

The NAZ Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for the parents and families of Nazareth Academy High School

December 2019



Last Month Recap

- On Tuesday November 26th, at our Thanksgiving Mass, we recognized our students for their commitment to service. The girls recognized surpassed over 100 hours of Christian service in the previous school year, 80 more hours than they are required. Congratulations to these girls and all our students on their continued commitment to making the world a better place!
- On Wednesday, November 14th, we celebrated the feast of Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Frances Siedliska), the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, with a special Mother Foundress Liturgy. We were blessed to have some of our sisters from the area join us to celebrate the life of Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd during this beautiful Mass in Chapel. Each sister was given a rose by our students and welcomed to breakfast and refreshments in the Performing Arts Center. We are so grateful for all the hard work the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth have done to establish this beautiful institution on Grant Avenue.



Upcoming Events

December 17th - December 19th
Midterm/Final Exams

Friday, December 20th
No School for Students
Clerical Day for Faculty

December 23rd - January 3rd
Christmas Break
No School for Students

Wednesday, December 25th
Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, January 1st
Happy New Year!
Solemnity of Mary

January 2nd and January 3rd
Faculty and Staff Report
Professional Development and
Retreat

Monday, January 6th
Second Semester Begins

Wednesday, January 15th
Back To School Night

Embracing Faith, Family, and Education

Nazareth Academy High School ~ 4001 Grant Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19114 ~ 215.637.7676 ~ NazarethAcademyHS.org



Merry Christmas!

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year! In November, we celebrated Mother Foundress Day and Thanksgiving. Now we enter into Advent, and wait patiently for the Baby Jesus! It is a time of hope – something that we desperately need for the world but in our little corner as well.

My wish for you is a very Merry Christmas and a new year filled with good health, time spent with family, a deeper faith, and boundless love.

School Store

Purchase your Nazareth gear for Christmas online. [Start shopping now!](#)

For your convenience the school store will be opening on the following days for in-store shopping:

Sunday, December 15th from 2 pm to 5 pm

Wednesday, December 18th from 8 am to 2 pm

Spring Semester SAT Prep Courses

The English and Math Departments will be offering two different sessions of after school non-credit SAT Prep courses in the Spring of 2020. Each course involves ten 1-hour sessions, held 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM on the dates designated.

The courses are divided into SAT Prep for both the March 14th SAT Exam and the May 2nd SAT Exam. [Click Here For Registration and More Information](#)

NAPA ~ Nazareth Academy Parent Association

[Click here](#) for the parent page of the website which include events, announcements, volunteer information and much more.

Volunteers for School, Admissions and Advancement Events

Nazareth is always in need of volunteers for our many NAPA, Admissions, Advancement and School events. [Click here](#) to complete the volunteer form for the 2019 - 2020 school year. We will share this sign-up sheet in every monthly newsletter. You will need volunteer clearances. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to obtain volunteer clearances.

Mark Your Calendars for NAPA events

NEW DATE AND LOCATION:

Snowball Dance ~ January 24th

Invitations will be sent home mid-December

6:00 PM -10:00 PM at the Philadelphia Ballroom

\$90 per couple, \$45 per individual ticket

Mass and Fashion Show ~ February 9 ~ 11 am Chapel

An Afternoon in Venice

Elegant sit down luncheon for students and their mom, aunt, grandmom or special woman in their life

\$75 per ticket

Seating is limited

Online registration and sponsorships available shortly

General Parent Meetings

1st Tuesday of Every Month at 6:30 pm with Light Refreshments in the Performing Arts Center

Upcoming Presentations

January 7: Class Meeting for parents from Mr. Meredith sharing the information that he shares with students at the Class Meetings

Incentives for Attending NAPA General Monthly Meetings

At each meeting there is an incentive for attending. January's incentive: Pizza party for the homeroom with the highest parent attendance.



