



NAZARETH ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

2019-2020 Annual Report



A Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

What a challenging time we are living in. The pandemic and the economic crisis underscore just how critical it is to strengthen and live out our mission of embracing faith, family and education. Our students, faculty, and staff have displayed an incredible degree of poise, courage, and commitment in the face of adversity.

Rooted in the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, our academics, service programs and student life form our students into the virtuous leaders of tomorrow. They will be well-prepared to face the challenges of the day with honor, respect and determination. We challenge the young women of Nazareth to do their part to make this world better than they found it, to make a difference in the lives of those around them, and we trust that they will.

The Annual Report shows the generosity of so many alumnae, parents, friends and businesses. We always say the financial support is for our girls – it benefits our academics, programs, and student life. We were able to purchase cameras, monitors and speakers for every classroom so that the virtual experience would be as close to normal as possible. We created our Innovation Center with 3 makerspaces for Art, Performing Arts and STREAM, adding Engineering and Principles of STEM courses. While we are so grateful and moved by your generosity, we encourage others to join in our efforts by giving of your time, talent and treasure. With your support, we will continue to transform our young girls and ensure that tomorrow is a better place for us all.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the Nazareth Academy High School students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumnae. A special congratulations to our newest members of our alumnae – the very special class of 2020. These ladies make us so proud. We were so honored to call their names, hand them their diplomas and applaud their courageous efforts.

Let's us continue to work together to provide the Nazareth experience and sisterhood well into the future.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth bless you and keep you safe.

Blessings,

Denise LePera
President

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Front cover photo:

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Innovation Center Debuts!



As we work now to embrace the present, we are also embracing the future, as we announce the exciting opening of our state-of-the-art Innovation Center! The Innovation Center will be the heart of our STREAM curriculum that was ranked last year in the top 5,000 STEM high schools in the country. The three state-of-the-art makerspaces were created in the former student cafeteria, located on the lower level beneath the gymnasium. The renovation is anchored by a major makerspace, an area for students to collaborate and innovate. It also includes a kiln in a separate makerspace for Fine Arts, and a third makerspace for Performing Arts to create sets and scenery for its productions. In addition, a student lounge was incorporated in the design to provide space for our hard-working students to refresh and energize.

To make this project a reality for our students, Nazareth Academy High School secured grants to fund the planning, design, construction, and equipment needed for the Innovation Center. A project manager assisted with the planning, design, and curriculum. Our teachers and students were consulted throughout the project to ensure successful utilization of the completed center. Professional development for our faculty was included and is ongoing so that they are able to meet the needs of our students both in the new space and across the entire curriculum.

New and specialized curriculum was developed and implemented for the new Innovation Center. An

engineering elective for upperclassmen called Principles of Engineering and a Foundations of STEM course for every freshman began in August of 2020. Other classes across our STREAM curriculum will use the main makerspace as needed for innovative projects in their individual content area. Outside of the classroom, students involved in extracurricular activities such as robotics and rocketry will make good use of the anchor makerspace as well.

As we have experienced in recent months, technology has become more and more integrated into all aspects of our daily lives, requiring flexibility and versatility. Our STREAM curriculum is preparing our students for careers that are continually evolving in the 21st century. The interactive learning opportunities provided by the Innovation Center and our STREAM curriculum will allow our students to develop critical thinking skills, strong written and oral communication skills, creativity, collaboration, and self-confidence. Our outstanding teachers are preparing and inspiring our talented students to achieve academic excellence, to become lifelong learners, and to be virtuous leaders in a global society.

The new Innovation Center will elevate our already strong program to new heights. Now that the project is complete, one can hear the exciting sounds of our students innovating every day – building a sound future for our students, our school, and our world.



Donor Spotlights



Kathy Wyszynski '77
Alumnae Donor

In my family, attending Nazareth Academy High School has served as a right of passage. I am part of a multigenerational legacy family who had its first Nancy Ann graduate as a part of the Class of 1948! As a legacy Alumna, I know the importance of a Nazareth education. The focus and values instilled at Nazareth have led me to further my education and career working with mission-driven organizations. It is an experience that I am truly grateful to have had.

When I was given “provisional admission” to Nazareth Academy in 1973, I knew, even as a young woman, that I had a tremendous opportunity in front of me. For its part, the school was able to look at the whole person and take a chance on me. And simply put, that is what Nazareth does best. It provides opportunities for young women while never sacrificing its students’ or the school as a whole’s drive for excellence. Ensuring that our next generation of female leaders has the opportunity to have a Nazareth Academy High School experience is why I choose to support the school each year.

