



Nazareth Academy High School

2023-24 Annual Report

Embracing Faith, Family, and Education



Empowering Innovation:



Students in the Innovation Center think outside the box while engaging in real-world project modules focused on additive manufacturing, aerospace, business and technology, creative studies, digital arts, electronics, engineering, entrepreneurship, product design, and sustainability.

Dear Nazareth Academy High School Community,



Nazareth Academy High School is pleased to present its Annual Report for the 2023–24 school year. I wish I could take credit for all the achievements and accomplishments, but honestly, I cannot. I started as Interim President on a reduced schedule in July and grew to full strength in August 2024. What you will view on these pages are details of how so many people contributed to imbuing the “Faith, Family, and Education” mission in our girls living in the first quarter of the twenty-first century.

The robust recruitment, interviewing and hiring of a permanent President are the tasks embraced by our Board of Trustees. Many have offered their views on the qualities, skills and talents needed for the position. I offer a quote from former First Lady Rosalyn Carter (1927–2023):

“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”

The quote begs for a vision beyond the present view. The stakeholders of Nazareth should expect nothing less.

Where They Want to Go

To understand what has been accomplished recently, scan through the articles, then read a few in depth, the ones that spark your interest. Each feature demonstrates success achieved through your investments in the Academy.

Like all Catholic schools, Nazareth focuses on a Christocentric education, but we do it with enthusiasm. The app *Hallow* allows us to pray without severe interruption. A Mass in the chapel builds our believing community. Suspending classes for a prayer service or Eucharistic Adoration shows the capturing of precious time apart from the busyness of a daily school schedule. These are the things that differentiate our Academy and other faith-based schools. The Mission of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, however, is a tread (steel cable) to which all else is attached: activities, classes, labs, chorus, music, sports, projects, experiments, innovative projects, science, clubs, service, and technology.

According to Socrates, “the unexamined life is not worth living.” The academic integrity of our Academy is guaranteed through a seven-year cycle of the Middle States Association evaluation. Our next official visit from an evaluation team of seasoned educators will be in the Spring 2026. The Academy’s self-study has begun and more will be shared as the process unfolds.

On the business side, enrollment is trending toward one hundred students per class year. Upgrades to the building are explored and placed in strategic order for our summer projects. Maintenance of the campus and building improvements are daily chores. Always, there is the call to be as safe and secure as possible.

Where They Ought to Be

There is no scarcity of challenges. A sustained outreach to alumnae and current donors is essential, an annual report is expected. There may have been a time when tuition and fee revenue was sufficient to support a private academy, but this is no longer the case. A question that begs to be answered centers around “sustainability.” We want Nazareth to be available for years upon years to come. Indeed, a source of income through philanthropy charts the Academy’s future. It is the backbone of any independent school, and takes various forms: annual fund gifts, bequests, planned giving, and endowment investment through donor designated scholarship gifts. You can find many of these listed on these pages.

Relationships are to be cultivated. Potential donors must be invited into the family circle. Fundraising events, although they build community, do so at the expense of time invested in planning and execution.

Thanks for helping us to get to “where we want to go,” and propelling us to “where we ought to be.”

James E. Dalton, OSFS

(Rev.) James E. Dalton, OSFS
Interim President

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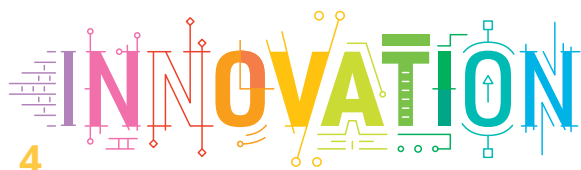
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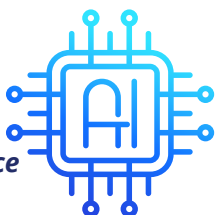
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Dear Friends of Nazareth Academy,



The academic curriculum at Nazareth Academy High School is thriving as we continue fostering intellectual skills and assist students with preparedness for college. Our smaller class sizes provide individualized instruction which allows the faculty to adapt their teaching methodology to meet the needs of each student and promotes a greater understanding of material presented.

Through the rigorous curriculum offered at Nazareth Academy, students acquire emphasized skills including critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving. All classes are offered at either college prep, honors, or advanced placement levels which allows for the flexibility to meet each student's need and design curricula based upon their interests and specific college goals. In addition to our diverse and challenging curricula, we have partnerships with Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute and Holy Family University which offer additional course selections for specialized student requests.

In the fall of 2025, we will be launching our new Pre-Health Major Program which is intended for students who are focused on pursuing health careers. You can read more about this initiative in the magazine and learn how we are partnering current students with NAHS alumnae for externships. The magazine cover is an introduction to our state-of-the-art Innovation Center which is led by Dr. Greg Severino, who also wrote the feature story for this publication. This center is the home of our iSTEM programs and provides an opportunity for cross-curricular learning.

Nazareth Academy students have an innate sense of community and are committed to assisting those who are marginalized. These experiences are an invaluable addition to their NAHS education and instill a sense of responsibility and citizenship. Students who attend Nazareth Academy High School are well-equipped to succeed in college and beyond as evidenced by our successful graduates. These young women have a superior profile in academics, in addition, they embrace a multifaceted experience to include athletics, the arts, and extracurricular activities.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community, you are making a wonderful difference for tomorrow's leaders.

Patricia Quinn, M.S., M.C.E.

Patricia Quinn, M.S., M.C.E.

Principal

OUR MISSION

Nazareth Academy High School is a Catholic, private, fully accredited college preparatory school for young women, sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Empowering Innovation:

***Cultivating the Next Generation of Innovators
at Nazareth Academy High School Through
iSTEM Project-Based Learning***



***The technological foundation of the Innovation Center
rivals many university-level innovation labs
in scope and complexity. In many ways, it resembles
a professional product design firm.***



By: Dr. Gregory Severino
Innovation Center Director

One thing is certain in a world marked by exponential technological change: our challenges as a nation and global society will continue to become more complex. Technology permeates every aspect of our lives, artificial intelligence opens new opportunities for organizations to refine and innovate, and skilled professionals discover new inroads for their talents. It is not an exaggeration to say that our students will one day face vocational challenges previously unimagined in today's world. Education is the key to progress in any circumstance, and the instructional modus operandi for preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century is integrative STEM (iSTEM) education.

