviation.

Time and time again, we hear that this welcoming school community has altered the trajectory of students’ lives and impacted generations. Being surrounded by positive peers and caring teachers, partners, and mentors in a Christ-centered atmosphere provides students the support and confidence they need to make a difference in the world. I am continually inspired by God’s work at The Potter’s House, and for the growing vision that He has placed on our hearts.

Thank you again for your prayers and continued support. I pray that God will continue to direct our steps and passions to His divine purpose.



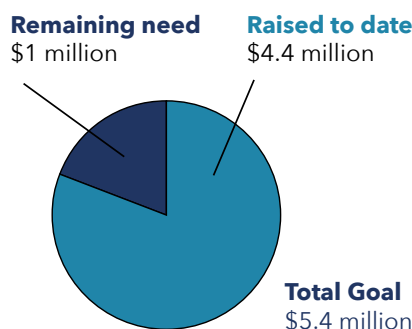
In Love and Gratitude,

John Booy
Superintendent
The Potter’s House

What’s Inside

A Look Back!	Page 3
2024 Graduates	Page 4
Honoring Our 8th Grade Graduates	Page 6
Ivy’s Story	Page 7
Spotlight on Clara	Page 8
Prepared For Takeoff	Page 10
Growing Hope at The Potter’s House	Page 12
2024 New Friends Banquet	Page 13
New Horizons, New Perspectives	Page 13
Celebrating 20 Years of Dedication and Love in Pre-K	Page 14
Honoring 25 Years of Service and Dedication	Page 14
Gifts In Memory	Page 15

ENDING THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG
Please join us with your best gift to reach our school-year-end goal of **\$1 million** by **June 30**.



A Look Back!

We have had so many exciting things happening this school year and want to share them with you! Look at just a handful of the interesting and fun things our students participated in.



Our recent high school graduates, Clara and Ivy, participated in the 2024 Kuyper College Triple Bottom Line Business Idea Contest! Their eco-friendly business idea, "Waste with Taste," took home second place.



Our 4th and 5th graders recently had the opportunity to experience a fantastic drumming workshop. Local djembe expert Leah Ivory brought over 40 drums to campus to give students a drumming tutorial and teach them about African djembe culture.



Just before Spring Break, our amazing 4th and 5th-grade choir brought smiles to the residents at Sunset Manor! Their beautiful voices filled the room with joy and heartwarming melodies, and our Superintendent, Mr. Booy, shared an encouraging message.



Our students had a blast witnessing the Total Solar Eclipse with their classmates, teachers and family members! They got to wear their certified eclipse glasses as they experienced a rare, historic moment in science!



Career Exploration Fun! Our high school freshmen attended Career Quest at DeVos Place, giving them the opportunity to explore various trades and hands-on careers available in the area. They had the chance to speak with local professionals in fields such as construction, heavy equipment, machinery, and the military.

Stay connected!



TPHGR



ThePottersHouseGR

Congratulations, Class of 2024!



MIRAN ABDO
Calvin University
Engineering



SYDNEY AMONDSON
Grand Rapids Community College
Secchia Institute of Culinary Arts



IVY ANDREAS
Calvin University
Environmental Science



ASHLEY AUSTIN
Grand Rapids Community College
Criminal Justice and Psychology



JAIDEN BAEZ
Trinity Christian College
Chemistry



BREANNAH BOERSMA
Grand Rapids Community College
or Calvin University



KATHERINE BOERSMA
Grand Rapids Community College
Music



SAUL CABALLERO
Construction Workforce



SAIGE CARNAHAN
Calvin University
Nursing



AUTUMN CLARK
Grand Valley State University
Psychology - Child Life Specialist



SERENITY CLARK
Grand Valley State University
Forensic Psychology



RIVER COLEGROVE
Cornerstone University



AKUACH DENG
Great Lakes Christian College
Environmental Science & Psychology



HARPER DIEPSTRA
Skilled Trade Workforce



JORIN FEY
Grand Rapids Community College



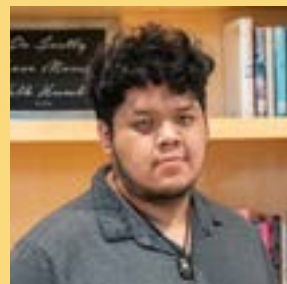
NOAH FINTON
Spring Arbor University
Exercise Science



