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HOLY LIGHT

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

NAZARETH PREP GRADUATES LOOK FORWARD TO BRIGHT FUTURES

The members of Nazareth Prep's Class of 2024 have hardly had a typical high school experience. Their first day as freshmen included masks, social distancing, and all of the various procedures that became routine during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their freshman year was often interrupted by remote learning and our Internship Program was put on hold as companies emptied their offices to keep their employees safe and healthy. In spite of these early challenges, the students graduating this year have distinguished themselves as students, interns, and leaders.

Our Internship Program is designed to prepare students for any post-secondary path, whether it be college, training program, or career. For the first time in the ten year history of the school, all of this year's graduates will pursue higher education next year, with 74% attending a four-year college or university and 26% attending a two-year college or technical school. Students sported their college gear to celebrate "Decision Day," with many local colleges and universities represented, along with several out-of-state schools.

In her speech at graduation, class salutatorian Ariana Clemm-McPherson said, "My personal advice for us is to strive not just for success, but for happiness. As we move into this next pivotal stage of our lives, happiness is not merely a fleeting feeling. It is a state of mind – a way of life. It is found in the little moments that make up our days and the big milestones that define our years."

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COLORFUL CREATIONS ON DISPLAY

This month, Holy Family Institute unveiled the new Cathy Pelusi Art Gallery, located in the main building on our Emsworth campus. The dynamic display will house artwork created by children in all of our programs, including Holy Family Specialized Learning, Journey of Hope, and Nazareth Prep.



Members of the Class of 2024 with their class advisor, Mrs. Peggy Hill (center).

BRIGHT FUTURES (CONT'D.)

More than half of this year's graduates are graduating with honors, including Ariana, valedictorian Lucas Stunkel, and Nazareth Award winner T'Saun Carrington. The Nazareth Award was created last year as a way to honor students with exceptional performance in their internships and it is equivalent to the valedictorian award for academic performance.



Graduates (L to R) Juliauna Warren, Cashimere Ralph, and Myuri Northern-Young celebrating at Nazareth Prep's graduation ceremony on June 7, 2024.

Amidst hundreds of family members, friends, and supporters, the class of 2024 officially became Nazareth Prep alumni on Friday, June 7. Dr. Kathy Wilson Humphrey, President of Carlow University, was the commencement speaker for the evening, saying, "You can put away childish things by simply believing in yourself. Believing that you will not just go to college, but you will graduate from college. You have to believe that you will not just live a good life, but that you will live so others can have a good life." We are confident that this year's graduates are moving on to futures as bright as their years and accomplishments here at Nazareth Prep.

HFI RECEIVES MULTIPLE AWARDS & NOMINATIONS



Staff and Board members at the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh's Excellence in Ethics Awards on May 1 (L to R): Carrie Potter-Murray, John Putzier, Sister Linda Yankoski, Hailey Juliano, Katie Sidhom, Mark Palastro, and Ray Betz

This spring, the organization and its leadership have received recognition for our work in the community. On May 1, Holy Family Institute received the Pittsburgh Excellence in Ethics Award (large non-profit category) from the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh. Additionally, the organization was a finalist for the Pittsburgh Human Resources Association's Engaging Pittsburgh: Innovative People Practices Awards on May 16.

Our CEO, Sister Linda Yankoski, was honored by the Pittsburgh Business Times with their Women of Influence Career Achievement Award on May 15. The Career Achievement Award is presented to one woman each year who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and performance over the course of her career.

The 38th Annual HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE Golf Classic

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INSPIRING SPACES FOR SPECIALIZED LEARNING

Holy Family Specialized Learning creates a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment where students can overcome behavioral challenges, develop essential life skills, and achieve success in their academic and personal endeavors.

During the 2023-24 academic year, Specialized Learning teachers and staff have collaborated to offer students the best opportunities for success and growth, including making improvements to the building they come to five days a week.

Dr. Carrie Potter-Murray, Vice President of Educational Services, believes that environment is crucial to students' ability to focus on learning, "Students should feel not only safe in their school, but inspired and energized – that's what we're striving for in our building."

In addition to new furniture and fresh paint throughout the building, the school's art teacher, Suzanne Werder, is adding life to the library walls with a new mural depicting a colorful forest landscape.

Upgrades to the school building are only a small part of what makes Specialized Learning a comfortable space for students. The school leadership and hardworking staff provide the important support and instruction to help students reach their goals.

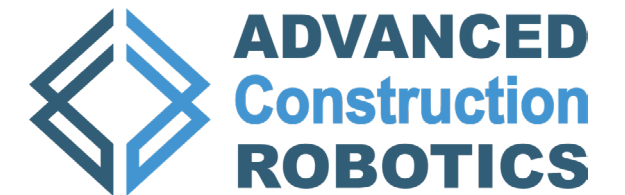


The new mural in the Holy Family Specialized Learning library.



Nazareth Prep intern Najiah Stevenson with her mentor, Lely Williams.

INTERNSHIP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



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.

Advanced Construction Robotics (ACR) is a leading provider of robotic equipment transforming the construction industry by filling the skilled labor gap and increasing overall productivity. The company just completed their first year as an Internship Partner.

Sophomore Najiah Stevenson worked with ACR's Engineering Build Team and Operations Department. During her internship, she actively participated in warehouse operations, directly engaging with the assembly, maintenance, and deployment of cutting-edge construction robots. Her mentor, Lely Williams, personally experienced the benefits of similar internship programs, so she was excited to help in shaping Najiah's experience!

Nazareth Prep relies on the commitment of companies like ACR to help us equip interns with practical skills, a network of professional contacts, and a newfound confidence that will serve them well in their future careers.

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



Najiah at work in the ACR warehouse.