

Schools Attending



Alvernia University

Arcadia University

DeSales University

Drexel University

Drexel University Pennoni Honors College

Gwynedd Mercy University

Holy Family University

Jacksonville University

James Madison University

LaSalle University

Lehigh University

Loyola University Maryland

Lynn University

Marist College

Northern Vermont University-Johnson

Saint Joseph's University

Savannah College of Art & Design

Syracuse University

Temple University

The Catholic University of America

The Pennsylvania State University

The Pennsylvania State University Schreyer Honors College

The University of Scranton

University of Central Florida

University of Delaware

University of Maine

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rhode Island

University of Toronto

Washington College

Waynesburg University

West Chester University

Widener University

York College of PA

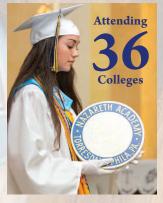
York University - Toronto

Highlights of the Class of 2018















A Letter From the President

Dear Alumnae and Friends of Nazareth Academy High School:



What an exciting year my first year as president was! It truly is a blessing to serve the students and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in this ministry. Being part of the Nazareth sisterhood has been very special.

Our school provides an educational and social experience that exceeds expectations. The faculty, staff, and administration embrace the students and prepare the girls well for their future. It is clearly evident that for Nazareth, excellence is the only option!

Nazareth Academy High School began simply with the prayers of Blessed Frances Siedliska, Foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. For the Sisters, embracing faith, family, and education is a mission that they live out every day in everything they do. Following their model and channeling their passion we challenge our girls to attain their full potential academically, spiritually, and personally.

As we continue to manage for growth, leadership, and innovation, our reputation as the premier center of Catholic college preparatory education for young women in Philadelphia will continue to grow. Consistent with our mission, we will maintain an unceasing commitment to educating the mind, body, and spirit. True to its tradition, the Nazareth experience transforms girls into young women prepared to be life-long learners and leaders in a global society.

Your generosity and commitment to Nazareth has made a difference to our academic and program advancements, campus beautification, and scholarship program. As you'll see in this report, our girls have accomplished great achievements this year. None of this would be possible without the support of you, our passionate and loyal benefactors!

I encourage and invite all of you to come visit Nazareth Academy High School and experience again for yourself this great sisterhood. Like me, I guarantee you will be impressed by what you find!

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Senise LePers

President

Nazareth Welcomes First Lay Principal, Mr. Jim Meredith!







On September 1, Mr. James D. Meredith began serving as the first lay principal of Nazareth Academy High School. During his opening days, Mr. Meredith pledged to the Nazareth faculty and families to enhance the strong programs at Nazareth by leading with enthusiasm, clear communication, reflective practice and a spirit of collaboration.

"Mother Foundress, Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd wrote, 'What precious and sacred work awaits us here for His glory, work for the expansion of His Kingdom of Love." Mr. Meredith said. "For over ninety years, the Sisters of the Holy Family Nazareth and the teachers of this school have been working to expand God's Kingdom. Right away, it became abundantly clear to me, that at Nazareth, the Lord's work is happening all around us. At this special place, the position of principal is more than just a job. It is an honor, a sacred trust."

Mr. Meredith brings with him to Nazareth a wealth of educational and professional experience. He earned his Master's in Education Leadership from Cabrini University and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics at DeSales University. After time as a classroom teacher and an assistant principal, Mr. Meredith served as principal at two high schools, Archbishop Ryan and Pope John Paul II High Schools. Most recently, he was Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In 2015, Mr. Meredith was selected as part of the inaugural class of the Neubauer Fellowship for the highest performing principals in Philadelphia.

"Whether I am teaching a class or leading a school, I do so as if my own daughters were in the class or in the school," Mr. Meredith shared with Nazareth parents during his introductory remarks. "I want the best for your daughters just as I want the best for my own daughters. Your daughters deserve nothing less than the best."

Mr. Meredith credits his deep faith and the love and support of his family as the foundation for his success. Mr. Meredith and his wife, Kate, members of Saint Cecilia Parish, are the proud parents of five daughters. Their oldest, Anna, is a student at Holy Family University studying secondary education. Mary Grace is a senior at Archbishop Ryan and was recently named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, one of 16,000 of 1.6 million eligible students across the country. Kara, Abigail, and Danielle are students at Saint Cecilia School in Fox Chase, in eighth grade, kindergarten, and pre-K, respectively.

Archbishop Charles Chaput Celebrates the 90th Anniversary Opening Mass



On Friday, September 28, 2018, Nazareth Academy High School celebrated a milestone day on campus. Archbishop Charles Chaput celebrated Mass in the Nazareth Academy High School Chapel for the 90th Anniversary Opening Mass. Our students shined throughout the Mass with their usual Nazareth reverence, joy, and of course, the magnificent sounds of our music department. As part of the event, Nazareth welcomed many Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth along with neighboring pastors, distinguished guests, and board members to campus for the Mass. Following Mass, the Archbishop shook the hand of every student and guest as they exited Chapel. Guests were treated to hors d'oeuvres and desserts in the Performing Arts Center after the Mass.







Thank You, Sr. Rita!