MAYAH FLORES
Calvin University



VALERIA FRIAS RODRIGUEZ
Calvin University
Business and Marketing



JONATHAN GALEANA-ORDONEZ
Information Technology Workforce



CHARDONAY GERBER
Gap Year



ELISEO GOMEZ-CERVANTES
Construction Field



PERRY GRIFFITH III
Eastern Michigan University
Aviation Flight Management



EZRA HAGEDORN
Calvin University
Psychology



ADEN HART
Calvin University
Design



AALIYAH HAUSLER
Davenport University
Medical Assistance



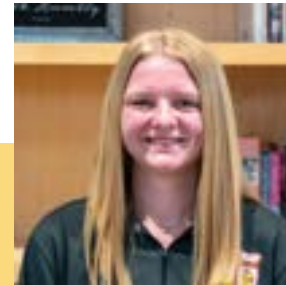
VALERIA HERNANDEZ-LEAL
Grand Valley State University
Psychology and Marine Biology



BENJAMIN HILL
Michigan Conservation Core
Forestry or Welding



VICTORIA JANSMA
Gap Year Followed by
Ferris State University



BETHANY KLOP
Calvin University
Elementary Education



MICAH KORTMAN
EMT and Paramedic License



NATALIE LANTINGA
Grand Rapids Community College
Nurse Technician Program



AARON LEEDY
Calvin University
Environmental Science



ALYSA LINDSAY
Grand Valley State University
Nursing



EZRA MAAS
Grand Rapids Community College
Automotive Technician Program



ABIGAIL MORROW
Grand Rapids Community College
Criminology



ANYIETH NHIAL
Albion College
Kinesiology



LISA NICKELSBURG
Michigan State University
Veterinary Nursing



ESPOIR NKURUNZIZA
Grand Valley State University
International Relations & Political Science



KAYLA PRUDE
Aquinas College
Education



MARCOS RAMIREZ-JUAREZ
Master Electrician Training



EDGAR RAMOS MENDOZA
Grand Rapids Community College
Welding



MARLON RAZO-SALDIVAR
Grand Valley State University
Business Management or Marketing