There is much debate on what constitutes iSTEM education, but it is not something anyone should consider a static approach to teaching or a set of predefined learning outcomes. No, iSTEM education is a dynamic enterprise that builds learning environments that foster critical thinking, sound technical skills development, and learning that mirrors the professional world. Technological applications play a significant role in iSTEM delivery, which applies to all aspects of iSTEM learning. As teachers nationwide seek new ways to promote better student educational outcomes aligned with societal progress, it is imperative to be mindful of how vital technology should be in daily instruction.

In the future, students in today's classrooms will be in many social and economic leadership positions. They will need keen insights and emphatic, holistic visions of their organizations to ensure prosperity, social improvement, and sound stewardship of the planet for present and future generations. The iSTEM education they receive today should equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in these leadership roles.

The Nazareth Academy Innovation Center embodies this ethos. The Innovation Center delivers an iSTEM education that



Students explore 3D CAD design techniques.

epitomizes the critical fundamentals of what scholarship identifies as needed skills to flourish in a global workforce. These skills are delivered through what can be called innovation education, where experiential, project-based learning promotes active student engagement in interdisciplinary tasks. However, the teacher is not the sole guide in this learning process. No, the student also directs where her learning leads by identifying deliverables related to a project's task. This self-facilitating approach to personalized learning is aided dramatically by advancements in A.I. technologies. In many ways, the learning experience in the Innovation Center mirrors the sweeping advancements in organizational thinking and action made possible by artificial intelligence platforms.

The scope of our work in the Innovation Center is, essentially, everything. We design and make products connected with student interests and direct our energies to improve the world around us. Students think outside the box while engaging in real-world project modules focused on additive manufacturing, aerospace sciences, business and technology, concept development, creative studies, digital arts, electronics, engineering, entrepreneurship, product design, and sustainability. They learn to embrace setbacks, envision new learning opportunities, collaborate effectively in teams, and apply a systems engineering approach to solving complex problems. The Innovation Center instructional methodology aligns with scholarly insights on how authentic, experiential learning environments cultivate innovative thinking for all professional skill sets.

The Innovation Center is a hub of authentic product design within the Nazareth Academy community. The hands-on nature of the projects, from designing a 3D-printed prototype of an assistive medical device to leading a startup with a product or service you design and manufacture, is sure to engage students of various interests and skill backgrounds. The possibilities for our making are endless, and the learning is always practical and tangible.

The Innovation Center's technological foundation rivals many university-level innovation labs in scope and complexity. The Innovation Center should not be considered a conventional makerspace – it operates like a professional product design firm. Cutting-edge tools and machinery make rapid prototyping possible for numerous design applications. The Innovation Center features multiple computer workstations, 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, crafting supplies, and software packages for



The Nazareth Academy Innovation Team begins prototyping.



From digital design to reality – students turn concepts in creations with additive manufacturing technologies.

almost any graphic design or CAD work. The room has modular furniture for collaborative group activities, whiteboard surfaces for students to record their ideas quickly, and dedicated work zones for specific skills development. Our students don't just tinker; they follow real-world project workflows, integrating iSTEM principles and entrepreneurial thinking at every step. By applying rigorous design cycles, collaborating across disciplines, and leveraging industry-grade tools, we create a dynamic, experiential iSTEM learning environment that prepares future innovators to tackle complex problems with skill and confidence.

The Innovation Center opened in Fall 2020. Initially, the primary goal behind its construction was to promote iSTEM education across all academic departments. Since then, the facility has become a professional design space, bridging academic subject areas with professional iSTEM work. Students complete project modules that follow product design cycles defined by industry standards and professional organizations. But it's not just about designing and making: a crucial instructional goal is to develop a student's systems-level understanding of project workflows. As students work in the Innovation Center, they see projects as combined efforts and employ holistic thinking to manage every aspect of a design cycle. The result is practical student thinking that can utilize technology, practice iteration, and evaluate product deployments with pragmatism and critical review.

Nazareth Academy's students become familiar with the Innovation Center during their first year through a sixteen-session orientation class that teaches iSTEM and innovation design concepts. This comprehensive introduction ensures students are well-prepared for coursework in upper-level product design classes that include advanced CAD modeling projects. Furthermore, as students build their skill sets and experience in working with the Innovation Center's tools and technologies, they also build a resume of technical work for their college admissions portfolio.

Industriousness and unbounded creativity characterize a given day within the Innovation Center. Nazareth students create impactful projects showcasing their technical skills in scientific, economic, and social disciplines. In a recent project module, a senior product design class undertook the task of developing the perfect SMART home environment. Working in the roles of a startup company and a contracted product design firm, student teams crafted more than a dozen 3D printed models of SMART home devices, built an entire marketing and communications package with digital art software, designed and crafted SMART home models with infrastructure, interior designs, and surrounding landscapes, and finally, made a professional pitch of their startup to local community stakeholders consisting of architects, civil engineers, and civic leaders. This final stakeholder meeting was more than just a grading session for the students: it connected their iSTEM learning with fieldwork shaped by industry standards. Significantly, student testimonials reflect



Nazareth Academy students prepare rocket designs for field analysis.

the value of this kind of authentic learning. Gianna S., a Nazareth Academy Senior and President of the National Technical Honor Society, remarks, “during my four years at Nazareth Academy, I have done a lot of technical work in the Innovation Center. The work promotes leadership, service, and academic excellence.” Meghan G., a Junior, remarks, “working in the Innovation Center introduced many new technologies that have helped me strengthen my designing, developing, and construction skills.”