The Christmas Season

The sights and sounds of the season are alive and well here at Nazareth Academy. With our eyes and hearts truly on the reason for the season, our students were given the opportunity for Advent Confessions on December 11th and gathered together for Mass on December 16th. Our students, faculty, and staff are gathering toys and other gifts to support Operation Santa Claus. NAHS Performing Arts students have shared their talents both here at school and around the area. The Student Council, led by Sister Boguslawka and Mr. Baxter and the Decorating Committee, led by Ms. Dollbaum has decorated the building and our homerooms decorated their classroom doors to celebrate the season. Many Naz students and adults alike sported Christmas socks and “festive” sweaters the week before exams.

As Christmas approaches, let us call to mind the following message Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepard delivered to her beloved Sisters in Poland in December of 1891, “During the Mass of the holy night, pray for us who will be in spirit with you. May the renewal of vows be a source of spiritual renewal. May the bond of love uniting you with Jesus become more secure and enduring. May the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph teach you to adore, praise, and express your love for the Divine Infant. These are my wishes which I shall present at the crib.” May the Holy Family of Nazareth bless and keep you and your families during Advent and Christmas, and through the New Year.

Projecting for 2020

When we dust off the Christmas cheer in January, there is no reason for the excitement to wane. A New Year is an opportunity for a fresh start, to embrace new opportunities and a brand-new decade. At Nazareth, a new semester begins with our students starting new classes and different schedules. We will begin our year with Class Meetings for students, a positive way to set goals and prepare for the upcoming semester. Course Selection begins in the middle of January for students to select their courses for 2020-2021. Groundbreaking for our STREAM Innovation Center located in the lower level under the gym will take place in January, creating a new state of the art space for our students. We will share broadly complete plans for the STREAM Innovation Center prior to groundbreaking.

In her portion of this update, Miss Donnelly, Campus Minister, mentions a Day of Service here at Nazareth on Dr. Martin Luther King Day on January 20th. At the end of the month, we will have the Snowball Dance on January 24th. That day is now a B Schedule with a 1:00 dismissal for a Middle States Action Team Meeting for Faculty and Staff.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, Nazareth Academy school closings or delays will be communicated broadly using the School Messenger system, the school website, and social media. As proven in the past, and most recently on Monday, December 2nd, predicting the weather is an inexact science but decisions on closings or delays are mind with student safety in mind. Also, if our suburban districts close or delay opening, around half our student body is affected so that makes a difference in the decision-making process. Students are reminded that teachers will post assignments online in the event of a closing.





This Advent, inspired by the charism of the Holy Family of Nazareth, our theme is "The Kingdom of God's Love is Family."

This is the message our school aims to embody throughout the whole year and Christmas allows it to grow in us all the more! This is our mission; that God chose a family to be the center, the heart, of where we learn how to love. While families can struggle, suffer, and go through hills and valleys, there is so much comfort and hope in the coming of our Savior who saves us from the hurt and leads us back in the direction of perfect Love God has for us. In joyful expectation we await the glorious coming of God's Love made man, Jesus.

"Where there is no love there is no kingdom of God. Our obligation is precisely this, that the kingdom of God grow and flourish in our souls." -Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepard

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I pray that this new year be filled with God's blessings for each and every one of you and your families. May He grace you with His joy and peace. A huge thank you to all the families who bought gifts for our Operation Santa Claus! These gifts were given to the families and loved ones in our community. They were beyond grateful for your generosity!

Please tell your girls to keep their eye out for a Martin Luther King Day service opportunity that will take place at the school on our day off, if they're interested.

As the New Year approaches please keep our seniors in prayer as they get ready to attend Kairos in January.



Grades

All grades will be available to be viewed electronically on Monday, January 6, 2020. Honors and GPA are calculated on the semester grades.

Classes

We are very excited to be offering new classes which will include Principles of Engineering, Honors Computer Science Principles, Gaming Concepts, Cyber Security, and Computer Service and Repair. Please consult the Course Catalog for a full description of these offerings. Classes that will run are dependent on the number of students displaying an interest to enroll. Juniors and seniors have the option of taking advantage of our dual enrollment with Holy Family University and online instruction by way of the Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute.