Sometimes people come into our lives and when they leave we are changed for the better. That was the case under Sr. Rita's leadership. She came to Nazareth as principal beginning with the 2016 school year. In that time, Nazareth Academy experienced large and impactful leadership changes under her two years as principal.

Mrs. Cookie Versino has worked with the past six principals. While Sr. Rita was at Nazareth for only two years, Mrs. Versino was impressed with Sister Rita's spirituality and her outstanding leadership qualities. Whatever challenges were presented, she always remained professional and always focused on the mission. "I, along with many others, miss Sr. Rita's presence here at Nazareth, but I know that she is following her mission with Christ!"

Her dedication to the students, faculty and staff was a critical part of our success during her tenure. It was under her leadership that Nazareth Academy went to the President/Principal model that has been widely successful at private secondary institutions across the country.

In the first year of that model, Nazareth experienced

- Increased enrollment by 10% through a focused strategic and intentional plan to recruit academically qualified students
- Increased fundraising by 80% with a new infrastructure in Advancement
- Improved budgeting and planning processes
- Reorganized the administration to build more robust, effective and efficient processes that are helping to pave the way for our future growth
- Middle States re-accreditation self-study
- Campus school safety procedure improvements

She paved the way for lay leadership in a way that made the transition seamless. The new leadership team has the vision and skills needed to expertly guide Nazareth Academy through the complex educational and fiscal challenges of the 21st century. Perhaps the kindest words come from Sr. Rita's predecessor, Mr. Jim Meredith, who recognized the awesome responsibility and an exciting opportunity to be a part of this significant endeavor. Looking forward to working with the Nazareth Family and continuing this tremendous mission, while focusing on growth for the future, his first remarks to the Nazareth community were to acknowledge Sister Rita Fanning, CSFN, "whose exemplary leadership, devotion to the students, teachers, staff, and community and commitment to the mission of Nazareth, moved this school forward. I am also grateful to her for her invaluable service to the school community and assistance to me personally during this transition."

We are grateful for your prayers for Sr. Rita as she moves forward into her new ministry and wish her the very best! Miss. Kathleen Armstrong, one of the administrative assistants in the Main Office, reminds us that often people come back into our lives, as Sr. Rita worked in Counseling for many years before returning to Nazareth as principal. "Having worked with Sr. Rita several years ago when she was a counselor in the Guidance Department, I was happy to hear she was returning as principal. She listened to both faculty and students, acted on her decisions, but most of all was fair."

It was a remarkable two years, with Sr. Rita truly leaving her mark. And, it was with heartfelt sadness, that we announced Sr. Rita had been called to serve in a new ministry. Her dedication, compassion, and kindness to every person she came in contact with, whether it was a student, a faculty member, a parent, or an alumna will be greatly missed!! Thank you for everything, Sr. Rita!

Tradition of Inspiration

Excerpt taken from Suburban Life Magazine September 2018 Issue by Leigh Stuart As it reflects on its 90-year history, Northeast Philadelphia's Nazareth Academy High School adopts a culture of innovation designed to inspire students' hearts and minds.



This year, Nazareth Academy High School in Northeast Philadelphia, located along the Philadelphia-Bucks County border, is celebrating a landmark in its history: 90 years of preparing girls for college and beyond. At the same time, the all-girls college preparatory school is embracing a host of changes designed to enlighten, enrich, and inspire its students.

To begin with, Nazareth has brought on Jim Meredith as its first-ever lay principal. Mr. Meredith comes to the school with a 20-year history of work in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In addition, the school is revamping its STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) initiative as STREAM, to include an emphasis on the religious traditions upon which the school was founded in 1928.

In line with this renewed commitment to feeding students' ever-evolving interests, the school has also begun the process of creating a Makerspace in which students can utilize advanced technology such as 3-D and laser printers.

"Our changing world demands empowered, faithcentered leaders," says Mrs. Denise LePera, president of Nazareth. "Students find inspiration in a learning environment focused on the sciences, math, technology, and the arts. It provides the basis of joy and real sincere desire to learn and discover. This 21st-century teaching fosters a culture of innovation that is based on ethical behavior."

Nazareth has always offered academically rigorous courses of study in science and math, and the school's fine arts program is renowned for fostering creativity among students. The intersection of these disciplines is where the real magic happens, according to Mrs. LePera.

"[STREAM] speaks to the individual talents in each student and nurtures other areas," she notes. "The world of technology is changing faster than we can teach. We are preparing our students for jobs that don't even exist yet. Our faculty understands the importance of the need to create a strong desire to learn, while at the same time creating a level of confidence that allows these young women to be motivated to pursue the education necessary to achieve STREAM-related careers."

Nazareth's reaffirmation of its dedication to cultivating a well-rounded student body comes on the eve of the school's mid-October evaluation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Members of the Nazareth team have been collaborating for months in efforts to bring STREAM to life, science teacher Amy McDonald explains:

"We've had committee meetings related to how to keep our curriculum at an excellent level," she says. "There has been a lot of cross-talk between departments on what kind of projects we can do that involve all these disciplines."