It is a place that has driven me to continually challenge myself personally and professionally, empowered me to think critically, and has provided lifelong friendships.



Arbella (Manacchio) Cherkis '00
Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

The time that I spent at Nazareth is largely ingrained in so many aspects of my life today. It is a place that teaches future female leaders of tomorrow in a caring, compassionate space during some of the most important years of a young woman’s life. Nazareth prepared me for a demanding college experience and gave me a comfort level to speak my mind and challenge the norm as a strong female presence with peers and leaders from around the world in my career.

Perhaps the most valuable thing I took from my time at Nazareth is the desire to pay it forward and be of service to others. It is something I focused on in college at Drexel University and currently in my position as an Ethics & Compliance Director for GlaxoSmithKline. It is an important lesson that I have emphasized with my own children Talia (12), Roman (9), and Gemma (7).

This commitment to service is also the reason I feel it is so important to support Nazareth with my time, talent, and treasure. The education and the time in life during which it occurs has been so vital to my development as a person, and I feel it is truly up to the alumnae to make sure that the wonderful traditions, excellent education, and valuable life lessons imparted at Nazareth continue for generations to come.

Donor Spotlights



Luke and Maryann Snyder P'24 Parent Donors

When looking for a place for our daughter, Brigid (Class of 2024), to attend high school, we knew that Catholic education was a must after she spent many happy years at Our Lady of Calvary School. We really wanted to send her to a place that was not only going to offer a well-rounded and

rigorous academic curriculum, but we also wanted somewhere that was community-centered and focused on more than just education. After attending Nazareth's Open House and speaking to many friends who are either alums or who had sent their own daughters to Nazareth, we became convinced that this would be the perfect "second home" for Brigid. After shadowing at the school for a day, our whole family agreed that Nazareth was the place for us!

As a family with three daughters, we believe strongly in the value of Catholic education and wish to see it continue for many years to come. Having served on the Finance Councils at St. Dominic's Parish and St. Ephrem School, we have witnessed the impact that charter schools and other factors have had on enrollment in Catholic schools. We feel it is more important than ever for the Nazareth community to come together and lend its support to this institution so that it remains available and affordable to young women for generations to come. It is why we strongly advocate for and participate in the EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) program as a way to support Nazareth. EITC donors receive a 90 percent credit on their personal tax returns for 90% of their donation amount which amplifies their donations by a multiple of 10 using Pennsylvania state tax dollars they must pay regardless of their participation in EITC. It is just another way to sustain an institution we are confident will be a nurturing and academically challenging arena for our daughter for the next four years and that prepares her for life beyond high school.

EITC and OSTC Programs

Redirect a Portion of your State Taxes to the Students of Nazareth Academy

Who is Eligible?



Businesses

that are S-Corps, C-Corps, LLCs and limited partnerships.

Benefits–Businesses:

- Receive up to 90% of your contribution back as a credit on your PA tax bill
- Receive a federal charitable deduction equal to your contribution
- The combination of state and federal tax benefits often means the participants in these programs receive more money in return than what was initially contributed.

4 Simple Ways to Apply–Businesses:

- Submit online EITC/OSTC Application at dced.pa.gov/eitc or dced.pa.gov/ostc
- Receive approval from state with DCED Approval Letter
- Submit contribution within 60 days to the Holy Family Foundation for Nazareth Academy
- Send a copy of the Receipt of Contribution to the DCED within 90 days



Individuals

that earn yearly income of at least \$115,000 and owe at least \$3,500 in state income taxes.

Benefits–Individuals:

- Receive up to 90% state tax credit for 2-year commitment
- Receive up to 75% state tax credit for 1-year commitment
- Federal charitable tax deduction of at least 10%

4 Simple Ways to Apply–Individuals:

- Determine eligibility with accountant
- Complete and submit Joinder Agreement supplied by Nazareth Academy, BLOCS, or other SPE
- Receive approval from the Special Purpose Entity
- Make contribution to Nazareth Fund at Nazareth Academy High School or other SPE to be forwarded to Nazareth

To learn more, contact Cecilia Biello, Director of Development, at 215-268-1048 or CBiello@NazarethAcademyHS.org.