After four years of growth, professional organizations are taking notice of the excellence found in Nazareth Academy's Innovation Center iSTEM programming. Student work has earned national awards in aerospace sciences, product design, and communications. To help imbue a greater authenticity in our design work, the Innovation Center is partnered with local universities and product design firms to enrich student learning. And, ambitious plans are underway to maintain Nazareth Academy's iSTEM learning distinction. In Fall 2025, the school will offer new courses focused on iSTEM design education. Courses like Advanced Product Design – CAD for Engineering will empower students to conceptualize, develop, and test product designs using Fusion and Solidworks. Innovation Launchpad for Entrepreneurship will encourage students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset as they manage decision-making in all phases of a business startup. Sustainability in Urban Development will educate students on how to build civilian communities featuring environmentally sound approaches to urban management. These courses represent Nazareth Academy's dedication to providing its students with an education characterized by best practices in iSTEM experiential learning.

Nazareth Academy invites community members to tour the Innovation Center and see firsthand how students accomplish their iSTEM work. Parents interested in choosing Nazareth Academy



Student leaders discuss aspects of product development.

for their daughter's education may also tour the facility, and prospective students routinely visit the Center during the academic year. For Innovation Center news, Nazareth Academy's social media outlets frequently share stories of project developments, open houses, innovation fairs, and product design showcase events. Current information about the project modules underway in the Innovation Center is also available on the school's website.

In conclusion, Nazareth Academy prepares tomorrow's problem solvers and leaders by providing a dynamic, professional learning environment. As the school looks to the future, it will continue to expand its programs based on the latest advancements in educational research. Nazareth Academy invites everyone to join in on this inspiring journey through support, collaboration, or simply sharing in our vision to empower the next generation to make a lasting difference in our world.



Dr. Severino evaluates a senior product design team for their systems thinking and iSTEM literacy.

Fall 2025: Nazareth Academy Establishes a Pre-Health Major

The rigorous academic curriculum at Nazareth Academy High School is deeply rooted in the educational principles established by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. A student-centered focus encourages students to discover their unique talents and ambitions through small class sizes and faculty involvement which fosters learning that is meaningful and relevant. Our steadfast commitment to academic excellence is demonstrated through the enhanced programs and opportunities offered to students such as dual enrollment and the Pre-Health Major Program launching in the fall of 2025.



As students' progress through their four years at Nazareth Academy, they have an opportunity to participate in dual-enrollment courses at Holy Family University. Through this partnership, NAHS students can enroll in any 100-level course not currently offered at Nazareth Academy, and they receive dual credit at both schools. Our affiliation with the Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute provides additional course selections offered to students in 11th and 12th grades which may be used to satisfy the elective credits required for graduation. These options include AP Microeconomics, Law and Society, Catholic Authors, and Intro to Veterinary Careers.

The Pre-Health Major Program will be open to juniors and seniors who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and are focused on pursuing health careers. These students must meet certain requirements including the completion of four science courses by senior year and two other health-related courses from a selection that includes Psychology, Statistics, Criminalistic Forensics, and others. Enrolled students must also complete a minimum of five hours per year of service or enrichment related to health careers. These opportunities may include certification in CPR or Basic Life Support, volunteering

with a service organization, attending a health workshop, and participation in a health-related externship program.

Many Nazareth Academy alumnae have pursued successful health careers, including Sheri Tittermary McCollum, D.O., FACR '00. Dr. McCollum is a practicing rheumatologist and private practice owner in Doylestown, PA who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of diseases, including various types of arthritis and autoimmune disorders. Sheri credits her academic curriculum at Nazareth Academy High School for "playing a pivotal role in preparing me for my medical career by offering an exceptional curriculum that emphasized critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential in the medical field. The supportive faculty provided guidance and encouragement, fostering an environment where I could explore and deepen my understanding of complex subjects. Additionally, the numerous leadership and service opportunities available allowed me to build confidence and develop the strong interpersonal skills necessary for a successful career in medicine. This comprehensive experience laid a strong foundation for my future endeavors in healthcare."



Dr. Sheri McCollum '00

The initiative to introduce the Pre-Health Major Program for students at NAHS was established through the collaboration of Mrs. Patricia Quinn, Principal; Mrs. Theresa Moore, Assistant Principal for Academics; and Mrs. Amy McDonald, Science Department Chairperson. The recognition of the tremendous success that many Nazareth Academy alumnae have attained in this field, along with the interest of current students to pursue this academic curriculum, generated the research and planning to bring this program to fruition. Mrs. McDonald stated, "The Pre-Health Major program is a focused, higher-level high school program, rather than just a series of disconnected courses. Nazareth's focus is towards higher, pre-professional education, which will continue to promote health careers among our students, offer real-world experiences to aid in career discernment through speakers and externships, and enhance college applications. By engaging with alumnae working in health careers, completing additional service opportunities above what is already required, and promoting externships and shadowing opportunities, the Pre-Health Major will be a helpful college-prep experience for Nazareth students. This comprehensive program will further strengthen alumnae-student relations and reinforce students' Catholic identity in their career goals and preparation. There are numerous Nazareth students each year who go on to pursue degrees in health-related fields, and Nazareth's Pre-Health Major is a valuable tool for students to explore and learn more about possible careers in healthcare."

The interest and success of our alumnae to pursue careers in the medical field significantly contributed to the development of this program at Nazareth Academy High School. As we launch this new initiative, we are seeking mentors and externships for students enrolled in this curriculum in September 2025. For more information on participating in this program, please scan the QR code or contact Theresa Moore, tmoore@nazarethacademyhs.org.





When Todd DeCaesar completed his three-year Army career as a Specialist E4 13B Field Artilleryman in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in 1997, he decided to pursue a profession in the up-and-coming technology field. Todd enrolled in a few classes at Temple and Penn State Universities before attaining accreditation as a Microsoft Certified Network Engineer from Computer Learning Center. This certification directed him to apply for a newly created position at Nazareth Academy High School (NAHS), and one that he still holds 25 years later.

Sister Jeannette Lawlor, CSFN, the principal of NAHS, hired Mr. DeCaesar to be the first Director of Technology effective January 1, 2000. This newly created position enabled Todd to assist Sister Maryann McKeogh, CSFN who had been supporting the school in this area by covering the student and business networks along with teaching daily classes. They collaborated through the end of the school year and Sister Maryann returned to full-time status in the classroom in September before moving on to Holy Family University in the summer of 2001. At the time, the two computer labs, along with the business, academic, and attendance offices, were the only rooms in the school that were connected to an outside network. Nazareth Academy was using Integra and Dell computers, which had been purchased through a grant from the Connelly Foundation, along with laser jet printers. Research was still being done with encyclopedias and magazines found in the school library, and students also had access to the library on Holy Family University's campus.