"What we are finding, is that the intertwining gives us students who are creative, critical thinkers," Mrs. LePera adds. "Students will develop very strong critical thinking skills while being able to strengthen their verbal and written communication abilities. At the same time, they are able to develop their creativity and learn effective methods of collaboration."

The goal of all this, Mrs. LePera says, is to assist in the development of "talented students who will meet the demands of society."

McDonald emphasizes that none of these advancements would be possible without the unwavering support of Nazareth's administration. "When we wanted to do STREAM for Middle States, they said, 'Go for it,'" she says. "When we wanted robotics, they funded it. They are very interested in empowering students and faculty. It's nice to work with people who are so interested in doing everything they can for the girls."

With a strong focus on service to God and to the community, Nazareth continues to find new ways to inspire its students to achieve academic excellence, to become lifelong learners, and to become active participants in a global society.

"As we strive to create a school environment that allows students to be themselves, STREAM across the curriculum encourages them to learn how to be comfortable with learning from their mistakes," says Mrs. LePera. "The entire process enables them to communicate and voice their thoughts on solutions, learning to trust their own perspectives. They are given opportunities to think critically and take risks. They are learning and practicing leadership skills in the present tense."

Through interactive learning opportunities, students will be able to practice real-world skills in core academic areas. Or, as Mrs. LePera puts it: "Our students will be changed for the better."

Nazareth Welcomes Class of 2022!

During the first few weeks of the school year, the Nazareth student body plans different activities to welcome the newest members of the freshman class to the Nazareth Sisterhood. On the first day of school for freshman, the student council members gather on the front Chapel steps with posters, bubbles, noisemakers, and instruments to greet their new sisters as they are dropped off for their first day.

The second week of September has been tabbed Freshman Week at Nazareth. Freshmen are teamed up with a senior throughout the week and are requested to participate in different activities such as a celebrity look-a-like contest and a costume contest. The week concludes on Friday with Nazareth Day!

On Nazareth Day, there is a special schedule with shortened classes that includes Mass, celebrating our freshmen in Chapel. During this Mass, the freshmen sit with their senior that they have been partnered with all week. At the Sign of Peace, the seniors pin their freshmen with their Nazareth pin, officially inducting them as members of the Nazareth Sisterhood. At the end of the school day, the entire student body gathers in the gymnasium for the Little Miss Freshman Pageant.

At the Little Miss Freshman Pageant, freshman students are invited on stage to participate in the event. Contests for the Little Miss Freshman Pageant, include Finish that Song, Naz Trivia, and Find the Panda. This year's winner was freshman Ella Pirolli. Ella stole the show with her green sumo wrestler outfit that she wore throughout the entire contest. Her charisma, enthusiasm and energy helped her earn the title 2018 Little Miss Freshman Winner.













National **Honor Society** Leadership Team

Students from left to right: Victoria Fabianski '19 (Tutor Advisor), Hailey Malandra '19 (Treasurer), Catherine Ferry '19 (President), Helen Dotchel '19 (Vice-President), Isabella Spinelli '19 (Corresponding Secretary), Devyn Dydak '19 (Secretary), and Megan Rhoades '19 (Tutor Advisor).



Naz-A-Thon – Always for the Kids

Last year's Naz-A-Thon was more of a success than anyone could have ever imagined. With a goal of \$104,000, the 2017 Naz-A-Thon committee blew away that target and raised a whopping \$192,400.44 for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. This raised the four-year total of Naz-A-Thon donations for CHOP to \$371,871.61.

The purpose of Naz-A-Thon is to raise awareness and funds for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The students work year-round organizing events and fundraisers, all leading up to the annual 12-hour dance marathon. The girls dance in support and memory of those who can't. They dance so that one day, others may be able to dance with them. They dance to create miracles and save lives. Most importantly, they dance for the kids!









The 2018 Naz-A-Thon Leadership Team

Emily Keehfuss' 19 Natalie Solitario '19 Anna McGrath '19 Sarah Dymowski '20 Elizabeth Ricci '19 Shannon McGurk '19

Executive Director of Operations Director of Public and Dancer Relations Senior Director of Finance Senior Director of Fundraising Senior Director of Morale and Entertainment Senior Director of Family Relations

Meet the 2018-19 Student Leadership Team

Towards the end of each school year the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors hold an election for the following year's Student Leadership Team. The Student Leadership Team consists of four seniors who act as the student liaisons to the teachers, staff, and administration, and their responsibility is to present student views and ideas to the faculty. These four girls are also tabbed with being Nazareth Academy High School's representation outside of school. They are responsible to do meet and greets with alumnae at the Legacy Gala, assist with school photoshoots for admissions marketing materials, and host different in-school events such as the Little Miss Freshman Pageant. The Student Leadership Team's sense of loyalty, responsibility and duty, along with spiritedness and creativity adds to our school atmosphere and makes Nazareth Academy High School a welcoming home for all. The 2018-2019 Leadership team is as follows:

Ashley Dolt '19 - President



Ashley was the only member of her 8th grade class from St. Ephrem Catholic School in Bensalem to attend

Nazareth. She credits her decision to attend Nazareth as one of the greatest decisions in her life and it did not take her very long to make friends.