JACKSON RODRIGUEZ
Grand Valley State University
Kinesiology



CLARA SHOOKS
Grand Valley State University



KORI SMITH
Eastern Michigan University
Business Management



ERICA STARKS
University of Michigan
Fine Arts in Acting



CLAYTON STEVENS
Master Auto Technician Training



JONATHAN SURUY BOCH
Grand Rapids Community College
Residential Construction



SAMARA SUWYN
Calvin University



SAMWELI SWEDI
Grand Rapids Community College
Graphic Design



EVAN VANDER MEYDEN
Calvin University
Business Management and
Marketing Field



DANAE VAN DRUNEN
Pursuing Entrepreneurship and
Growing Small Business



EZEQUIEL VELASQUEZ
Grand Rapids Community College
Pre-Medical Technology



LYDIA VER BEEK
North Park University
Nursing



ZHE WANG
Presbyterian College
Computer Science

Honoring Our 8th Grade Graduates: A Milestone Achievement

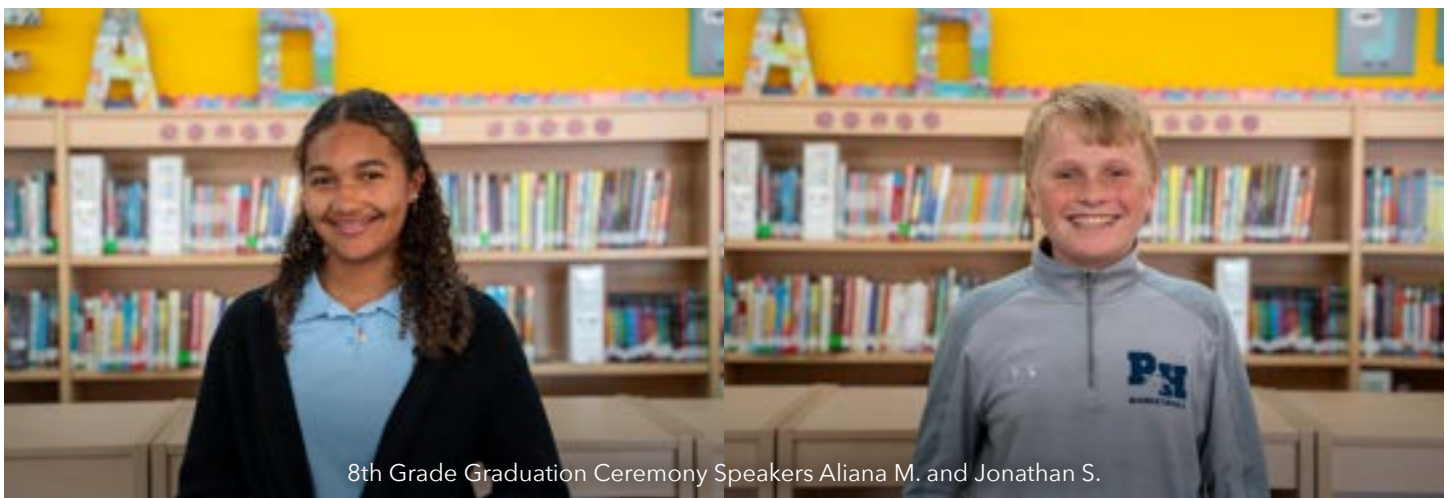
The Potter’s House (TPH) community is excited to celebrate the exciting milestone of our 8th-grade students as they graduate middle school and embark on their high school journey. This moment marks the completion of an important chapter in their lives and the beginning of a new adventure where they can deepen their faith, explore their intellectual and athletic abilities, and build lasting, authentic friendships.

“Our 8th-grade class is talented in the classroom and truly loves being around each other. Most of all, I have seen them show servant leadership while following after Jesus,” shared Jake Hoogstrate, The Potter’s House Middle School principal. “The group demonstrated this on our class trip to Washington DC the week before graduation. They were engaged in seeing what they had learned about all year up close and personal. They included everyone in fun moments on the bus and at the hotel. They were compassionate to each other and everyone they encountered on the trip.”

Our 8th-grade graduates have expressed resilience, hard work, and

a commitment to growth throughout their time at TPH. As they transition to high school, we are confident that they will continue to thrive in an environment that nurtures their spiritual, academic, and personal development. High school at TPH offers students the opportunity to delve deeper into their faith, challenge themselves intellectually, and excel in various athletic programs, all while being part of a supportive and loving community.

As these students step into high school, we encourage them to embrace the new opportunities and challenges ahead. We are excited to see how they grow and contribute in new ways to our TPH community. 🏠



8th Grade Graduation Ceremony Speakers Aliana M. and Jonathan S.

Ivy's Story: A Journey of Faith, Family, and Future Aspirations

Ivy, a '24 graduate of The Potter's House (TPH) High School, embodies the spirit of resilience and ambition, nurtured in a multicultural adoptive family. Ivy's journey at TPH began in preschool and has been marked by strong academic and athletic pursuits, a profound sense of community, and a deepening faith.

Ivy's family moved to Michigan from Iowa, just when Ivy was ready to start preschool. "I have two sisters from Haiti and a brother from Texas," Ivy shares, highlighting the varied background of her adopted siblings. Her parents chose TPH for its Christ-centered foundation and mix of cultures. They were seeking a place where their children could see reflections of themselves in their peers and teachers.

A significant aspect of Ivy's TPH experience is her relationship with Lois Nagel, a dedicated partner who has supported Ivy and her younger sister, Willow. "Lois is like the sweetest woman ever," Ivy says warmly. "She's been a constant source of encouragement, especially with my sports." Lois, a recent widow in her golden years, brings her own rich experiences and wisdom to her interactions with Ivy and Willow.