Back to School 2020 – Our Hybrid Learning Model



Back to school 2020 may look different, but the Nazareth education remains top-notch! Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, Nazareth Academy faculty, staff, and administration are all working diligently and collaboratively in a new, hybrid model of education. Although the conditions have changed dramatically, their commitment has never wavered. They have creatively pivoted to continue to provide the excellent, high-level Nazareth education that our students and families are accustomed to.

Each student is assigned to a specific learning cohort, Blue or Gold, that alternates weekly between being present in school or participating remotely from home. Students may also opt to work remotely full-time. Each class is livestreamed through the course's Microsoft Teams page. New technology was purchased to support the hybrid learning model. Every classroom is outfitted with a camera, an additional monitor, and speakers to facilitate interaction and learning with ease.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff was paramount when developing this model. The cohort model allows for social distancing in the classrooms and throughout the building. Each morning, prior to entering the building, everyone is required to complete a digital wellness checklist. Protective face coverings are required at all times while in the building. New tables, benches, and chairs have been placed around campus to allow for classes and lunches to be held outside. Directional signs, social distancing reminders, and hand sanitizer stations are strategically placed throughout the building. Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing regimens are performed throughout each day.

Even with half of the student body on campus each day, their spirit and energy still magically transform the halls and classrooms on Grant Avenue. By following all of the protocols of the CDC, PA Department of Education, and those built into our own hybrid learning model, we look forward to when we will all be safely together again - sooner, rather than later.



A Letter from the Board Chair



Dear Alumnae, Parents, and Friends of Nazareth Academy,

One of the greatest assets of Nazareth Academy High School is the strength of its community. From the time prospective students and their families begin their journey with us, to decades far beyond graduation, our community members share a unique bond forged by mutual experience.

Our 2020 experience has included the uncertainty that comes during times of spiritual and intellectual challenge. However, it has also created new opportunities to re-imagine how we engage with the world and how we help our students to do the same. Our Nazareth community has overcome today's unique hurdles with ingenuity and agility. Led by our dedicated school leadership, both faculty and students alike have risen to the challenge. In-person and remote classes, labs, morning prayers and communal Liturgies – celebrated in-person and virtually – continue to bind the community together as a family, one in communion with God and one another.

The Board of Trustees is so grateful for the safety of our community. We are also incredibly thankful for the generosity shown by alumnae, parents, and friends. Whether it was supporting our girls through the Nazareth Fund, EITC, or one of our annual in-person and virtual events, your investment is important and makes a difference. Your philanthropy provides the resources for the school to enhance and expand its mission of embracing faith, family, and education – an education that encourages and enables our young women to serve, lead, and strive to make a difference in our world. We look forward to our continued partnership in developing 21st century global citizens.

These are extraordinary times, and we are blessed to be a part of this extraordinary community.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth bless you and keep you safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Brendan O'Brien".

Sister Brendan O'Brien, CSFN

Board Chair



Annual Report of Donors

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Class of 1978
Class of 1970
Class of 1979
Class of 1951
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 Class of 1966
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 Class of 1985
 Class of 1979
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Annual Report of Donors

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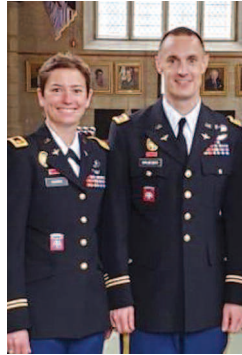
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Alumnae Spotlights

Major Christine (Kawoczka) Krueger '04



While one might not often associate the halls of an all-girls Catholic high school as the place where future military leaders of America are nurtured, Nazareth Academy has a strong tradition of alumnae who have served proudly in the United States Armed Forces.

One such graduate is Major Christine Krueger.

After graduating from Nazareth in 2004, Krueger attended the United States Military Academy where she earned a degree in Engineering Management in 2008 before pursuing a career in aviation.

"I am grateful for the nurturing environment and the challenging academics that Nazareth provided," Krueger said. "It prepared me exceptionally well for West Point."

After graduation, Krueger was commissioned as an Aviation Officer and earned her pilot's wings as a UH-60 Blackhawk

pilot. Since that time, she has amassed over 500 combat flight hours and achieved Pilot in Command status after serving as an Assistant Operations Officer fulfilling roles as both Battle Captain and Air Mission Request Officer while on deployment in Afghanistan in 2011 and 2012. She has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

She was recently promoted to operations researcher at the Center for Army Analysis.