"At first I was nervous about attending a brand new school with none of the girls I knew for 9 plus years," Ashley stated. "But at Nazareth I was immediately welcomed with open arms by all of my fellow students and faculty."

Ashley believes that Nazareth has provided her the foundation to grow so much as an individual in both education and prayer.

Malaina Gallagher '19 - Vice President



An alumna of Philadelphia Academy Charter School, Malaina considers Nazareth her home. She believes calling

Nazareth just a high school is a severe understatement.

Malaina explains, "At Nazareth, the faculty and staff do not only specialize in advancing young ladies' intelligence, but also by aiding them socially and spiritually to grow into the person they are destined to be."

The goals of her and her fellow ladies on the Leadership Team are as follows, "I believe through prayer, positivity, and determination, anything can get accomplished. I intend, along with the rest of the Leadership Team, to make Nazareth Academy's high school experience memorable and a year to remember!"

Megan Kennedy '19 - Secretary



Megan has spent the past 12 years on Grant Avenue as she attended Nazareth Academy Grade School. She is very involved at

Nazareth including being a member of the

"When I am not walking these halls, you can catch me on a soccer field, hanging with friends, watching Netflix, taking naps, or eating," said Megan.

Megan is looking forward to this new chapter of her life and hopes she can impact all the students here at Nazareth during the 2018-2019 school year.

"I am extremely excited for my final year at Nazareth. I cannot wait to work with the other 3 lovely L team girls to make this year the best year Nazareth has ever seen!"

Meaghan Gould'19 - Treasurer



Meaghan also has spent much of her life on Nazareth's campus, as she too attended Nazareth Academy Grade School.

Meaghan is fully involved in the music department here at Nazareth and has a deep appreciation for all Nazareth has done for her.

"I am involved in many clubs and activities and spend most of my time running from rehearsal to meetings or practice. I am beyond grateful for the countless experiences Nazareth has presented me with, including traveling to Austria and Germany in February with the Music Department.

Meaghan is excited to share her love for Nazareth and her school spirit with the rest of the student body!

Nazareth Academy High School Takes Over Iceland!







This past June, students and chaperones from Nazareth traveled to Iceland for a five-day journey that created lifelong memories. Throughout the trip, the group enjoyed birdwatching, walking across a lava field, and drank the purest water from a fissure. Other Icelandic entities that the members of this trip experienced were:

- Meat stew and skyr at a town faire
- A viking breakfast at the Viking Museum
- A geothermal kitchen where they are bread and eggs cooked by geothermal springs.
- The famous Hallgrimskirkja Church in Reykjavik where they were introduced to popular Icelandic music

The country that is nicknamed "The Land of Fire and Ice" accurately met expectations and did not disappoint. Some of the natural landmarks in Iceland were simply jaw dropping. The beautiful island allowed the trip goers to view all aspects of nature from beaches and volcanoes to geysers and waterfalls. One of the first stops for the gang was a trip to the Golden Circle in southern Iceland, where they visited Kerid Crater. At this crater, they climbed down into a volcano to explore a volcanic lake and Thingvellir National Park, where many movies and TV shows, including Game of Thrones, are filmed.

The students climbed all the way to the top of Solheimajokull Glacier wearing ice shoes and carrying pick axes. They viewed the many beautiful picturesque waterfalls that Iceland has to offer, including Gulfoss Waterfall, an iconic waterfall in Iceland that offers a spectacular view of the forces and beauty of untouched nature. On their last morning, they spent 3 hours in the captivating and relaxing Blue Lagoon, a warm water geothermal energy pool with natural silica for skin rejuvenation. All in all, it was a truly once in a lifetime experience for our students and chaperones!

The Nazareth Music Department Offers Students Opportunities of a Lifetime

Since the founding of Nazareth, the arts have played a significant role in the school. Our Music Department has a strong emphasis on performance. Over one-third of the students at Nazareth participate in at least one of our music ensembles. We have three vocal ensembles - Chorus, Chorale, and Pandamonium (an a cappella pop choir), four instrumental ensembles - Orchestra, Jazz Band, Chamber Ensemble, and our newly formed Guitar Ensemble. Students have the opportunity to express their faith through music in Choir Connection - our liturgical music ensemble.

Each of our ensembles performs at our annual Christmas Concert (December 11), Black and White Alumnae Concert (March 3), and Spring Concert (April 9). The Chorus and Chorale will be featured at our annual Candlelight Concert (December 16) held in our Chapel.

The Chorale has often performed at events and concerts in the community, including the Harp Festival at West Chester University, Pennsylvania Music Educators Performance Assessment at Immaculata University, the Holiday Concert series at the Philadelphia International Airport, and even at the Philadelphia Flyers, Phillies, and 76ers games.

Besides performances in the Philadelphia area, our Music Department performs internationally. The Chorale first traveled to Italy in the year 2000 to sing at the Vatican for the beatification of the martyred Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. In 2013, the Music Department revisited Italy with performances in Florence and Rome. Since then the Music Department has traveled and performed in England in 2016, and most recently, Austria in February of 2018.

