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HOLY LIGHT

FALL 2023

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

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Consider designating your gift* to Holy Family Institute using **Contributor Code 73.**

*United Way guidelines require a minimum donation of \$25 for specialized designation.



NAZARETH PREP WELCOMES STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FOR A NEW YEAR OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING

"No matter how you got here, we believe you were called to be here." With these words, Holy Family Institute Chief Executive Officer Sister Linda Yankoski welcomed students to Nazareth Prep during New Student Orientation. The chapel was filled with nervous energy as 44 new students came forward to each light a candle signifying their place at the school. The orientation class included both this year's freshman class and transfer students who are coming to Nazareth Prep for their sophomore or junior years.

During their week-long orientation, new students were introduced to the Nazareth Prep way of life, the basics of our Internship Program, and the layout of our school building and campus. Throughout the week, students got to know one another through team-building activities, taking the first steps toward building a school community that will support them through the coming years.



Nazareth Prep freshman Tessa Allison in class on the first day of school.

New Student Orientation is an important opportunity to start the 2023-2024 school year strong. As Head of School Dr. Stacy Tweedy said, "This time we spend together is to build a space that allows you to do your best work here and fulfill your potential and your capacity."

Continued inside ➔

Sister Linda Yankoski helps new Nazareth Prep student Deaira Johnson light a candle at New Student Orientation.

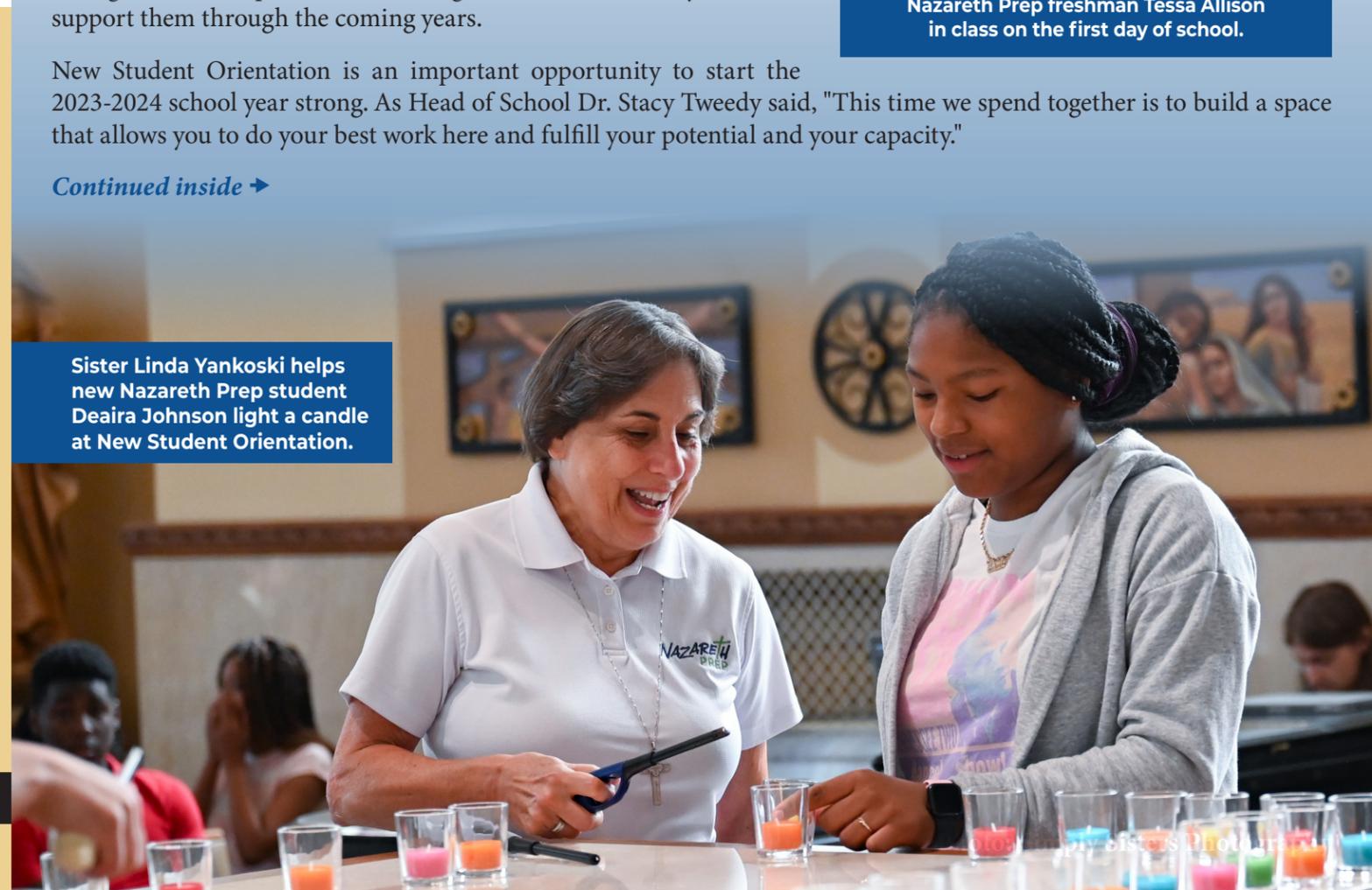


TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | ACRISURE STADIUM

Mark your calendars for our annual Courage House Luncheon as Holy Family Institute teams up with the Pittsburgh Steelers to honor those who have shown courage and grit in the face of hardship!