Throughout her career, education has always remained a strong focus in Krueger's life as she has earned Master's degrees in Project Management from Drexel University in 2014 and Operation Research from Northeastern University in 2017. She has also worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Systems Engineering at the United States Military Academy.

This pursuit of knowledge is something Krueger says was fostered at Nazareth.

"The school sparked my lifelong pursuit of learning," Krueger said. "Additionally, the confidence the school encouraged in me set the foundation for the leader I would become and continue to evolve as."

When not working Krueger enjoys spending time with her husband, Major David Krueger, a strategist at the National Defense University, and her children Abigail (5) and James (2).

The Guest Sisters – A Family Tradition



One of the words one will most often hear associated with Nazareth Academy High School is "sisterhood". It is something that is palpable in the hallways, athletic fields, and classrooms at Nazareth.

For Megan Guest Rosso '99, Colleen Guest Marchetta '01, and Katie Guest Kurek '03, the word takes on an extra special meaning as these real-life sisters used Nazareth as a springboard for stellar careers in medicine and law while staying committed to making the world around them a better place.

"At Nazareth, I learned that we are a community at heart," Marchetta said. "We are a community of faith both in the school as well as our local and global communities. There are no strangers, only sisters and brothers in the Lord. We have the responsibility to respond to the needs of others because we are all part of God's family. The importance of service is a lesson I try to exemplify and teach my children."

Alumnae Spotlights

This drive to serve the community is something that all three sisters have pursued in both their time as students at Nazareth and in their professional and personal lives.

Rosso, the eldest of the three, is currently an attending physician at Virtua Voorhees and Virtua Camden after stints at Doylestown Hospital, Presbyterian Medical Center and Albert Einstein Medical Center while Marchetta works as an emergency medicine physician at the Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center.

It is a career path that both sisters come by honestly as their father was an ER doctor and their mother was an ER nurse.

“Our parents exemplified the Jesuit philosophy that ‘Our education is for the service of others,’” Marchetta said. “I always admired their compassion toward others, as well as their dedication to a life of service in the medical field.”

While Marchetta and Rosso followed in their parents’ footsteps, Kurek, the youngest of the three, is a graduate of Rutgers University, School of Law, and currently works as a Regulatory Officer at the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

Kurek, much like her sisters, was strongly influenced by her parents’ call to service.

“I am doing what I love by working in public service at the Department of Health,” Kurek said. “I find that working in public service is a very gratifying job where I can use my education and skills to help our community stay healthy and safe by supporting public health efforts in our communities.”

While all three sisters have had their share of professional successes, they have also found balance in their personal lives remaining close to each other and their Nazareth roots as they are married and raise their families – Rosso and Kurek have three children and Marchetta has four - within a half an hour of each other.

“My sisters are not only my best friends, but my role models,” Marchetta said. “I learn from both of them every day. They are amazing mothers, sisters, friends and

professionals. I know I can always count on them for advice during difficult times.”

Each sister has also found time to pursue other ambitions such as athletics and travel as Marchetta competes in triathlons and Kurek and Rosso studied in London and Australia, respectively.

Rosso even runs her own lifestyle blog called mamasnmedicine.com, that she describes as “our little way for women to share tips about quality products and ideas that simplify life and bring joy.”

Despite all of their accomplishments, these three women still credit their time at Nazareth with giving them the strong educational and spiritual foundation to take on all of the challenges they would face.

“The all-women academic community of Nazareth Academy taught me so much about the importance of women supporting women – because, let’s face it – being a woman is not easy!” Rosso said. “Raising a family and working in healthcare are challenging jobs. They can be rewarding, exciting, exhausting, difficult and emotional all in one.”

“As a woman in society, you are often taught that you are in competition with one another,” Marchetta said echoing her sister’s sentiment. “The friendships I formed at Nazareth taught me the ‘power of the pack.’ I learned that our true power as women is in raising each other up, celebrating our victories collectively, and channeling the power of collaboration. My Nazareth friends have taught me that when you empower other women, we all shine.”

Fortunately, that shine is something the Guest sisters have brought to the Nazareth community for many years.



If you’d like to share your story for our Alumnae Spotlights, I’d love to talk with you and learn your history with Nazareth. Call or email me, Cecilia Biello, Director of Development, at 215-268-1048 or CBiello@NazarethAcademyHS.org.