This school year brings more performances and trips for our students, but the most exciting news this year for our Chorale is an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall on March 17, 2019. The Chorale will perform alongside 200 voices from various women's choirs across the United States and Canada in a concert entitled, Magnificat: A Musical Celebration of International Women's Day. The concert will feature works with a Marian focus such as the Brahms Ave Maria, the Libby Larsen Canticle of Mary, and the Vaughan Williams Magnificat. The choir will be accompanied by a full orchestra and will be directed by Dr. Nancy Menk, Director of Choral Activities at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. The girls will spend four days in residency in New York City, rehearsing and preparing for their debut! This fall our students are truly learning the answer to the ageold question: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" -Practice! Practice! Practice!









Nazareth Academy High School Names Mary Kate McDade Magagna '05 New Varsity Basketball Coach

Nazareth Academy High School is pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Kate McDade Magagna '05 as Head Basketball Coach. Magagna was a four-year starter for the Nazareth Academy High School basketball program from 2001-2005. During her successful playing career, Magagna earned many accolades including being named 2005 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball

Player of the Year, earning both McDonald's All American and Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American nominations, and receiving AACA All Conference Team honors in 2004 and 2005.

"It means the world to me to come back to Nazareth." exclaimed Magagna. "Nazareth prepared me to be the person I am today in various ways. Skills such as time management, leadership, teamwork and serving others have helped me to be a successful student-athlete, coach, teacher and mother. Looking back at my four years, there

were and still are, numerous coaches and teachers that graduated from Nazareth that give and have given their time and efforts to instill the values and morals to what it means to be a young women of Nazareth Academy. I am blessed to have the opportunity to continue to do the same with the student-athletes on the basketball team."

Magagna continued her academic and athletic career at St. Joseph's University upon her graduation from Nazareth in 2005. At St. Joseph's, Magagna was a twotime team captain and finished her career as the seventh all-time in program history with 385 assists. In her senior season, she was fifth in the country in assist-to-turnover ratio and was named to the 2009 Big 5 All-Academic Team. After graduating from St. Joseph's, Magagna returned as a member of the Hawks' coaching staff as a Graduate Assistant where she was responsible for film

> breakdown, recruiting duties, and player skill development from 2009-2011.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mary Kate back to Nazareth where she represented herself, the basketball program, and the school with such passion and success as a student athlete," said Sister Rita Fanning, CSFN, former principal of Nazareth Academy High School. "Her experience and success as both a player and coach at both the high school and collegiate levels along with her commitment to developing and empowering our girls on and off the court

made her the ideal individual for this position."

Along with her stellar basketball career at Nazareth Academy High School, Magagna also starred on the soccer field. She was a four-year letter winner in soccer and was named the 2004 AACA League MVP. Coach Magagna currently resides in Our Lady of Calvary Parish in Northeast Philadelphia with her husband and two children and holds a Master of Arts and Science in Elementary and Special Education



Congratulations to our student athletes, coaches and athletic department who over the summer were honored by the PIAA with the 2017-2018 PIAA Sportsmanship Award for District 1. Thank you girls for representing our school with class on and off the field/court/pool, etc.



2017-2018 MVP and Coaches Awards

Soccer

MVP: Lauren Powell '18 Coaches Award: Hannah Florentino '19

MVP: Maggie Arnold '18 Coaches Award: Tess Sinclair '19

Volleyball

MVP: Melissaann Clark '18 Coaches Award: Kerri Dunn '19

Cross Country

MVP: Ellen Annas '18 Coaches Award: Michaela Rieser '18

Tennis

MVP: Chloe Roberts '18 Coaches Award: Sarah Smith '18

Cheerleading

MVP: Taylor Hinds '18 Coaches Award: Ally Graff'18

Swimming

MVP: Kayla Lichtner '20 Coaches Award: Colleen Kirlin '18

Basketball

MVP: Emily Keehfuss '19 Coaches Award: Maria D'Aulerio '20

Track

MVP: Lauren Powell '18 Coaches Award: Allison Ward '20

Softball

MVP: Catherine Ferry '19 Coaches Award: Devyn Dydak '19

Lacrosse

MVP: Tori Posivak '18 Coaches Award: Mary Connolly '20

Beneficial Bank and Mrs. Marge Lafferty Honored, Students Shine at 2018 Legacy Gala









The true talents of our students were on display on Friday, March 23, 2018 as Nazareth Academy High School celebrated its 2018 Legacy Gala. Alumnae, faculty and staff, board members, donors, and members of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth gathered at the Southampton Room in Northeast Philadelphia for a night of celebrating two very special entities. The night's honorees were Beneficial Bank as the Legacy Benefactor and Mrs. Margaret Lafferty, the longtime Music Department Chairperson, as the Legacy Faculty member.

Beneficial Bank has been making a difference in the communities of Philadelphia and its surrounding areas for generations. Founded by St. John Neumann 165 years ago in the basement of Old Saint Joseph's Church, right here in Philadelphia, Beneficial Bank is focused on funding community development and believes the education of our youth is our future. Over the past two years alone, Beneficial Bank has generously donated close to \$40,000 to the students of Nazareth Academy High School. Their commitment to Catholic education has allowed many Nazareth girls the opportunity to make memories and experience a high school that embraces faith, family, and education.