Learn more and register at:

HFI-PGH.ORG/COURAGE-HOUSE



NEW YEAR AT NAZARETH PREP (CONT'D.)

Students aren't the only ones preparing for the coming year. Orientation was held on Thursday and Friday, September 7 and 8 for our Internship Program mentors. These representatives from our Internship Partners came to campus to get ready for internships to begin in mid-September and to meet their interns over lunch. Mentors are crucial to our students' success, helping them become work-ready and develop skills such as communication, complex thinking, and decision-making.

Nazareth Prep offers a diverse and innovative education, and this school year is off to a strong start. The school's success depends on students, families, teachers, staff, and corporate and nonprofit partners coming together with a shared goal—creating life-changing opportunities for our community's young people.



Nazareth Prep students meet their mentors for the first time at Internship Partner Orientation

GET TO KNOW DR. STACY TWEEDY

Dr. Stacy Tweedy, Executive Vice President of Educational Services and Nazareth Prep's Head of School, has an impressive resume and an even more impressive ambition for students.

Dr. Tweedy is entering her sixth year with Nazareth Prep and her second year as Head of School, having previously served as Chief Curriculum Officer and as coordinator of the Teacher in the Workplace program. Before coming to Nazareth Prep, she worked in research, teaching, and program management with education organizations in Pittsburgh, the District of Columbia, Boston, and St. Louis. Dr. Tweedy holds both a JD and a PhD in World History.

As she enters a new year at the helm of the school, Dr. Tweedy is taking a hands-on approach. She is integrating the weekly student internship experience into the curriculum and, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame, is expanding Advanced Placement course offerings. For more information on Nazareth Prep, visit nazarethprep.org.

HOLY FAMILY LAUNCHES THE NAZARETH FUND – A NEW LEADERSHIP GIVING PROGRAM

We are excited to announce the formation of The Nazareth Fund, Holy Family's new leadership giving program. The Nazareth Fund recognizes the strong commitment of individual donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to support our mission and programs.

While gifts of any size make a difference for those we serve, leadership gifts have a significant and immediate impact on the organization. They offer the resources to provide important services to families and children when they are most needed. We are incredibly grateful to the people who demonstrate the spirit of generosity and make a deep investment in our work.

For more information on The Nazareth Fund, please contact Susan Nespaul, Executive Vice President of Philanthropy, at 412-239-9014 or nespaul.susan@hfi-pgh.org.

JOURNEY OF HOPE KIDS FIND SUMMER FUN AT PRYSE ACADEMY

Since 2014, the Journey of Hope program has provided shelter, counseling, recreation, and education to unaccompanied minors arriving in the United States. The Long-Term Foster Care program, launched in January 2022, provides a safe, stable environment for young people who require a longer stay than those served by our shelter program.

Through the program, care is provided for up to 12 teenage boys in a home-like environment, including comfortable housing, group meals, and dedicated case managers, clinicians, youth care workers, and interpreters.

Beyond caring for their basic needs, our team seeks opportunities for enrichment that allow the children in their care to create lasting memories and to explore and enjoy their temporary home in Pittsburgh.

One such opportunity, in partnership with the Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education (ARYSE) is PRYSE Academy (Pittsburgh Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment). PRYSE is a five-week day camp held on the University of Pittsburgh campus with children from regions across the globe, including the Middle East, West Africa, Central America, and more. Campers participate in a variety of activities including language learning, mental health exercises, community building, and creative arts.

"PRYSE is intentional about creating a positive environment," says Eric Gibson, Journey of Hope Community Liaison. "They help kids feel welcome, whole, and uplifted." Holy Family recognizes the importance of holistic care, and we are blessed to have partners like ARYSE to help ensure that those in our care are given the chance to thrive and experience the joys of childhood.



Vincere McKee and Michelle Whalen

INTERNSHIP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CHROMALOX

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

Chromalox, a Spirax-Sarco Engineering company focusing on advanced thermal technologies design and manufacturing, joined the Internship Program at the end of last school year. As they prepare for a new year, Mentor Michelle Whalen is excited to continue this partnership with senior Vincere McKee.

Michelle and Vincere met at Mentor Orientation in September, where Vincere shared his goal of studying computer science in college and eventually pursuing a career in video game design and development.

Michelle, Head of Compliance and Enterprise Resource Planning at Chromalox, gave Vincere an overview of the type of work he'll do. Michelle and her co-mentor Julie Rotelli, Corporate Controller, have planned his internship with his interests in mind. They have found opportunities with their IT department to expose Vincere to all sides of the company's technology needs, from infrastructure to hardware to basic software coding.

Nazareth Prep relies on enthusiastic mentors and corporate partners like Michelle, Julie, and Chromalox to make our Internship Program a transformational experience for students.

To learn more about becoming an internship partner, contact Katie Sidhom, Vice President of Business Development, at 412-239-9025 or sidhom.katie@nazarethprep.org.



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