

Alumni Saint Spotlight



Nick Nawa (HN 2011), Industrial Designer, graduated from Philadelphia University with a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Design. He then spent a year working in a product design consulting firm where he had interned during college, working on everything from kids' toys to food packaging and even some after-market car parts. From there Nick was lucky enough to land an internship at Timberland on their outdoor footwear design team and has been in footwear design ever since. In his current role Nick designs work boots for tradesmen and women and hiking boots for the US and Canadian markets with a growing focus on sustainability and closing the growing skills gap in both regions.

How do you feel your education from Holy Name helped get you where you are today?

I knew in high school that I wanted to do something creative, but that was about it. I give a lot of credit to Mrs. Burt for letting me in to the advanced art class at the time, which not only taught me fine art skills, but also gave me an opportunity to meet a few classmates who had a better plan/path they wanted to follow than I did. To be completely honest I didn't know Industrial Design existed until my Senior year when I took that class. On Career Day, we had a guy from Crayola come in and talk to us about product engineering (which works hand in hand with product design) and from that point on I had a plan. I was even lucky enough to get an internship at Crayola out of that connection (Thanks again, Mr. Ditsky!).

What advice would you give to current Berks Catholic students?

Buy Bitcoin – Just kidding. Seriously though, don't think you need to have it all figured out. Just take a chance on SOMETHING and fully commit for a while. There's no shame in needing to change course later on. One other thing I've found being in this industry is that college doesn't always need to be the answer. There are plenty of avenues to "success."

Tell us a little bit about yourself and what you like to do in your spare time.

Since graduating college, I've moved up to the North East and spend most of my free time hiking, climbing, snowboarding, and as of recently surfing.