The Legacy Faculty Member, Mrs. Margaret Lafferty joined the Nazareth Academy High School staff in 1979. After almost 20 years as a dedicated and trusted staff member, Mrs. Lafferty was appointed Nazareth Academy High

School music department chairperson in 1998 and still retains that position today. This high school position includes much more than teaching music. The NAHS music department is very active and Mrs. Lafferty conducts the orchestra at concerts, Broadway show productions, competitions, and even events in different countries. Under Mrs. Lafferty's organization, the music students of Nazareth Academy High School have performed in Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, Italy, England and most recently Austria.

It was a wonderful evening honoring Beneficial Bank and Mrs. Lafferty, but the true stars of the night were our Nazareth girls. Their tremendous talents were showcased throughout the evening. During cocktail hour, guided by moderator Mr. Mitchell Beck, the Nazareth Jazz Band greeted and entertained guests with upbeat songs. Senior members of the Nazareth Academy Student Leadership, Bernadette Breslin '18 and Ruby Malak '18 smoothly guided the evening by skillfully emceeing the event. Members of the chorale led the guests in the National Anthem and Alma Mater and senior Chloe Roberts '18 along with music teacher Dr. Peter Nocella serenaded the guests with violin play during dinner. Finally, senior NHS member Elizabeth Greubel '18 warmed the hearts of the audience as she shared how Nazareth Academy High School transformed her life.

The event was a huge success that raised more than \$65,000 in sponsorships and gifts. All for our Nazareth girls!

NAHS – First Taste of the Town

What a spectacular night! Thank you to all the alumnae, parents, guests, vendors and sponsors that joined us for the inaugural Nazareth Academy High School Taste of the Town on Saturday, March 3, 2018! With over 300 guests and \$30,000 raised, the night was an enormous success!

The Nazareth Academy High School Taste of the Town is a gathering of alumnae, parents, faculty, and friends in the school's gymnasium and Performing Arts Center for live music, dancing, food sampling from the area's finest establishments, adult beverages, raffle baskets and our annual silent auction.

Items that were auctioned from the Silent Auction included Philadelphia Eagles, 76ers, Phillies, and

Flyers tickets, a front pew for Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation, a family of four Caribbean vacation, big screen television, and foursome to the Union League Golf Course at Torresdale.

The event included 10 food and drink vendors set up in the Performing Arts Center from restaurants, bars, and delis across the area. Each vendor brought their own special recipe unique to their establishment for our guests to enjoy.

In the gymnasium, music from the talented cover band *The Heartbeats* kept the night rocking. The night had a little something for everyone! It was exciting to see over 300 members of the Nazareth Academy High School family gather together and fill the school with huge smiles and endless laughs!

Thank you to our guests, sponsors, and vendors that made the night a huge success and helped raise money for our brilliant girls. Please join us for this year's event on Saturday, November 17, 2018 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM for our **Second Annual NAHS Taste of the Town.** We hope you can join us!

Thanks again to our Nazareth Academy High School Taste of the Town vendors:

Sweet Lucy's • Three Monkeys
Al's Corner Deli • Sweet Delights
Original's • Texas Roadhouse
Mission BBQ • Union Tap
Maggio's Restaurant • Chickie's and Pete's









Panda Golf Classic Raises \$40,000 For Students

This past year Nazareth Academy High School offered donors and supporters two golf outings to play at The Union League Golf Club at Torresdale. The purpose of the two events in one fiscal year was to change the date without missing an event. The golf classic committee petitioned the members of the Union League for a new date in order to play in the Spring/Summer. The previous date had its positives, but ultimately the committee decided to move the outing to secure warmer weather and longer periods of daylight for the golfers.