The summer of 2001 saw the implementation of the first major technology project for Nazareth Academy with the installation of all new electric, Internet and phone wiring. Todd stated, "before these upgrades I was limited in being able to look anything up online. There was no Google or YouTube access yet, and since we were using a dial-up network I would have to sit in the back of a classroom in order to log on. In fact, I couldn't even do this until after 9:00 a.m. because the shared service was also used by the attendance office, so I had to wait until they were done using it." The upgrades elevated access to the Internet, however, the original computers were still used for another five to six years.

There were many challenges with installing new wiring including the necessity to do it externally in the classrooms because of the granite and concrete used in the building. The total project took over a year for the school to complete and brought Nazareth into the 21st century with a new network, Internet, phones, televisions, cable TV, bell system, and closed-circuit TV with the reintroduction of Naz News. Internet access for the convent side of the building did not arrive until it was wired after the school obtained the space from the Sisters in 2012. Also in 2012, Mr. DeCaesar purchased a Microsoft Surface Tablet to share with a selected classroom teacher to test pilot mobile devices in the classroom for the teachers and students. By 2014, all faculty members had mobile computers to dock in their classrooms, throughout the building, or at home. This year also marked the first-time installation of Wi-Fi on the NAHS campus.

Throughout the last 25 years, Todd DeCaesar has seen the evolution of technology and both the attributes and challenges as it impacts our school community. Computers have evolved into larger screens where almost all the information goes to the "cloud." Firewall protection has shifted from our first version – Sonic Wall, to Cisco and today's current version, Palo Alto, which provides network protection and restricts access from others. For many years, the smart boards as we know them today were originally a projector mounted in the middle of the classroom and connected to an interactive board. According to Todd, "today, smart boards are basically giant computers with a built-in television. It has its own network, and the future will allow voice activation on the device."

The initiation of enhanced technology begun by Todd DeCaesar is cyclical and will be constantly in motion for many years to come at Nazareth Academy High School. Recent upgrades completed in the summer of 2024 include significant Wi-Fi expansion with growth from 25 to 70 access points throughout the building. Each classroom has their own Wi-Fi access point as the demand for this capability has increased with technological growth. Todd noted "today, students, faculty, and staff have more than one device that requires Wi-Fi. Instead of just having a computer, we have watches, phones, and earbuds that all require this technology to function." A brand-new server with virtualization technology was recently installed to take the place of five physical servers to service the entire network's needs all in one machine.

The future is destined to bring many more changes to the technological landscape at Nazareth Academy High School. Mr. DeCaesar stated "the future is artificial intelligence (AI). It's happening now and will continue to impact technology in many ways. AI will streamline education and make learning much easier. Also, everything today is a Reel which provides constant stimulation. It's short and to the point but is also useful because videos can educate. Technology is all about how you use it, and the future is already starting with the initiation of everything being on a screen."

Honor Veterans

Through Partnership with the Travis Manion Foundation

When the Travis Manion Foundation first visited Nazareth Academy High School in the Fall of 2022, it offered students the opportunity to learn more about themselves and discover the importance of cultivating the values that define a leader. Caitlyn Wnek '25 and Casey Derouin '25 stated, "when you think of a leader, you may think about a parent, a sibling, or a teacher, but the most influential and inspiring role models are our veterans. We started the Travis Manion Foundation Club to support and give back to our active-duty military members and veterans."



On April 29, 2007, 1st Lieutenant Travis Manion and his fellow Marines were ambushed while searching a home in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Travis was fatally wounded when he led the counterattack and drew fire away from his fellow teammates. Lt. Travis Manion, USMC, was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Bronze

Star with Valor, and his incredibly courageous actions allowed every member of his patrol to survive.

"If not me, then who..." is the mantra that Travis Manion lived by, and this phrase has inspired his family and friends to answer the call to continue his legacy by making a difference for others. Through their dedication and commitment to honoring Travis, the Travis Manion Foundation has generated a global network that provides support and resources for military members and their families, while also instilling leadership values in young adults.

Character Does Matter is a hallmark program of the Travis Manion Foundation that provides youth mentorship led by veterans and families of fallen veterans. Mr. Robert Craven, an Air Force Veteran and special agent for the Department of Homeland Security, is also a Gold Star Father. He came to Nazareth Academy High School in the Fall of 2022, along with Mrs. Connie Whalen, a 21-year Navy veteran who spent her career in counseling, to meet with the first group of students selected to participate in this program. Through their mentorship, 15 NAHS students began an 8-week course in

the Spring of 2023. During their weekly sessions, students were encouraged to participate in various activities, group discussions, and small-group mentoring with the goal of inspiring these young women to lead with character in their school community.

At the completion of the *Character Does Matter* program, students select a service project for participation. The members of this cohort, led by Caitlyn, Casey, and Kathryn Rakowski '25, chose to place flags at Washington Crossing Cemetery, followed by a visit to the Delaware Valley Veterans Home where they delivered handmade cards and spent time with the veterans in residence. These experiences resonated with our students as described by Caitlyn and Casey, "acts of service like these are something we take pride in at our club. We love to show our Veterans that their service will never go unnoticed."

Caitlyn Wnek exemplifies many of the characteristics of the Travis Manion Foundation, and she has fully embraced the opportunity to lead her classmates with great character in the Nazareth Academy High School Community. She initiated the groundwork for the TMF Club at Nazareth when she reached out to Connie Whalen. Caitlyn has demonstrated tremendous leadership in organizing events and fundraisers to support the Delaware Valley Veterans home, including a dodgeball event with TMF students from Holy Ghost Prep.