*I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe,
healthy and Happy New Year!*

Merry Christmas





Wishing everyone in our Nazareth Academy community peace and serenity this Christmas season. Please enjoy your families over the break from school and know that you are all in my daily prayers.

December - January Events

December 16th	Christmas Liturgy 8:00 AM- 9:10 AM and Last Day of the Fall Semester
December 17th-19th	Midterm/Final Exams and end of CSC Operation Santa Clause Toy Drive
December 20th	No School for Students
December 23rd -31st	Christmas Break (Offices Open 12/26, and 12/30, 9 AM-2 PM)
January 1st	Solemnity of Mary, No School for Students
January 2nd	Faculty Professional Development, No School for Students
January 3rd	Faculty and Staff Retreat, No School for Students, Offices Closed
January 6th	Second Semester classes begin
January 7th	Class of 2020 Meeting during Activity Period; NAPA Parent Meeting 6:30PM-7:30PM
January 8th	Class of 2021 Meeting during Activity Period
January 10th	Fashion Show TAG Day
January 13th	Class of 2022 Meeting during Activity Period
January 14th	Class of 2023 Meeting during Activity Period
January 15th	Course Information Day during C Schedule; Back to School Night
*January 16th	Faculty Meeting, D Schedule
*Calendar Revision	

Counseling Department

Mrs. Jessica MacKay

Counseling in Action

Over the past month, The Counseling Department worked hard to coordinate NAHS's 1st Annual Challenge Day. I am pleased to report that it was an extremely successful event which was very well-received by the students. While much work was put in to prepare for the day, the truth is that Challenge Day was ONLY possible because of the 30+ students and teachers who very willingly devoted their time to building connections, having important conversations, breaking down barriers and working together to cultivate a school environment where every student feels valued, included, and thrives. Students were excited to share all they had learned and gained through this powerful experience with their peers. We are extremely proud of all of the students who participated in this important endeavor to "BE THE CHANGE" in our school and communities.



HOBY

Nazareth Academy High School is pleased to announce the nominations for the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) 2020 leadership conference at Albright College. We are very excited to be sending Sophomores Alison Kowalchik and Erin Hoyer to this weekend conference in June to cultivate their leadership skills and connect with other Sophomores from schools around eastern Pennsylvania. Thank you to all who applied.



Focusing on Mental Health Education

A big thank you to the parents who were able to attend the NAPA meeting earlier this month. The Counseling Department collaborated with guest speakers, Molly Singer-Scott and Andrew Onimus from Minding Your Mind to bring parents information about how to identify a mental health crisis with a child, as well as signs of anxiety, depression, self-harm and suicidal ideation. Additionally, our entire student body viewed a similar presentation which brought education and awareness to mental health through stories of hope and recovery. The students were given various tools to cope with mental health challenges and reminded of the direct access to resources and support right within our school. Research tells us that 1 in 5 adolescents will be faced with some form of mental health challenge at some point in their life. Therefore, we must strive to encourage our students/children to keep sharing what they are going through so that they continue to get support and learn positive coping strategies and thrive. As we head into the final weeks of 2019, we kindly encourage our parents, teachers and entire school community to keep the dialogue going with our students/children surrounding mental health.

For more information on Teens and Mental Health Support please [click here](#).



Upcoming ACT and SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

SAT: Test Date Mar. 14, 2020	Registration: Feb. 14, 2020	Late Registration Feb. 25, 2020
Test Date: May 2, 2020	Registration: Apr. 3, 2020	Late Registration: Apr. 14, 2020
ACT: Test Date: Feb. 8, 2020	Registration: Jan. 10, 2010	Late Registration: Jan. 17, 2019
Test Date: Apr. 4, 2020	Registration: Feb. 28, 2020	Late Registration: Mar. 13, 2020

Junior College Planning Meeting

On January 23rd and 24th, Mrs. Glasson and Ms. Mikulski will be conducting a Junior College Planning Presentation.