Despite living in Florida part-time, Lois remains deeply connected to the girls, sharing in their achievements and aspirations.

Athletics play a crucial role in Ivy's life. "I'm passionate about cross-country, basketball, and track," she says, with a sparkle in her eyes. Her dedication has paid off, as she has committed to Calvin University to continue her athletic journey. "Lois was so excited when I told her I'd be running cross-country and track at Calvin," Ivy recalls. This next step in her journey aligns perfectly with her academic interests, as she plans to study environmental science at Calvin.

Ivy's commitment to environmental sustainability is evident in her senior project on the Line 5 oil pipeline. "The thought of losing our natural spaces wrecks my heart," she expresses, her voice tinged with passion. She envisions a future where she can contribute to solutions for environmental challenges, driven by her love for nature and desire to protect it for future generations.

TPH has been a unique environment for Ivy to grow spiritually and intellectually. "It's been a place for me to figure out who I am and express my faith," she reflects. The

school's Christ-centered education has provided her with a strong foundation, allowing her to explore her beliefs deeply. Yet, Ivy also values the range of perspectives at TPH. "I have friends from different faiths, like Islam, and learning about their beliefs has been eye-opening," she shares. This multicultural exposure has enriched her understanding and appreciation of different worldviews.

One of Ivy's significant influences at TPH is Mr. Koster, her cross-country and track coach, and previous Bible teacher. "He treats everyone with the same respect, whether they're students or adults," Ivy says, noting how his unbiased and welcoming approach has been a refreshing and impactful presence in her life.

As Ivy moves on to Calvin University, she reflects on what makes TPH special. "Living with people who are different from you is sometimes challenging but ultimately enriching," she observes. For prospective students and parents, Ivy emphasizes an environment where differences are not only acknowledged but celebrated - even when it may involve discomfort. "As (principal) Mr. Clark says, 'You can't flourish without stepping on toes sometimes.' So, it's just being prepared to step into a school that highlights differences and honestly talks about them. If people are ready for that, that's what they get."

In Ivy, TPH has nurtured a student who exemplifies the values of faith, perseverance, and openness. Her journey highlights the profound impact of a supportive, multicultural, and Christ-centered education, equipping her to face the future with confidence and a heart ready to make a meaningful difference. 🏠





Spotlight on Clara: Nurturing Academic Excellence in a Supportive Community

Clara, 2024 valedictorian of The Potter's House (TPH) High School, stands as a testament to the power of perseverance, academic excellence, and a supportive Christ-centered community. Clara's journey at TPH began in preschool and has been characterized by outstanding achievements in advanced placement (AP) classes and dual enrollment courses that will significantly advance her university education.

Reflecting on her time at TPH, Clara shares, "I have been here since preschool. My parents were living in Alger Heights then. The Post family, who were good friends of my parents, had all their kids go here, and they talked my parents into choosing The Potter's House." Clara's roots in this community run deep, and she has grown alongside her three younger sisters, all of whom also attend TPH.

A notable aspect of Clara's journey has been the unwavering support of Dale and Ellen DeHaan, who have sponsored and mentored her since kindergarten. Clara speaks fondly of this relationship, stating, "Dale and Ellen DeHaan have always made an effort to be here and connect with me. They've watched me grow up, know about my family, and always ask questions about them." The DeHaans' involvement has extended beyond financial support, helping Clara with college applications and even setting up meetings with university alumni to aid her admission process.

Clara's academic journey at TPH is marked by a passion for learning and a drive to excel. She has embraced

opportunities to challenge herself, taking on AP classes and dual enrollment at Grand Rapids Community College to earn college credits. "I've always wanted to do more with my education," Clara says. "I've learned to make opportunities for myself, and the school has supported me in finding ways to pursue my interests." Her dedication is evident in her senior project on sustainable growth in developing countries, a subject she is passionate about exploring further in her university studies.