Thank you to the sponsors, golfers, and donors of both of the outings. Between the two events Nazareth was able to raise close to \$40,000 in assistance for Nazareth Academy High School. Mark your calendars for 2019 as a date has already been reserved at the Union League Golf Club at Torresdale. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the 9th Annual Panda Golf Classic on Wednesday, June 12, 2019.













~~~ Class Notes ~~~

Mary Kay McCarthy Pitha '55 turned 80 in November. She is still working as an independent insurance agent in the Phoenix, Scottsdale, Chandler Arizona areas. Mary Kay has 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Sister Mary Rose Adams '75, IHM, the principal of Queen of Angels School, was recently named NCEA Distinguished Principal of the Year. Interestingly, her NAHS classmate and former NAHS board member, Nancy Larovere Matteo, the current principal of St. Andrew's in Newtown received the same honor several years ago.

Ashley Anders '93 currently has her own leadership and organizational effectiveness consulting business. She works with Fortune 500 organizations in the tristate area. She also leads a women's leadership program. Ashley has a 1 year old daughter, LuLu. Karen Caile Brodt '93 is a special education teacher. She married her husband John in 2000 and

Nicole Thompson Cheeseman '93 has three children ages 13 and twin 9 year olds. She is an Oncology nurse.

has a daughter Julia and a son Cody.

Kimberly Cornwell '93 has a 12 year old daughter named Meadow. She is a HR communications consultant for Lincoln Financial. She is getting married on October 6, 2018.

Angela Hoffman '93 has a 3 year old girl named Scarlett. She currently works as a pharmaceutical sales rep for UCB for 19 years.

Janine Lannigan Rietzen '93 is an elementary school teacher for 21 years. Janine is a certified K-12 principal. She teaches education courses at the college level.

Jamiee Rowson Varsalone '93 is living with her husband and her dog Lucy in Abington. She teaches ESL in Bensalem at Shafer Middle School and loves it.

Jennifer Wilkinson Sullivan '93 has been teaching Special Education for 21 years. She has two children. She also makes handmade mosaics.

Sister Mary Melissa Marie Mastrangelo '01 an English and Literature teacher at St. James School professed her final vows on August 9, 2018 at the Villa Maria House of Studies in Immaculata, PA. Rebecca Rymal Foufas '06 gave birth to a healthy and beautiful baby girl, Emma Grace, on December

Kathleen McGee '08 graduated Albany Law School in May, 2017. She passed her bar on the first try and is now working in Albany, NY for GE Ventures as an intellectual property attorney. She was sworn into the NY State bar in January 2018.

Upcoming Alumnae Events

90th Alumnae Weekend November 17th & 18th

NAHS 90th Anniversary Taste of the Town Celebration Saturday, November 17, 2018 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM NAHS Gymnasium and Performing Arts Center

NAHS 90th Anniversary Communion Mass and Breakfast Sunday, November 18, 2018 10:00 AM Mass in School Chapel Followed by breakfast in the Performing Arts Center

NAHS 90th Anniversary Gala Friday, April 26, 2019 The Union League Golf Club at Torresdale

The NAHS 9th Annual Panda Golf Classic Wednesday, June 12, 2019 The Union League Golf Club at Torresdale



Stephanie Wajda '08 was married on September 23, 2017 to Ted Turzanski (son of Stella Szymczak Turzanski '68). The wedding took place in Nazareth's chapel. There were graduates that ranged from the Class of 1960 to the Class of 2008 in attendance.

Alison Neveil '10 graduated from West Chester University and Temple Law on November 17, 2017. Ali was sworn in as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia.

Briana Mody '11 graduated with her Masters of Science Degree in Sports Management from Coastal Carolina University on December 15, 2017.



Marissa Sylvester '15 and Kimberly Zeladonis '15 received their white coats on September 8, 2018 during the Doctor of Physical Therapy White Coat Ceremony at The University of Sciences.

NAHS - President-Principal Model - A Year of Firsts and Successes!

Over the past few years, there has been quite a change in the composition of the administration at Nazareth Academy High School. Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year and the hiring of Mrs. Denise LePera as president in July 2017, Nazareth Academy High School officially adopted the President and Principal model of administrative structure. With this new framework, Mrs. LePera and former principal Sr. Rita Fanning, CSFN were charged with working collaboratively to run the high school. Sr. Rita, as principal, was responsible for the academic side of the school, which included student learning, faculty development, curriculum review, and student/school activities. As president, Mrs. LePera was tabbed with overseeing all aspects of advancement, fundraising, enrollment management, marketing and the school budget. In simpler terms, the principal is in charge of the academic and student life functions of the school and the president is in charge of the money management and enrollment facet of the school.

Under the President and Principal model, enrollment continues to grow. Ms. Ali Derassouyan '09, the Nazareth Academy High School Admissions Director, deserves to be commended for her tireless efforts in approving Nazareth's enrollment. During the 2016-2017 school year, enrollment was 345 students. Entering the 2018-2019 school year, enrollment was 385, an incredible 10 percent turn around in only two years, with an eye on reaching 400 in the next three years. The Fall 2017 Open House was one of our largest open houses in recent school memory as 325 families visited for a tour showcasing the many special features of Nazareth.



As the president-principal model evolved in 2017-2018, so did the functions of the Advancement Department. The new school year brought a more professionalized approach to fundraising and alumnae relations. The first step in improving fundraising was developing an annual giving plan. This plan, which helped increase annual giving by \$25,000 in 2017-2018, included the school's first annual report being produced in October 2017, two personalized appeal mailings in the Fall and Spring, and targeted reminder emails to donors, alumnae, and parents to explain to them and remind them about the impact they have on our students' lives when they give back to Nazareth.

In 2017-2018 the alumnae and special events of Nazareth were restructured to include and welcome all constituents. Alumnae Weekend has become Alumnae and Family weekend and is recognized as a homecoming event for all members of the Nazareth Academy High School family to come together and celebrate this special institution on Grant Avenue. The Advancement Department added the Taste of

the Town Event during Alumnae and Family weekend which helped raise \$30,000 for the students. With a more cautious eye on expenses and a strong communications plan, alumnae and special events in 2017-2018 raised more than \$75,000 then the previous fiscal year.