In recognition of her leadership and commitment to serving others, Caitlyn Wnek was awarded the First Lieutenant Travis Manion and Corporal Michael Crescenz Award, presented by the Army-Navy Cup Host Committee to a high school soccer player (girl and boy) who best exemplifies the spirit of these two men. Caitlyn, who was nominated by Connie Whalen, was honored with this award during halftime of the Army-Navy soccer game held at Subaru Park in Chester, PA in the Fall of 2024.

The Travis Manion Foundation Club at Nazareth Academy continues to inspire young women to become leaders with character in the classroom and in their community. Statistics



Casey Derouin '25 and Annalise Tischbein '25 delivered cards to the Delaware Valley Veterans Home.



Caitlin Wnek's soccer teammates celebrated with her at the award ceremony at Subaru Park (l to r): Natalie D'Alfonso '25, Mary Mulderig '25, Caitlin Wnek '25, Erin Jackson '25, and Maddie McKenna '25.



Students who participate in the *Character Does Matter* Program through the Travis Manion Foundation participate in a service project at the completion of their program. (l to r) Caitlin Wnek '25, Kathryn Rakowski '25, Gracie Sullivan '25, and Abby Rock '25 were among the NAHS students who visited the Delaware Valley Veterans Home to deliver cards and spend time with the residents.

show that more than one in three youth reported that they do not have a positive role model in their life. Through the mentorship of the TMF, our students have the opportunity to grow in their self-reflection, confidence, leadership, and many other areas. The proven success of the students who have completed the *Character Does Matter* program is exhibited in their continued service and appreciation for our veterans. Casey, Caitlyn and the current members of the club demonstrated this when they held a prayer service on Veterans Day 2024 to honor all members of the military in the Nazareth Academy High School community including our current faculty and staff members: Mr. Todd DeCaeser (U.S. Army), Dr. Greg Severino (U.S. Army), and Mr. Steve Sonneborn (U.S. Navy). We are grateful for the admirable work that the Travis Manion Foundation Pandas have already done and we look forward to the amazing things they will do in the future.



Ryleigh Cassidy '25 and Katie Pollock '25 spent time with a veteran during a visit to the Veterans Home.



Caitlin Wnek '25 was honored for her leadership and commitment to serving others through the Travis Manion Foundation.



Caitlin Wnek was awarded the First Lieutenant Travis Manion and Corporal Michael Crescenzo Award during halftime of the Army-Navy soccer game for her exemplary leadership and representation of the spirit of both men.



Nazareth Academy students participate in the Avenue of Flags: Placement Day at Washington Crossing National Cemetery.



Kathryn Rakowski (l) and Caitlin Wnek (r) are two of the initial members of the *Character Does Matter* Program at Nazareth Academy.

PANDAS



Achieve Athletic Success in the Philadelphia Catholic League

Nazareth Academy High School became the newest member of the Philadelphia Catholic League (PCL) in the Fall of 2023, and the Pandas made their presence known quickly when they captured three PCL championships during their first year of competition. The 2023 fall season culminated with the Cross Country and Golf Teams winning both the PCL and PIAA District XII titles, while the Soccer team finished runner-up in their first Catholic League Championship appearance and rebounded to capture the District XII title which qualified them for the first round of state playoffs.

The success continued in the winter season when the Nazareth Academy Swim Team captured the Catholic League and District XII Championships, and the Basketball Team advanced to the PCL semifinals as well as the district championship and second round of the PIAA state tournament. Indoor Track & Field had eleven runners medal at the PCL Championships, and Cheerleading completed their best season in program history when they finished 5th in the nation in the Small Varsity Non-Tumbling DII.

Our spring teams had strong performances during their first year of PCL competition with Lacrosse finishing in 5th place and Softball ending up in 6th which earned both teams a spot in the playoffs. Outdoor Track & Field continued their previous success with two relay teams competing at the Penn Relays and two individual runners, as well as the 4x800 relay, qualifying for the district championships.

The storied tradition of success continues for the athletics program at Nazareth Academy. Their ability to succeed in their first year of the highly competitive Philadelphia Catholic League demonstrates the commitment of our students to excel on the field, in the pool and on the track, and they are dedicated to maintaining the proud legacy established by our alumnae.





2023-24 Philadelphia Catholic League All-Catholic Award Winners

FALL

Cross Country

First Team

Maeve Chambers '26
Annalise Dubeck '26
Olivia Fabianski '25
Delaney Glynn '25
Raquel Valois '24

Second Team

Reagan O'Neill '27
Kate Shelinsky '26

Third Team

Grace Gibson '27
Grace Giordano '24
Olivia Watson '26
Anna Wicker '27

Golf

Adriana Seravalli '27

Soccer

First Team

Devon Cheeseman '24
Reese Power '25
Gracie Sullivan '25

Second Team

Alyssa Browning '26
Grace Reteneller '24

Third Team

Abigail Rock '25

Volleyball

Second Team

Olivia Lentine '25

Tennis

First Team

Sadie Walker '26

WINTER

Basketball

First Team

Reese Power '25

Second Team

Gracie Sullivan '25

Indoor Track & Field

First Team

Maeve Chambers '26
Annalise Dubeck '26
Megan Glod '24
Reagan O'Neill '27
Raquel Valois '24

Second Team

Alexandra Dopkin '27
Camryn Fahy '27
Emma Knox '27
Reagan O'Neill '27
Raquel Valois '24

Third Team

Talia Cherkis '26

Swimming & Diving

First Team

Delaney Glynn '25
Meredith Hawkinson '27
Tatum McHugh '24
Sophia Montvydas '26
Reese Reynolds '26
Kate Shelinsky '26
Alyssa Trinh '27
Emily White '25
Anna Wicker '27

Second Team

Olivia Mastil '27

SPRING

Lacrosse

Second Team

Devon Cheeseman '24
Kaylee Schmanek '24

Third Team

Brianna Bittner '24
Kendall McLaughlin '25

Softball

Second Team

Hailey Kober '25

Third Team

Breanne Logan '26

Outdoor Track & Field

Second Team

Maeve Chambers '26
Olivia Fabianski '25
Megan Glod '24
Delaney Glynn '25
Grace Lawall '24
Reagan O'Neill '27
Kate Shelinsky '26
Raquel Valois '24

Third Team

Camryn Fahy '27



Class of 2024 College Signings

Riley Beauchmin	Iona University	Tumbling
Devon Cheeseman	Muhlenberg College	Soccer
Riley Kozole	Rowan University	Ice Hockey
Madison McGough	Holy Family University	Softball
Grace Reteneller	DeSales University	Soccer
Kaylee Schmanek	Holy Family University	Lacrosse

2023-24 Philadelphia Catholic League Championships

Cross Country, Golf, Swimming & Diving

2023-24 PIAA District XII Championships

Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Swimming & Diving





Performing Arts Flourishing at

The long-storied tradition of Performing Arts is alive and well at Nazareth Academy High School. Since the school was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1928, music has been an integral part of the academic curriculum that offers students an option to either major or minor in this subject during their four years at NAHS.