- The presentation will be held in the Performing Arts Center during activity period. Since many juniors have activity lunch, we strongly encourage students to pack their lunches to avoid missing valuable college information. Students will be able to eat during the presentation.
- The presentation will provide students with general information as to how they can prepare for college and the college application process. Students will also have the opportunity to ask general questions regarding the college planning process. Students with specific questions are encouraged to meet with their individual counselor or their college counselor.

College Acceptances and Scholarships/Grants

Many students from the senior class have received acceptance and/or scholarship letters from colleges/universities. These letters will be needed as supporting documentation for the graduation booklet and the Class of 2020 Scholarship total.

- Seniors will receive a pre-college graduation survey that will be due in the beginning of April. This survey is where Nazareth Academy will get the student's information for the graduation booklet.
- We ask that seniors make copies of their acceptance and scholarships/grants. The documents will be attached to the pre-graduation survey as verification of the information.
- Please remember to check the [counseling page](#) of the Nazareth website for additional opportunities/information. Encourage your students to continue to look for scholarship opportunities. [Here are some Resources for Scholarship Searches.](#)

College Information Sessions

During the spring semester the college counselors offer college information sessions to the junior class. These sessions are scheduled on Wednesdays during activity period in Computer Lab A.

- Session 1 (Date to be determined): Getting Ready to Take the SAT or ACT?
Session 1 will explore standardized tests, determine which test is more appropriate for the student, search standardized test requirements for colleges, and explore colleges with test-optional applications.
- Session 2 (Date to be determined): Résumé Building
Session 2 will assist students in developing their activity résumé. Student will receive examples, determine what to include vs. not include on their résumé, and students will have the opportunity to work individually on their résumés.

PSAT Scores

PSAT scores are now available for viewing. The Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors are able to access their PSAT scores by logging onto their College Board accounts. If you have questions or need assistance with accessing scores please contact either Mrs. Glasson or Ms. Mikulski. To understand your student's scores, please [click here](#).

College Visits at Nazareth

Nazareth Academy utilizes college reps to confirm college visits. Every college that is scheduled will college reps will appear on the home page of your daughter's Naviance account. Please encourage your daughters to check which colleges will be on campus!

Please remember to check the [counseling page](#) of the Nazareth website for additional opportunities/information. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Mrs. Glasson at 215-268-1074 or dglasson@nazarethacademyhs.org, or Ms. Mikulski at 215-268-1077 or amikulski@nazarethacademyhs.org. Thank you!

Student Spotlight

**Congratulations to our students and their teachers for recognition in the following
All Catholic Ensembles:**

All Catholic Chorus

Maeve Kearney '20
Emily Loughery '20
Makenzie Straub '20
Eryal Szyszko '20
Gianna Brock '21
Elizabeth Corbett '21
Tiffany Li '21
Isabella Lucano '21
Isabella McMahon '21
Ainslee Santa Croce '21
Meghan Zwiercan '22
Olivia Lucano '23
Elizabeth Unger '23
Madeline Woltjen '23

All Catholic Orchestra

Katharine Hibbs '20
Makenzie Straub '20

All Catholic Jazz Band

Makenzie Straub '20

Congratulations to our student athletes and their coaches for All League Recognition:

Soccer

AACA League Co MVP

Katie Harmon '22

All Academy Team

Brooke Kane '20
Cayla Chipperfield '20
Alison Loper '21
Maddie Maguire '21

Cross Country

All Academy Team

Ella Verello '22
Lianne Rieser '21
Julia Quigley '21
Ciara Dubeck '20
Danielle Juliano '21

In Loving Remembrance

Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of the Nazareth Family,
especially:

- Mrs. Barabara Tournier, mother of Mrs. Karen Scott, Science Teacher

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

-Luke 23:42