



8235 Ohio River Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
HFI-PGH.ORG

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCO HARRIS

Although Franco Harris will always be known for the “Immaculate Reception,” the greatest play in NFL history, Holy Family Institute will remember him as a long-time friend and supporter. He was a Hall of Fame player who stopped by unannounced to make a donation at Christmas, attended Nazareth Prep high school's graduation quietly and without fanfare, and always responded with “How can I help?” when called.

We offer deepest condolences to his wife Dana Dokmanovich and their son, Dok.



WE'RE HIRING!

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HOLY LIGHT

WINTER 2023

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

NAZARETH PREP STUDENTS EXPLORE THE WORLD OF CUISINE WITH DELICIOUS NEW COURSE OFFERING

In the first phase of our Pathways of Promise Campaign, Nazareth Prep added a state of the art culinary classroom to the first floor of the main building. The goal of Pathways of Promise is to expand academic and extracurricular offerings for Nazareth Prep students to build both the hard and soft skills they'll need for lifelong leadership. Adding a dedicated culinary classroom and hiring a new culinary arts teacher are important steps in expanding our students' exposure to different skills and career pathways.

Our new culinary arts teacher, Ms. Corey S. Flynn, holds an associate degree in dietetics and nutrition, a bachelor's degree in journalism and photography, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in education, among several other degrees and certifications. Ms. Flynn is also teaching sustainability cooking classes at Phipps Conservatory and a sustainable food systems course at the University of Pittsburgh.



Nazareth Prep's new culinary arts teacher, Ms. Corey S. Flynn

“My main objective is for the students to feel comfortable and confident in their cooking abilities,” says Ms. Flynn. “I would like for them to see all of the wonders of food—the science of food, that food is art, that it nourishes and comforts, and that it creates memories and brings back memories.”

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Nazareth Prep students work on their food preparation skills in the new culinary arts class

DELICIOUS NEW COURSE OFFERING (CONT'D.)

Culinary classes started at the end of January and include basic culinary skills, access to a culinary library, and elements of literature, poetry, nutrition, and sustainability. Longtime corporate partners Highmark Health and Giant Eagle helped to get the program off the ground with donations to support the cost of an oven hood and of food supplies for the class, respectively.

“The first day of class was fantastic!” says Ms. Flynn. “The students were very interested, engaged, and everyone participated. I was very impressed with the skills they already have, which is going to make all of the recipes so much more fun because we can jump right into cooking.”

In addition to two Friday classes, one for sophomores and one for juniors, students will have the opportunity to attend a bi-weekly afterschool “pop-up” club open to all grade levels. We are excited to offer this new opportunity to Nazareth Prep’s students and look forward to seeing (and smelling) the delicious dishes they will cook up in class!



Culinary arts students stirring up a delicious chicken and vegetable soup

UNIVERSAL SERVICES KEEP THE LIGHTS ON... AND MORE

Over the years, Holy Family Institute has adapted and reinvented itself to find new and impactful ways to fulfill our mission of empowering children and families.

One program that has been doing just that since 1999 is our Universal Services program, a collaboration with Duquesne Light Company. The program provides both utility assistance to customers who are struggling to pay their electric bill and case management to help them achieve stability.

HFI case managers help with more than just bills, though. With community offices in neighborhoods from Beaver Falls to McKeesport, they are able to meet clients in person to discuss their needs.

Our numerous social service programs and connections in the community allow case managers to refer their clients for additional services. Their clients are grateful, often saying things like, "Thank you, now I can breathe this month." You can learn more at hfi-pgh.org/energy-assistance.



INTERNSHIP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: DBR & CO

Nazareth Prep's Internship Program is a unique and transformational opportunity for students to experience the workforce and develop skills and knowledge that will launch them to post-secondary success.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated partners in the corporate and nonprofit world. One of these partners, DBR & CO, is new to the program and already making a difference for their intern.

DBR & CO is an investment firm in Downtown Pittsburgh, hosting Nazareth Prep intern Christopher Staudt. During his internship, he has been able to learn the ins and outs of a career in financial planning.

Chris' mentors at DBR & CO meet with him at the start of each day to review videos on the industry and teach him about the role of a financial planner. In particular, Chris has learned the importance of building personal connections in a client service field.

Using what he has learned in his internship, Chris plans to attend Duquesne University to pursue a degree in finance, building a bright future for himself from his Nazareth Prep internship experience.

To learn more about becoming an internship partner, contact Randy Lheureau, Director of Workforce Development, at 412.307.0230 x1395 or lheureau.randall@nazarethprep.org.

BUILDING FUTURES AT SPECIALIZED LEARNING

Holy Family Institute's Specialized Learning (SL) sits nestled in a quiet Ross Township neighborhood, a licensed private school for elementary and secondary students. Enrollment is based on referral from the students' home districts. Once enrolled, SL's dedicated faculty and staff work with students to overcome their unique academic and behavioral challenges to set them up for a successful return to their home school district.

One of the programs designed to help students in grades 9–12 is the Workforce Development Program. Program coordinators Mr. Ralph Waller and Mr. Gary Zangaro work with students to explore career paths and gain important skills to succeed in post-secondary life. While enrollment in the program is voluntary, 100% of eligible students choose to participate.



SL students shoveling snow at a home near the school

The Workforce Development Program gives students first-hand experience, offering compensation for various tasks that contribute to the school's staff, students, and neighbors. These may include shoveling snow for neighbors, serving snacks from the "Daily Grind" student-run café, or cleaning the cafeteria. Students also volunteer at Light of Life Rescue Mission and visit Manchester Craftsmen's Guild to gain new skills each week.

In addition to this practical experience, students meet in small groups to learn more about the soft skills required to be a good employee, such as respect, dependability, goal setting, and more. Students also receive opportunities to interact with professionals from a variety of fields. They volunteer at charitable organizations, visit local fire departments, and hear from union workers about their profession.

According to Mr. Ron Zangaro, Education Director, "Ralph and Gary go above and beyond. They work with students to prepare for interviews, make sure they have the right clothing to wear, and even transport them when needed."

The dedication of the program coordinators is mirrored throughout the school community. Teachers, behavior specialists, and other staff are all happy to contribute to this important piece of their students' growth.



CYCCB graduates (L to R): Margareth Ilarraza, Matthew Osche, Dora Cabeza, Sister Linda Yankoski, Evelin Arismendi, Biviana Vence De Fritz, Teresa Padilla

JOURNEY OF HOPE STAFF EARN CHILDCARE CERTIFICATION

Six more members of our Journey of Hope shelter program staff are now certified by the Child & Youth Care Certification Board. Each of them completed a 13-week training course to demonstrate their commitment to high standards of care for the youth that we serve. When asked about their experiences, the participants enthusiastically expressed their appreciation for the chance to learn new skills. Holy Family Institute is glad to have a dedicated team to carry out our mission through Journey of Hope.



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