Beyond academics, Clara has been actively involved in extracurricular activities that have enriched her experience at TPH. She has participated in student council, volleyball, and various service-oriented May Term projects. Clara shares, "In my sophomore year, I went to Mississippi to do hurricane restoration projects and ended up working in a school for a week. It was out of my comfort zone, but it was a great experience, and I bonded a lot with those first graders." These experiences have shaped Clara's character and expanded her perspective.

TPH has also played a pivotal role in Clara's spiritual growth. "Going to a public university after being here my whole life is kind of scary," Clara admits. "I've never really had exposure to a community that wasn't based around God and my faith." The Christ-centered environment at TPH has allowed Clara to explore and deepen her faith in a supportive setting. She has been involved in Young Life, a youth ministry organization, and serves

as a discipleship leader, mentoring younger students and fostering meaningful discussions about faith.

One of Clara's most influential mentors at TPH is her science teacher, Mr. Verbeek. "Mr. Verbeek is the best science teacher I've ever had," Clara says. "He makes sure students understand the material and never makes anyone feel bad for asking questions. His passion for teaching has made a significant impact on my learning."

As Clara embarks on her university journey, she reflects on the unique community at TPH. "I've loved the small community here," she says. "It's overwhelming to think about going to a big school next year because all I've ever known is being in a class with just a few people." This close-knit environment has not only provided Clara with a strong academic foundation but also equipped her with essential life skills, such as building relationships with people from different backgrounds and generations.

Clara's story is a shining example of how a Christ-centered education at The Potter's House can shape a student's future. The support of the TPH community, coupled with her own determination and hard work, has prepared Clara to step confidently into the next chapter of her life, ready to make a meaningful impact on the world. 🏡

Prepared For Takeoff: Perry's Journey

As Perry graduated from The Potter's House (TPH) High School, he recalled his journey as a testament to the transformative power of self-discovery and community support. Like many young people today, Perry initially struggled to understand and develop his identity. However, his time at TPH has not only fostered his growth in confidence but also taught him the invaluable lesson of being true to himself.

A Journey of Self-Discovery

Perry's early years were marked by a quest to find his true self. He recalls the pressure to fit into different molds and the challenge of picking a character to portray, especially during middle school. "I just kind of felt like I had to be somebody different," he shared. Encouraged by his mother's words, "You don't have to be like everybody," Perry began to embrace his unique qualities. He started to gain confidence when he realized his strengths and saw that others at TPH appreciated him for who he genuinely was. This journey of self-acceptance was significantly bolstered by his involvement in various activities and the supportive environment provided by his parents and teachers.

Finding Strength in Faith

Perry's faith journey has also played a crucial role in his personal development. He shares that there were times he felt he needed to be "perfect," but eventually realized that he was loved unconditionally, imperfections and all. "I don't have to be perfect. I don't need to be, because I'm still loved either way," Perry said. This realization has been pivotal in building his confidence and understanding his identity

as a beloved child of God. Perry's involvement in discipleship groups at school and church has further reinforced his faith, providing him with a community that supports and nurtures his spiritual growth.

Experiences that Shaped His Path

TPH has offered Perry numerous opportunities to explore his interests and develop his talents. He found joy and a sense of accomplishment in track and field, participating in state competitions and off-season training that introduced him to new friends and mentors. His passion for theater has also been a significant part of his high school experience, where he learned to hone his acting skills under the guidance of dedicated teachers like Mr. Brad Cain. Reflecting on his theater journey, Perry said, "There's way more to acting than just me reading the script and acting out emotions."

One of the most impactful experiences for Perry was participating in the May Term travels. These trips, including a civil rights tour and a visit to New York City, broadened his perspective on history and world events. The civil rights trip, in particular, left a profound impact on him, deepening his understanding of the struggles and resilience of African Americans. "It just made me more proud of myself as a Black African American in this world," he expressed. It instilled in him a sense of pride in his heritage and a commitment to honoring the legacy of those who came before him.

A Future in Aviation

Perry is excited to pursue a career in aviation, a passion ignited by his first flight to Disney World in

2015. "I was like, 'People do this as a career?'" he recalled. The experience of flying captivated him and set him on a path toward becoming a pilot. His fascination with aviation has only grown stronger over the years, leading him to take flight lessons and solidifying his commitment to this career path. Perry is looking forward to continuing his education at Eastern Michigan University, where he will take the next steps toward achieving his dream. "Whenever I'm flying, it's like, yeah, this is what I want to do," he said.

