Holy Family Academy Opens FabLab!

A ribbon cutting was held on November 2 to celebrate Holy Family Academy’s new SAIL (Social Action and Integrated Learning) FabLab (Fabrication Laboratory), a maker space outfitted with high-tech fabrication equipment. The school will use the resource to enhance design education for its students and the community at large.

A FabLab is a digital workshop equipped with laser-cutters, routers, 3D scanners, 3D milling machines and programming tools. Funded through a $200,000 technology grant from the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, Holy Family Academy’s facility is the first certified FabLab at a Catholic School in the Pittsburgh region.

Students will design and create solutions to community challenges as part of their project-based learning courses. The school’s many entrepreneurship programs, such as its EDGE game-design start-up company, will also gain cutting-edge means to prototype and test work.

“We’re so excited to offer our students this empowering tool,” says Lisa Abel-Palmieri, Ph.D., Holy Family Academy’s head of school. “In the FabLab, they can gain hands-on engineering and design experience — and perhaps be inspired to explore a career path they hadn’t considered before. Because many of their projects will focus on addressing needs and challenges in the community, they’ll also be cultivating problem-solving and leadership skills.”

Principal Joe Oliphant and a student get a close look at a FabLab creation.

Holy Family Academy teacher Michael Roberts shows off the FabLab equipment to Anna Torrance, Secretary for External Affairs of the Pittsburgh Diocese.

YES Fund, LLC
Accepting New Members

The Youth Employment Scholarship (YES) Fund, LLC was established in 2015 to take advantage of Pennsylvania’s Education Improvement Tax Credits (EITC). The program allows qualified individuals to receive a PA income tax credit worth up to 90% of their contribution. The YES Fund provides private school scholarships to qualified students. To learn more, contact Michael Sexauer at Holy Family Foundation: 412-766-9020 x1244.

Welcome New Holy Family Academy Internship Partners!

Allegeny Conference on Community Development
Allegeny General Hospital
Animal Friends
Apogee IT Services
Assemble Pittsburgh
Bible Center Church - Maker’s Club House
Big Burrito Group
Boy Scouts of America
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Clearview Federal Credit Union
Deloitte
Flowers of Life
Gateway Health Plan
Good Samaritan Hospice
Greater Valley Community Services
Hobby Prodigy
Homeless Children’s Education Fund
Hussey Copper
IntegraCare
Jim Shorkey Auto Group
Koppers, Inc.
McKees Rocks Community Development Corp.
MSA Safety
New Hope Personal Care Home
No Crayon Left Behind
Pittsburgh Spice Co.
Public Allies Pittsburgh
Raff Printing
Robert Morris University
Simpson McGrady
Teletracking
Steelers Cornerback Artie Burns received the Ed Block Courage Award, and former Holy Family Institute resident Ray Morris received the Arthur Rooney Courage House Award at Heinz Field on November 7.

Nearly 400 guests were on hand to hear their stories of courage, bid on silent auction items, meet the 2017 rookie class, and participate in a tribute to the late Dan Rooney, founder of the Courage House Luncheon in Pittsburgh. The event raised over $200,000 to benefit Holy Family Academy.
Rooney Scholarship Announced at Luncheon

LUNCHEON ATTENDEES learned about the Daniel M. Rooney Ambassador Scholarship, established to honor the memory of Dan Rooney. The annual scholarship will be used for an incoming 9th grade student who demonstrated in elementary school the values of entrepreneurship, problem solving, resilient learning and servant leadership. (Donations can be made to the Scholarship using the enclosed envelope and voucher.)

Baby, It’s Cold Outside

Holy Family Institute interacts with thousands of families annually, and their needs are often very simple. Winter coats, hats and boots are a common need this time of year, and our staff doesn’t always have the means to provide these basic necessities. Clothing drives are impractical for us because most often we don’t receive the right size, age or gender that we need at that moment. Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope and voucher to be used specifically to purchase winter clothing for the children we serve in our various programs. Gift cards to local retailers are also welcome, and are tax-deductible. (Even if you are re-gifting!)
River City Brass Plays for HFI Neighbors

IN OCTOBER HFI SPECIALIZED LEARNING hosted a performance of River City Brass sponsored by the Eden Hall Foundation. The performance coincided with the grand opening of a new Specialized Learning school in Ross Township. Specialized Learning provides support for students grades 1 – 12 attending public schools and are in need of academic and emotional services not available in their home school.

Holy Family purchased the empty building from the North Hills School district last spring after a public process and town hall meeting. The previous space near Perry High School became too small, and the program needed room to expand. Many of the families in the Seville neighborhood are familiar with Holy Family Institute and spoke positively on our behalf. The River City Brass concert was a great way to welcome the neighbors back to the school. Almost 100 people of all ages filled the gymnasium and enjoyed Halloween-themed refreshments provided by Holy Family’s Emerging Leaders Board.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY will graduate 45 seniors with its first commencement on June 7, 2018. Preparations are being made for the ceremony to take place on the school’s Emsworth campus. Boys will wear blue caps and gowns, and the girls will wear white. A new school crest has been commissioned, and the rings are being designed. Please consider a gift of $50 or more to help underwrite the cost of graduation, including caps, gowns and rings.

Many of our students come from families of limited means, but our goal is a memorable event without any financial burden on anyone. Please use the enclosed envelope and voucher to make a donation through Holy Family Foundation for college expenses.

College Credit, Getting Started

Close to 40 Holy Family Academy Juniors and Seniors are getting a head start on their post-secondary plan and career interests by taking classes at LaRoche College and Community College of Allegheny County. Every family with a student taking a course is contributing to the expense, but each credit costs $200 on average including books. We’re hoping to raise $25,000 annually to underwrite college costs for students getting started on this pathway. Please use the enclosed envelope and voucher to make a donation through Holy Family Foundation for college expenses.