Enrollment in this program also offers students the opportunity to participate in any of our nine ensembles, and roster for in-school music lessons or music theory classes. Most students in the program begin the major and minor their freshman year however students can join at any point during their four years at Nazareth.

The Performing Arts Department is comprised of three full-time and four part-time faculty members. Throughout the academic year, these faculty members teach classes in AP Music, Music Major I, II, Honors Music Major III, and Honors Music Seminar V which is a special topics class offered to seniors. Honors Music Seminar offers students the opportunity to focus on various subject areas of their interests. Current topics include Conducting, History of Musical Theater, Music in Philadelphia, Composing, and Recording. This talented faculty also teaches over 100 music lessons each week to the 35 music majors and 56 music minors currently in the program.

Performing is an important aspect for a developing musician, and students learn the necessary skills as part of an ensemble and as a soloist. The Christmas Concert held in the Performing Arts Center features all nine ensembles performing holiday pop selections for parents, family, friends, and classmates to enjoy. This performance is followed by the Candlelight Concert which is a concert of sacred music performed in the Chapel featuring the Chorus, Chorale,

Orchestra, and Alumnae Choir. These events bring much joy and festivity to our school community as we celebrate the holidays and close out the first semester. In January, the students begin preparing for the Spring Concert which often features some pop or Broadway music. The culmination of their efforts is on display in the Spring Serenade, a concert of sacred and secular music which also features members of our alumnae choir.

The talents of Nazareth Academy High School musicians are well known in the Philadelphia area and around the world. Over the years, the Chorale has performed at world renown venues both at home and abroad including the Vatican (2000, 2013, 2020), Carnegie Hall (2019) and the Lincoln Center in Washington, D.C. (2015). During the performance tours, our instrumentalists and singers have performed in France, Ireland, Switzerland, England, Austria, and Italy. Since introducing the international tours on a biennial basis, the Music Department has twice had the opportunity to perform at the Mother House of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Rome.

In the Summer of 2024, our students had the opportunity to tour France visiting Paris, Chartres, and San Malo. They performed at the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach during the week of celebrations commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The summer of 2025 will see our inaugural Alumnae Choir performance tour embarking to Ireland where they will perform at the Newman University Church in Dublin and sing during mass at the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Knock.

Kate Chmelko, Director of Performing Arts, initiated the Alumnae Choir in the fall of 2023 with the hope of engaging fellow graduates to return to Nazareth Academy and provide an



Nazareth Academy Since 1928

opportunity and outlet for those with a passion for singing. This invitation offered an occasion for more advanced music, engaging intergenerational alumnae from 1974 to 2022 with current students. Kate noted, "the alumnae that joined our choir have inspired current Nazareth students and it reminds us that even as an adult music can offer an outlet from daily life."

Throughout the years, Nazareth Academy students have established and upheld a strong reputation for quality Musical Theater performances each fall. Recent shows include *The Sound of Music*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Legally Blonde*. Our students embrace the opportunity to participate in all aspects of a musical production whether on the stage as a member of the cast, behind the scenes on the stage crew, or sharing their musical talent in the pit orchestra. The leadership of these productions is a collaborative effort with Natalie Monari Graveley '05 at the helm as the Director continuing the legacy of her grandmother, Carol DeFino Greco. During the fall 2024 production of *Hello Dolly!* Linda Greco Monari '84 was honored as she celebrated 40 years of choreographing shows at Nazareth Academy.

The talents of our music students extend beyond the doors of Nazareth Academy with participation in All-Catholic and Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) ensembles.

During the 2023–24 academic year, NAHS musicians auditioned and were accepted into the following:

- 16 All-Catholic Chorus Members
- 5 All-Catholic Band Members
- 9 All-Catholic Orchestra Members
- 1 All-Catholic Jazz Band Member
- 5 PMEA District 12 Chorus Members
- 2 PMEA Region VI Chorus Members

Nazareth Academy High School hosted the All-Catholic Chorus Festival in 2023 and the All-Catholic Orchestra Festival in 2024, the first private school to do so in over 25 years. In other recent accolades, Mr. David Zagorski, NAHS faculty member and Director of the All-Catholic Jazz Band, was honored for his 25 years of service in music education at the 2024 PMEA State Conference.

Since 1928, music has been a vital part of the NAHS community, and that legacy not only continues today but reaches beyond the doors of Nazareth. Many of our alumnae pursue careers in various aspects of the Performing Arts, and a significant number of graduates are Music Educators in the Philadelphia area and elsewhere. As we approach the 100th anniversary of Nazareth Academy High School, we invite you to reconnect with your roots in the Music Department whether it is through participation in the Alumnae Choir or attending our concerts or the fall musical.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Kate Chmelko, Director of Performing Arts, kchmelko@nazarethacademyhs.org.



Congratulations Class of

2024!



The success and achievements of the Nazareth Academy High School Class of 2024 were celebrated during their Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation ceremony on May 31st. During the mass held in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, the graduates reflected on their experiences as members of the Nazareth community and prayed for guidance as they pursue their future goals.

The graduation ceremony, held on the campus of Holy Family University, recognized the academic accomplishments of our 69 graduates. These achievements included 13 students who attained Distinguished Honors by having a 3.75 or higher grade point average (GPA) every semester during their four years at Nazareth Academy, and eight students that earned Commended Honors by consistently attaining a 3.5 to 3.749 GPA throughout their academic curriculum.