Advice for Future Students

For students considering TPH or those about to embark on their high school journey, Perry offers valuable advice. "Make some friends and get involved," he emphasizes. He believes that building connections and participating in various school activities are crucial for personal growth and creating a sense of belonging. Perry praises TPH for its welcoming environment, where everyone is welcomed and supported. "Our school is really inviting. I've never really seen anybody who's been sitting alone before," he noted.

As Perry steps into the next chapter of his life, he carries with him the lessons learned and the relationships built at TPH. His journey from a young boy searching for his identity to a confident graduate - ready to take on the skies - is a story of perseverance, faith, and the unwavering support of a loving community. Perry's story serves as an inspiration to all, reminding us that embracing who we are and pursuing our passions can lead to a fulfilling and impactful life. 🏠



Jonathan: Growing Hope at The Potter's House



Jonathan, whose journey from the firework factories of Guatemala to the classrooms of America, tells a tale of courage, change, and community.

Before The Potter's House, Jonathan's days were consumed by labor alongside his family. "I made fireworks with my mom," he recalls. At six years old, he was already navigating an industry fraught with danger—one that eventually took the lives of his friends.

His transition to The Potter's House marked a stark shift from a life of toil to one of opportunity. "When I came here... life is different here," Jonathan muses. The flags representing

various countries within the school immediately caught his eye. "That was unique, you know, for me. It was kind of familiar," he reflects.

Despite the warm welcome, the language barrier loomed large. "I didn't understand nothing; that was really, really difficult and I was confused," Jonathan admits. But with the support of his ELL teacher, Mrs. Fisher, the tides began to turn. "She make me understand a little bit of the grammar... that was a big improvement," he gratefully acknowledges.

Beyond academics, Jonathan found solace in the school's ethos of giving.

It was a lesson in the generosity that thrives within The Potter's House, contrasting with the notion ingrained in him since childhood—that one must fend for oneself. He describes his new perspective as "a different point of view about helping people."

Sporting endeavors also became a vital part of his life, offering camaraderie and a sense of team spirit. "I started to play sports... it's fun stuff to do with the team," says Jonathan, who took to soccer, bowling, volleyball, and track.

The school's Christian teachings have given Jonathan a spiritual grounding, helping him connect with his faith in a deeper way. "I'm just trying to understand more, who is God?" he reflects on his journey of faith, which has been nurtured by the school's biblical studies.

Jonathan's advice to others who might follow in his footsteps is clear: "Take all the opportunities you get. Don't be shy... get involved with the culture." His experiences speak to the importance of embracing community and seizing the chances that come one's way.

As Jonathan looks ahead, his dreams continue to evolve. He once aspired to architecture but now considers a future in construction management. Financial challenges persist, and while the prospect of college seems daunting, his resolve remains unshaken.

The Potter's House has been more than an educational institution for Jonathan—it has been a beacon of hope, a nurturing ground for personal growth, and a place where the seeds of a future filled with promise are sown. 🏠

Enter The Story: 2024 New Friends Banquet

The 2024 New Friends Banquet was a joyous occasion, welcoming over 500 friends and new faces into The Potter's House family. This event was a beautiful reflection of the strong and growing community that supports our mission.

For those who attended the Potter's House banquet for the first time, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for joining us. To our long-time supporters, thank you for your continued faithfulness. If you were unable to attend, we look forward to connecting with you in the future. We are thrilled to share that your generosity helped us exceed our financial goal. Through underwriting, general gifts, and a matching gift, we received pledges totaling over \$573,000! God's provision

continues to amaze us, and we are deeply thankful for your generosity.

One of the highlights of the evening was hearing from Anyieth, a senior at The Potter's House. She shared her heartfelt testimony about the impact of being a student here as she prepares to graduate:

"As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the knowledge and skills I've acquired here. I am forever grateful for the community that saw me not just as a student, or just as an athlete but as a whole person and a member of a loving and supportive family."