This past summer, Nazareth was sad to see Sr. Rita Fanning leave our school. Her tenure at Nazareth, although only two years, was very impactful. She led the school with professionalism and compassion, and always had the students' best interests at hand. Her relationship with Mrs. LePera was the epitome of collaboration and the two worked brilliantly together. With the hiring of Mr. Jim Meredith as principal in August, this idea of collaboration between the president and principal to run the school remains the same. Mr. Meredith is a proven academic leader with a track record of enhancing the student experience, developing faculty, and working tirelessly to support all aspects of the school.

As we continue to move forward with this new model, although it may be different from your experience at Nazareth, we assure you that the magic that is Nazareth Academy High School is still here on Grant Avenue and it continues to blossom each and every day. Through mutual respect, trust, cooperation, and collaboration Nazareth Academy High School will continue to serve our students and our community as the premier Catholic college preparatory institution for girls in Philadelphia. We thank you for your continued support of our girls. Because of your kindness and generosity, their dreams become a reality.









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EITC & OSTC

Tax Credit Scholarship Programs

Nearly 30% of current Nazareth students benefit from financial aid and that number increases annually. You can redirect your PA taxes as financial aid dollars to Nazareth!

What is EITC & OSTC?

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) are Pennsylvania tax credit programs that allow PA business and individuals that pay applicable taxes to received up to a 90% TAX CREDIT to be used by schools like Nazareth for financial aid.

- EITC funds provide direct support to need-based tuition assistance subsidies for Nazareth Academy High School students.
- OSTC further augments the support options available for students whose neighborhood school is low achieving.

Who is eligible?

Businesses in Pennsylvania that pay the following taxes:

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Personal Income Tax
- · Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance and Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax (with some exclusions)
- Mutual Thrift Institution Tax
- Malt Beverage Tax
- Retaliatory Fees under section 212 of the Insurance Company Law of 1921 As well as individuals who pay Personal Income Tax through an LLC, S Corp, or who own or are a member of an LLP.

What is the benefit to you?

- 75% of your contribution to Nazareth Academy High School will go as a tax credit to your business
- \bullet This increases to 90% if you agree to contribute the same amount for 2 years
- The 25% (or 10% for a two-year commitment) that is not included in the tax credit may be claimed as a charitable donation on your federal tax return

Planned Giving For the girls. For the future.

Writing a check is the simplest, fastest way to make a gift to Nazareth Academy High School – and outright, cash gifts allow us to do our job, day in and day out.

But maybe you've been wondering how you can help guarantee that we'll **keep on** doing our job for generations to come. Or, perhaps you're starting to plan for your own financial future, looking for ways to save taxes, increase retirement earnings, and protect your assets. A *well planned gift* to us can help you achieve all of those goals.

Where to start? Well, there are three ways of giving that reward you as well as us:

- You can make your regular, outright gift, but use an appreciated asset instead
 of cash. You'll gain extra tax benefits and be able to afford to help us more
 generously.
- You can make a gift that actually pays income back to you.
- You can make a gift that we'll be able to count on in the future, but that costs you *nothing* during your lifetime.

Strategy 1: Give an Asset Instead of Cash

The IRS permits charitable donors to take advantage of a unique tax break. You can give Nazareth Academy High School an asset that has increased in value since you acquired it, claim a charitable deduction for the asset's current, fair market value, *and* pay no capital gains tax on the appreciation that you've enjoyed. This double tax benefit allows you to make a larger gift than you might be able to afford if you used cash, and it applies to most assets in your portfolio:

How to apply?

- Both EITC & OSTC applications are filed via a single application at www.newpa.com
- Upon approval, you have 60 days to make your gift to an approved scholarship fund such as:
 - Holy Family Foundation with a designation to Nazareth Academy High School
 - Henkels Foundation, with a designation to Nazareth Academy High School
 - Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS), with a designation to Nazareth Academy High School

What are the application deadlines?

- May 15 Business applicants who have fulfilled their 2-year commitment and wish to reapply in FY 17/18 to renew their 2-year commitment.
 - May 15 Businesses who are in the middle of their 2-year commitment.
 - July 3 All other businesses including initial applicants.

NOTE: Pass-through entities, such as S-Corporations, Partnerships, LLCs, etc., can now apply the same day as C-Corporations. Applications must be submitted electronically using DCED's Single Application for Assistance.



- Marketable stock, bonds and mutual fund shares;
- Artwork, collectibles and equipment that we can use in our work;
- Residential, commercial or investment real estate.

Strategy 2: Make a Gift That Pays You Back

Are you holding stock that has grown in value but is paying you very low dividends? Are you concerned about increasing your income now that you've retired? Do you want to use stock to make a significant gift to us, but need the dividend income that it's paying you? Are you looking for additional cash to help finance your entry into a retirement facility? Your solution could be a lifeincome gift.

Strategy 3: Make a Gift That Costs You Nothing During Your Lifetime

A Bequest is a gift to us made through your will or revocable trust. It can be the easiest gift of all because you don't part with any assets while you are alive. It's also revocable, so you can update or change it as much as you like. Yet for all their ease and simplicity, we take bequests very seriously at Nazareth Academy High School. They are the bedrock of our future financial strength, and we count on them to help us meet the challenges and opportunities that we'll be confronting. A "pipeline" of bequests allows us to plan confidently today and act decisively tomorrow.

 $For questions \ or \ more \ information, please \ contact, \\ Alumnae @Nazareth Academy HS. or g$



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