Collectively, the Class of 2024 accrued \$28,756,614 in scholarships and institutional grants, and 100% of these graduates matriculated to traditional four-year institutions. Emma Crumbock delivered the valedictorian address to her classmates, and salutatorian Susanna Coyle shared reflection and encouragement to the newest alumnae of Nazareth Academy High School.



Class of 2024 - Distinguished Honors

Isabella Chango
Susanna Coyle
Emma Crumbock
Catherine Dotchel
Daria Heletkanycz

Anna Kane
Jerusha Magdas
Grace Palermo
Sarah Ratka
Brigid Snyder

Annaliese Steiner
Casey Stone
Sofia Tomes

2024 Colleges Attended

Arcadia University
Chestnut Hill College
DeSales University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Holy Family University
Iona University
LaSalle University
Lycoming College
Millersville University
Muhlenberg College
Pennsylvania State University –
University Park
Pratt Institute
Rowan University
Saint Joseph's University

Temple University
The University of Scranton
Thomas Jefferson University
University of Delaware
University of Maryland –
College Park
University of Massachusetts –
Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Missouri
University of South Carolina
Villanova University
West Chester University
West Virginia University
Widener University

Class of 2024 - Commended Honors

Abigail Ackerman
Mercedes Calderon
Aniela Duesler

Elizabeth Dyke
Ava Pizzo
Grace Reteneller

Ankitha Shenoy
Sarah Zdunkiewicz



Welcome Home to Our Golden Graduates from the Class of 1974!

The Class of 1974 commemorated their 50th reunion as Golden Graduates by participating in the commencement ceremony with the Class of 2024. After the conclusion of graduation, we were excited to welcome our esteemed alumnae back to campus for a reception and the opportunity to tour the school and browse the Panda Pit. We are grateful for the tremendous support of our Nazareth Academy High School Alumnae and look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition.



NAZ STUDENTS

DANCE FOR THE KIDS

When Naz-A-Thon began at Nazareth Academy High School in 2014, the goal was simply to raise \$5,000 for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in honor of Jacki Dollard '16. Jacki had been treated for papillary thyroid cancer before entering NAHS as a freshman, and the dance marathon organized by her family, friends, and fellow students at Nazareth was a way to say thank you to the doctors and nurses who treated her at CHOP.

This act of kindness has evolved into a major philanthropic event that energizes our students each year to make a difference for others. Naz-A-Thon focuses on supporting the Miracle Families, many of whom are part of our own Nazareth family. Each department that Naz-A-Thon supports at CHOP is designated through the requests of Nazareth families who have been treated in these specific departments of the hospital. All the details and fundraisers throughout the school year are organized, planned and led by our students under the direction of their moderator, Mrs. Cheryl Sylvester. Students chair various committees ranging from fundraising to operations to entertainment, and they collaborate to ensure the continued success of the dance marathon.

Naz-A-Thon 2024 was another record-breaking year with \$167,774.32 raised for the Child Life Department, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and Acquired Autonomic Dysfunction Program at CHOP. Throughout the years, the efforts and commitment of our Naz-A-Thon leaders and participants have provided significant

support and resources for many children. This dedication was celebrated in 2023 when Naz-A-Thon was honored with three awards for their tremendous accomplishments:

- **Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award**
(the Association of Fundraising Professionals)
- **Chairman's Circle**
(The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation)
- **Best Independent High School Dance Marathon**
(Miracle Network Dance Marathon)



THE MARYGOLD ACHIEVES GOLD LEVEL EXCELLENCE

The Nazareth Academy High School yearbook, *The Marygold*, achieved Gold Level status in the National Yearbook Program of Excellence for the 2024 edition. This honor reflects the dedication and commitment of our editors and staff to meet the following criteria:

- **A Meaningful Book** – at least half of your student body is in the yearbook at least three times
- **Task Master** – you have met all of your deadlines
- **Best Seller** – at least 70% of your student body has purchased a yearbook or you achieved a 2% buy rate increase compared to last year

Congratulations to our 2024 *Marygold* staff for achieving this honor under the leadership of our editors: Nell Duesler '24, Daria Heletkanycz '24, Sophia Maher '24, Clare McGlone '24, Maggie Phillips '24, Katie Pollock '25, and their moderator Mr. Tim Clark.



Your Pennsylvania Tax Dollars can make a difference for students at Nazareth Academy High School

Overview:

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax-Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs offer individuals and businesses an opportunity to receive up to a 90% tax credit against their personal PA state tax liability.



"I have committed to participating in EITC over the past several years, as I recognize the importance and need of the program. I believe that empowering all young women through education is the key to our future. Supporting a program like EITC helps provide our girls with the opportunity they deserve to succeed and create a brighter future for themselves and their communities."

Nina Tanghe Ingulli '98 P '28

Who is Eligible?

INDIVIDUALS who pay personal income tax through an LLC, S Corp, or who own or are a member of an LLP

BUSINESSES authorized to do business in Pennsylvania who are subject to one or more of the following taxes:

- Personal Income Tax – Sub-chapter s-corporations and other pass-through entities will be able to use the credit against the shareholder, member, or partners' PA personal income tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Malt Beverage Tax
- Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax (excluding surplus lines, unauthorized, domestic/foreign marine)
- Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax
- Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax
- Retaliatory Fees under section 212 of the Insurance Company Law of 1921

Sample Tax Calculations (based on a two-year commitment)

Donation to NAHS (through LLC partnership)	PA Tax Credit Reduction (90% of contribution)	Net Federal Tax Reduction for contribution of \$1,000 (3.7% tax rate)	Out-of-Pocket
\$10,000	(\$9,000)	(\$370)	\$630
\$5,000	(\$4,500)	(\$185)	\$315

* These calculations are examples only. Please consult your tax professional for information regarding your specific situation.