The banquet was a beautiful demonstration of God's kingdom at work. The sense of unity and shared purpose among attendees was palpable, and we are grateful for every person who contributed to making the event a success.



Thank you for being a part of The Potter's House story. Your support and generosity enable us to continue providing a Christ-centered education that transforms lives. We give thanks to the Lord for all He is doing at The Potter's House and for each of you who walk this journey with us. 🙏

New Horizons, New Perspectives: May Term and Class Trips at The Potter's House

May Term and Class Trips at The Potter's House provide a unique and exciting opportunity for students to expand their understanding of the world through immersive travel experiences. This year's trips took middle school and high school students to fascinating destinations such as Washington, D.C., Shipshewana, IN, various Civil Rights historical sites, and New York City. For many of our students, these trips marked their first time traveling out of the city or state, making the experience even more impactful.

In Washington, D.C., students explored the heart of American history and government, visiting iconic landmarks and museums that brought their classroom lessons to life. The journey through Civil Rights historical sites allowed students to walk in the

footsteps of history, deepening their understanding of the struggles and triumphs that have shaped our nation. The trip to Shipshewana, IN, offered a glimpse into Amish culture and rural life, providing a contrast to the urban environment our students are accustomed to. Finally, the bustling streets of New York City provided a dynamic backdrop for learning about urban development, culture, and the arts.

These trips are more than just educational excursions; they are opportunities for teachers and students to learn together, fostering a sense of community and shared experience.

Building bonds is a highlight for Curt DePree, International Program Coordinator and senior trip chaperone.

"My favorite part is on the last night when we get together and we reflect on the year and experiences that we had together as a class. It's fun to hear how students who have been in the same class since middle school have become closer to each other. **"**

Curt DePree (West Virginia)

"It's fun to hear how students who have been in the same class since middle school have become closer to each other." The bonds formed during these adventures help grow friendships and create lasting memories, enhancing the overall educational experience at TPH.

May Term and class trips are a testament to The Potter's House High School's commitment to providing a holistic education that goes beyond the classroom. By exposing students to new environments and experiences, we help them develop a broader perspective and a deeper appreciation for the diverse world around them. 🙏

8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.



12th grade trip to West Virginia



6th grade trip to Shipshewana

Summer 2024

Joy Larson: Celebrating 20 Years of Dedication and Love in Pre-K

The Potter's House (TPH) community is blessed to celebrate the remarkable career of Joy Larson, who has led the pre-K program with unwavering dedication for the past 20 years. As Joy retires, we reflect on her profound impact on the lives of countless young students and their families.

Joy's journey in education spans 40 years, with her last two decades dedicated to TPH. She joined TPH to start an early childhood program when the new wing opened 20 years ago. For Joy, joining TPH was a homecoming. "It felt like coming home because my four children had attended TPH," she often said. Her deep connection with the community as a parent made her transition to teaching at TPH seamless and fulfilling.

From the start, Joy embraced her role with a clear sense of purpose. She viewed her work as more than just teaching; it was a calling. "As a teacher at TPH, I'm able to speak truth to my students. I can pray with these young lives and pray with their parents and lift their concerns to the Lord," she shared. This spiritual dimension of her work was central to her teaching philosophy, making her an irreplaceable part of the TPH family.

One of Joy's most cherished aspects of working at TPH was the culture of mutual support and prayer among the staff. "As teachers, we support each other in prayer. It's very common to see staff and teachers praying together for each other and for our students," Joy noted. Her faith and reliance on Christ

were evident in her daily interactions and her unwavering commitment to her students' well-being. "Each day, I remember that without Christ, I can do nothing," she often reminded herself and her colleagues.

Joy's empathy and understanding extended beyond her classroom to the parents and families she worked with. Having faced personal challenges, including raising a child with mental illness, she was uniquely equipped to offer genuine support and encouragement to parents. "I know it's hard, and we're all figuring it out as we go, but you are a good parent," she would reassure them, drawing from her own experiences. Joy's non-judgmental approach and compassionate heart made her a pillar of support for many families navigating the complexities of parenting.

