THE ARTHUR J. ROONEY, SR. COURAGE HOUSE LUNCHEON is held annually to honor a current Pittsburgh Steeler and a Holy Family Institute alumnus for showing extraordinary courage in overcoming challenges in their lives. This year, the luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 5th at Heinz Field.

This event includes a silent auction featuring exciting memorabilia and other unique items, as well as an autograph session with current and former Pittsburgh Steelers. All proceeds benefit Nazareth Prep.

Single tickets and sponsorship packages are now available. For more information, visit www.hfi-pgh.org/event/couragehouse or contact Amanda at bublinec.amanda@hfi-pgh.org or 412-766-9020 x1439.

Despite heavy thunderstorms cutting our day short, the outing raised over $70,000 for Nazareth Prep. A big thank you to all of this year’s donors, sponsors, and foursomes—your support is an essential investment in our students’ futures and the future of our school.

ON JUNE 6, 2019, faculty, staff, family, and friends gathered to celebrate Nazareth Prep’s second-ever graduating class! River City Brass performed “Pomp and Circumstance” as our 36 graduates walked proudly past their family members, celebrating their many accomplishments and looking forward to what’s next. Twenty-six graduates plan to attend college, two plan to attend a trade or technical school, five are starting apprenticeships, and three are headed straight into the professional world to begin their careers.

This year’s commencement included a few additional performances as well—Principal Oliphant rapping the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air theme song to music during his speech, alumni Paul Covington sharing about his post-high school experience at MSA Safety’s apprenticeship program, and graduate Elias Khouri playing a song on guitar that he wrote for his fellow classmates.

“This class is special,” says Principal Joe Oliphant, “They’ve been here almost since the school was founded and it has been incredible to watch them grow and change over the years. We’re a family here, so it’s hard to say goodbye, but they know our doors are always open. And as teachers, staff, and mentors, we can’t wait to watch what they’re going to accomplish out in the world.”

In conclusion, he asked our students if they were ready to take their next steps: “Are you ready to risk courageously? To fill your lungs with hope and leap into the life you were born to live?”

We believe they are ready, and we are so grateful for every single person who has contributed to their success so far. Congratulations Class of 2019—may you soar on wings like eagles!

Looking ahead…

This fall, Nazareth Prep will enroll its largest freshman class since its founding in 2014—over 80 students! These students just finished their week-long orientation, meant to acclimate them to campus and give them a better idea of what to expect in the coming year. We can’t wait to see what this new class is going to contribute to our student body, and we look forward to witnessing the many successes of all our students.

In addition to 80+ new students, we will also welcome over 15 new corporate partners! The success of Nazareth Prep depends so much on community and corporate support, and we are continually grateful for the growth we are seeing.
Will You Invest in the Leaders of the Future?

A scholarship can mean many things: the freedom from financial stress, the opportunity to build a meaningful career, a chance to break the cycle of generational poverty. Each of your donations directly supports the students of Nazareth Prep as they become lifelong learners and leaders!

Ramon Hughes, Class of 2022, delivers a speech about his internship at First National Bank.

Jade: “My internship strengthened my resilient learning and student leader mindsets. It helped me speak out about what I believe in and explain the changes I would like to see. Getting this scholarship means the world to me. My experience at Nazareth Prep has grown me as an individual and a learner. I love it so much!”

Nazareth Prep students spend one day a school week in an intensive corporate internship. Classroom concepts come alive as they solve complex problems, learn new skills, connect with lifelong mentors in their field… and gain an edge in their future job search!

Amya: “Receiving the scholarship means a lot. It’s driving me and making me work harder. I’m encouraged, proud of myself, and excited to see what comes next!”

Every child deserves a quality education, but not every family can afford to provide one. Almost all Nazareth Prep students receive generous need-based scholarships that help to cover their tuition and internship expenses. These scholarships are funded by hundreds of generous individuals, families, and businesses just like you!

Please consider sponsoring the Class of 2020… and beyond!

Education is an essential piece of Holy Family Institute’s mission and we support academic success for all students.

Student Assistance Program

When a young person experiences trauma, turning in homework and getting to class on time are often the last things on their mind. Our Student Assistance Program (SAP) helps these students stay in school while coping with difficult circumstances like abuse, financial anxiety, or family strife. Our student liaisons not only connect students with mental health care and academic support, but also help them with the “little things” like getting to class on time, managing their money, and building healthy relationships. Use your phone to scan the QR code and read one of our students’ incredible stories!

SNAP*

Learning is easy and fun when students understand how to focus on their work and treat their peers with respect. SNAP* (Stop Now and Plan) is a counseling program that helps young children identify harmful behaviors, express complicated feelings, and make better choices in school and at home. Last year alone, SNAP* counselors held classes in six schools and taught more than 400 children how to build healthy relationships and succeed in the classroom!

A Second Location for Specialized Learning!

This fall, Holy Family Institute’s Specialized Learning program plans to expand to a second location—in North Versailles!

Holy Family Institute’s Specialized Learning program is a licensed, private academic school for elementary and secondary students focused on addressing challenges in behavior, cognitive development, and academics. Enrollment is based on a referral from the students’ home school districts in and around Allegheny County, and the length of stay for each student varies dependent on progress.

Our goal is to teach students the skills necessary to overcome their individual challenges so that they can successfully return to their home school district. Last year, HFI Specialized Learning was able to help more than 100 students prepare to succeed in school—a capacity that will continue to increase as we expand!

Pens Foundation Supports Education at HFI

Special thanks to the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation for a $5,000 grant toward technology improvements in our education programs. We plan to use this grant for new Google Chromebooks and accompanying education software for our students so that each one of them is well-prepared for the coming school year.

Dave Soltesz (left), Director of the Penguins Foundation, and Michael Sexauer (right), Chief Operating Officer of Holy Family Institute.