Benefits to Students at Nazareth Academy High School

- All funds contributed must be used for tuition assistance for students
- EITC – awards based on financial need
- OSTC – focused on children residing in the 15% lowest-achieving schools (within public school districts)

Nazareth Academy High School partners with Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) to facilitate donor participation in this program through a Special Purpose Entity (SPE). For more information, please contact Trish Decker, Director of Development, tdecker@NazarethAcademyHS.org, 215-268-1048, or visit NazarethAcademyHS.org/EITC



During my years serving on the Board, I have learned an important, if perhaps somewhat obvious, lesson. Nazareth Academy is a very special place. Building on the charism of its sponsoring Congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the Academy's Mission *Embracing Faith, Family, and Education*, provides an environment in which each student has an opportunity to realize their potential as leaders in a global society.

This edition of our magazine, including the annual report, provides clear and abundant evidence and support of this truth. The opportunities offered through the Innovation Center are no doubt state of the art and cutting edge. The programs and activities highlighted likewise reflect an understanding of the demands that our current society makes of its citizens in their preparation for meaningful lives and careers.

In appreciating the inherent educational curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular value of all that is presented in these pages, there is likewise a recognition that a much deeper reality exists at the Academy which is the essence of its efforts and its "value added." Beneath its response to challenges and its provision of strategic opportunities, is faith in a transcendent presence and a respect for the individual which motivates and guides all of Nazareth's efforts. The students express this as "sisterhood," a term which has been passed on through generations of graduates. In totality, though, it is an understanding of family, which actually permeates and motivates relationships at all levels.

As we share these insights and narratives with you throughout these pages, it is my hope that you may experience the same joy, optimism, and hope that Nazareth inspires in each of us, from Board members to students, as we prepare the next generation for challenges that are yet unspoken but that have the potential to change our world.

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

Sr. Maureen McGarrity, CSFN

Sr. Maureen McGarrity, CSFN, Ph.D. '64
Board Chair

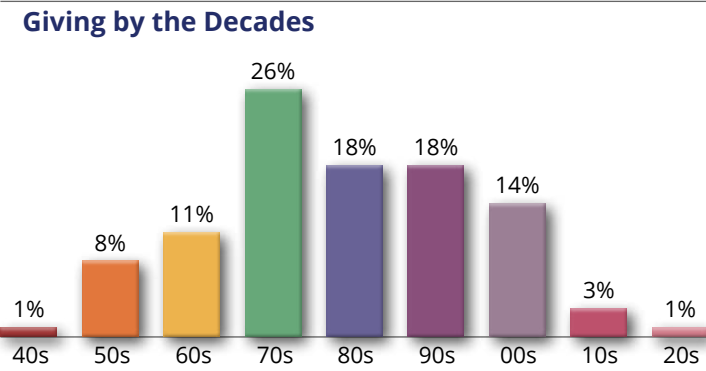
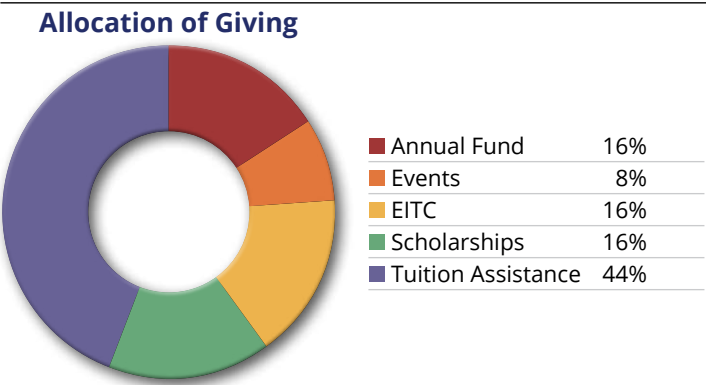


Proud alumnae who are members of the Nazareth Academy High School faculty and staff (l to r): Alyssa Scheerbaum '12, Frances Wieczczynski '66, Sr. Mary McDevitt, CSFN '76, Michele Kelly '73, Ashley Figaniak '08, Emily Loughery '20, Natalie Graveley '05, Kate Chmelko '05, Moira Whalen '09, Brigid Kelley '98, Carolyn Shimp '98, Jennifer McCloskey '03.



**Making a Difference –
Gifts Received July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024**

Thank you to our alumnae, families and friends for your generosity in making a difference for our students. Your kindness offers young women opportunities for continued success at Nazareth Academy High School.



Nazareth Academy High School Annual Report of Donors

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Ellis Trust for Girls
Nazareth Family Foundation
The Maguire Foundation

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Mrs. Alyssa Mikulski Scheerbaum '12
Ms. Debra Schiela '79



Nazareth Academy High School Annual Report of Donors

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Mrs. Christine Donnelly Tokarski '76
Ms. Moira Whalen '09
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Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
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Ms. Marie Wilson-Gillane '00
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Ms. Christine Vernalis Bonnes '85
Ms. Ann M. Boyle
Ms. Katherine Braun '19
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brazukas P '25
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Sandy Stumpo Michael '71, accompanied by Mrs. Patricia Quinn, Principal, and Reverend James E. Dalton, Interim President, presents the Mary Jo Stumpo '73 Memorial Scholarship to Johanna Checchia '25. This award recognizes a student who embodies Mary Jo's qualities and commitment to be a proud representative of NAHS.



Would you like to plan a Class Reunion?

The Class of 2014 (left) reunited to reminisce and celebrate their 10-year reunion. If you are interested in hosting a reunion, or have any questions, please contact Terri Evans, Director of Alumnae Relations at 215-268-1047 or tevans@nazarethacademyhs.org

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Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
Cocktails/6:30 p.m. Dinner
Pen Ryn Mansion
NazarethAcademyHS.org/legacygala

A large, fluffy panda is sitting on a sandy beach, looking towards the camera. The background shows a blue sky with clouds and waves in the ocean.

NA All-Year Shore Reunion

Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 3:00–7:00 p.m.

The Fairview	\$30 Early Bird (Ends on April 30)
3601 Pacific Avenue,	\$45 at the Door
Wildwood, NJ 08260	<i>Must be 21 to attend</i>

NazarethAcademyHS.org/shorereunion

A square QR code located at the bottom right of the Shore Reunion poster, likely linking to the event's website.