Under Joy's leadership, the pre-K program at TPH flourished. Her vision expanded the program to offer full-time preschool and kindergarten, allowing more children to begin their educational journey at TPH. Joy's legacy is one of nurturing a supportive, faith-based community where young learners could thrive academically and spiritually.

As Joy Larson steps into retirement, The Potter's House celebrates her extraordinary contributions and the lasting impact she has made. Her dedication, love, and faith have left an indelible mark on the TPH community. Joy's journey with TPH may be coming to a close, but her influence will continue to inspire and guide the school for years to come.

We are deeply grateful for Joy's 20 years of service and pray for her continued blessings and fulfillment in this new chapter of her life. Thank you, Joy, for your unwavering commitment to creating a supportive and loving community at The Potter's House. 🏡

Celebrating Linda Gordon: Honoring 24 Years of Service and Dedication

The Potter's House (TPH) community is honored to celebrate the remarkable career of Linda Gordon, who retired this December after 24 years of dedicated service. Linda's contributions



Linda Gordon

have left an indelible mark on the school, and her unwavering commitment to TPH's mission has touched the lives of many.

Linda began her journey at TPH as a parent when she enrolled her 3 children here. She started on staff as a Volunteer Coordinator, a role she returned to at the end of her tenure. In between, she served as the High School Administrative Assistant, where her organizational skills and attention to detail were invaluable. Linda's versatility extended beyond these roles as she also wrote articles for the school newsletter, ensuring the TPH story was well communicated to the broader community.

Her commitment to the school was evident in her additional roles as Alumni Coordinator and Diversity Council Chair. As Alumni Coordinator, Linda maintained strong connections with former students, fostering a sense of continuity and community. Her leadership as Diversity Council Chair highlighted her dedication to promoting an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

Throughout her career, Linda's ability to connect with people and her passion for Jesus and TPH's mission made her a cherished member of the community. Her work as Volunteer Coordinator was particularly impactful, as she successfully mobilized countless volunteers, enriching the school's programs and events.

Linda's departure marks the end of an era, but her legacy will continue to inspire and guide the TPH community. We are deeply grateful for her 24 years of service and the profound impact she has made. Thank you, Linda, for your unwavering dedication and commitment to The Potter's House. 🏡



Joy Larson



Enrolling Now for the 2024-25 School Year



We are pleased to announce that open enrollment is happening now for Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade! If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities available at The Potter's House Schools, please contact Marcie Rower for details at mrower@tphgr.org. We love to welcome new students into our community, where they can experience a Christ-centered education that empowers them to reach their full potential.

**Some grades may have a waitlist.*

Gifts In Memory Of:

Arv Tap

- Ruth C. Baker
- Joyce Ball
- Marilyn Burman
- Roger and Dawn Cornell
- Douglas Frantz
- Gary and Sandy Gardner
- Anonymous Donor
- Edward and Elizabeth Hoezee
- Timothy and Beth Huizinga
- Alvina Huyser
- Guy and Nancy Longest
- Carol Nyenhuis
- Terry and Theresa Nyenhuis
- Tim and Christy Swiney
- Connie Vander Klok
- Sharon Walcott
- Arlene Warners

Bette Bosma

- Paul and Alice Bosma
- Phillip Bosma
- Colin Bosma
- Kyria Bosma
- Mark and Betsy Boss

Bette Bosma (cont.)

- Maellen Debruyne
- Tony and Jeanne Diekema
- John Vander Ploeg

Donna Fisher

- James and Shirley DeJong

Doris Tebos

- Jim and Marilyn TeBos

Kathleen Ponstine

- Lois Mulder

Martha Besteman

- Dave and Dottie Besteman

Michelle Karel

- Joe and Jean Stojak

Russ and Norma Vander Werp

- Tim and Sally Bennett

Gifts In Honor Of:

Brad and Vonnie Lamb

- Annetta Koetje

THANK YOU!



The
**Potter's
House**

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 886

810 Van Raalte Drive SW
Grand Rapids MI 49509
tphgr.org