We always enjoy hearing from our Alumnae, whether you graduated fifty years ago or five! Stay in touch & let us know what’s new in your life. Update your information at NazarethAcademyHS.org/InfoUpdate.

Legacy Day of Caring 2020

While we could not gather for our annual gala last spring, our Nazareth family did celebrate together virtually for our Legacy Day of Caring 2020.

Throughout the day, our honorees, sponsors, and our students were highlighted on social media, showcasing the joy, faith and mission of the entire Nazareth community.

Our Nazareth family is one that cares for and supports one another – students, teachers, parents, alumnae and friends. This year we were proud to honor Mrs. Pat Quinn P'04 and Joe Connelly & Sons, who have continually demonstrated their caring and commitment to Nazareth over the years. We are thankful for their generosity of time, talent, and treasure, and their lasting impact on our students and entire community.

By pivoting to a virtual Legacy Day of Caring, we were still able to raise almost \$40,000 – all for our Nazareth girls!



Mrs. Denise LePera, President, was happy to present the Legacy Award in person, once we were back on campus, to Mrs. Pat Quinn P'04, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs.



The Nazareth Fund

The girls of Nazareth Academy High School thrive thanks to the ongoing annual support from **YOU** - our Nazareth community - alumnae, parents, grandparents, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends alike.

*Every dollar **YOU** donate to The Nazareth Fund goes directly toward enhancing the experience and education of the current girls on Grant Avenue.*

*Every dollar **YOU** donate to The Nazareth Fund has an immediate impact - no gift is too great or too small.*

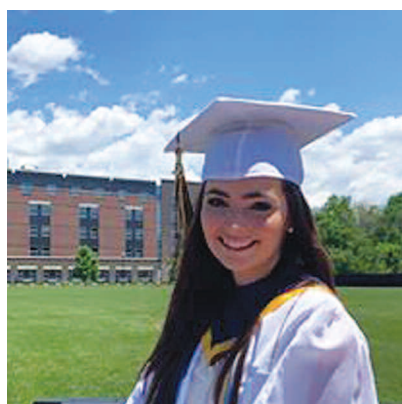
YOU can make a difference and influence the future – allowing our girls to excel, dream, create, explore, and lead.



Support our girls at NazarethAcademyHS.org/OnlineGiving

Congratulations to our Class of 2020

It is always bittersweet as our graduates move on to the next phase of their life journey, but it was a bit more so in 2020 with the limitations imposed by the pandemic. The members of the Class of 2020 were our main priority as we planned and held socially distant celebrations to let them know how proud we are of their amazing accomplishments. They will always be close to our hearts and have a home here on Grant Avenue.



Welcome to our newest sisters, the Class of 2024!



A new school year, even in 2020, always brings the excitement of the freshman class, so eager to begin their Panda journey. Even in our hybrid model of learning, we safely continued many of our memorable traditions. With two cohorts of freshmen, it was double the fun! Student Council members greeted the freshmen on the Chapel steps with posters and noisemakers as they arrived on their first day. Freshman Week included Crazy Hair & Makeup Day, Celebrity Day, and Freshman Day when they all dressed in green and held the Little Miss Freshman Pageant. We are excited to have the Class of 2024 join the Nazareth sisterhood!



Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd Society

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 we are incredibly grateful for 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 can continue providing the Nazareth education 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 Nazareth Academy High School can help you achieve all of those goals.

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

- 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 plan for 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:

- 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 life-income gift.

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

A Bequest is a gift to Nazareth Academy High School designated in 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 needed. Yet for all their ease and simplicity, we take bequests very seriously at Nazareth. Your bequest can help to solidify our future financial strength, and allow us to continue to evolve as a premier educational institution, preparing our future leaders. A "pipeline" of bequests allows us to plan confidently today and act decisively tomorrow.



Members of the Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd Society

Mrs. Ann Carol Singlar Cahill '56
Ms. Christine Kearney '72

Ms. Gail Pitcher '79
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Mondzelewski

Ms. Katharine Hammeke '72

For questions or more information, please contact:
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NAZARETH ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

*Embracing **faith, family, and education**, Nazareth Academy High School is a welcoming community that allows young women to confidently **learn, grow, and thrive**.*

Virtual 8th Grade Shadow Days

October through December

Online 8th Grade Entrance & Scholarship Exam

Saturday, November 7th

Visit NazarethAcademyHS.org/Admissions for more information!