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Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

*Accredited By Middle States Commissions
on Elementary and Secondary Schools*

2023 - 2024

NAZARETH ACADEMY GRADE SCHOOL

Contact Us: 215-637-7777 www.nazarethacademy.net

Address: 4701 Grant Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19114



September 2023

Dear Nazareth Academy Grade School Families,

We are so glad we can start off a great new school year, without having to be concerned about a pandemic or issues related to our wonderful school. Last year was delightful with the ability to restore some if not most of our traditions. This year we have new personnel, new students, and new staff, which will bring us new changes, new ideas, and a brilliant breath of fresh air. I have always believed that change is hard, but change can be fantastic.

The information in this handbook is designed to provide valuable details regarding Nazareth School procedures, policy, and the rights and responsibilities of all students at Nazareth Academy Grade School.

This handbook is part of our planning process. We request that students and parents read the information carefully. Please sign the handbook contract and return by September 13th. Chrome books will not be distributed to the students until this form is signed and filed in the office.

Due to possible further action in the future by the Diocesan mandates, Board of Health, the CDC or State Policies, our programs may be terminated, amended, or modified at the discretion of Nazareth Academy Grade School administration.

The success of our school depends on the constructive collaboration between home and school. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself for any concerns. It is my sincere wish that we all work together in fostering a positive learning experience for all our students.

We continue to be strong under the protection of Blessed Mother and our Martyred Sisters.

Respectfully,

Sister Linda Joseph, CSFN

Principal

Nazareth Academy Grade School

Mission Statement

Nazareth Academy Grade School, founded in 1941 by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, is a private co-educational Catholic School for students in grades one through eight.

Our mission is to spread the Kingdom of God's love by creating a family-friendly environment in which we invite students and their families to discover God in everyday life events and to be an integral part of the Nazareth family.

We are committed to promoting academic excellence and Christian morals and values, and to demonstrating, through our students' personal engagement in service projects, God's love and care for the poor and others in need.

Parent Association

Nazareth Academy Grade School Parent Association (NAGSPA) strives to support and advocate for our children by partnering with administration, staff and families to create a safe learning environment.

The Parent Association exists to advance the mission of Jesus in the tradition of the **Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth**. The vision is a vibrant network of people united in heeding the call to educate young minds. This is done through our *Core Values* of faithful listening, loving relationships and recognizing God in the everyday.

The continued goal of the association will be to organize many of the school functions which are enjoyed by the children and their families. It is strongly encouraged that parents give their full support to all fundraisers.

Parents also work with the school community in implementing various service projects which root us in the mission of Jesus. Parents are needed to help students prepare brown bag lunches for St. Francis Inn, provide transportation, help at lunch/recess, and Christmas at NAGS.

Parents are a major source of gathering funds through "friend raisers" which benefit the school. These fundraisers provide the needed resources to offer the best education spiritually, academically, creatively, emotionally and physically to and for your children.

No child shall be denied admission to Nazareth Academy Grade School on the basis of color, race, creed, or nationality.

Enrollment Procedures

Admission to **GRADE 1** is acknowledged by:

- ◆ Application for inclusion on Grade 1 list
- ◆ Registration and Testing Fee of \$25.00
- ◆ Satisfactory performance in a Pre-admission Assessment
- ◆ Group Dynamic with the primary grade faculty
- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)
- ◆ Custody Papers (if applicable)
- ◆ Updated Immunization Card
- ◆ Payment of a non-refundable Registration Fee of \$250.00 if accepted.

Admission to **GRADES 2 - 8** is acknowledged by:

- ◆ Copy of the current Report Card, as well as the previous two years (if applicable)
- ◆ Copy of the most recent Standardized Test scores
- ◆ Completion of the Application Form
- ◆ Entrance Test
- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)
- ◆ Certificates for Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation (if applicable)
- ◆ Custody Papers (if applicable)
- ◆ Letter of Recommendation from the student's current teacher
- ◆ Payment of a non-refundable Registration Fee of \$250.00 if accepted
- ◆ New students and their parent/guardian sign all required documents regarding academic and student development procedures

Admission into Nazareth Academy Grade School is based on the agreement of parents that they:

- ◆ Agree to pay the stated annual tuition and fees
- ◆ **Actively participate and support our NAGS Parent Organization**
- ◆ Cooperate with the faculty in supervising home study habits
- ◆ Uphold all school regulations
- ◆ Foster in their child a respect for all persons and property
- ◆ Permit their child to study religion as prescribed by the school
- ◆ Sign and uphold a **Contract of Agreement**

TUITION for 2023-2024

Tuition payments are an investment in your child's education and their religious formation. It is the major source of income for Nazareth Academy Grade School. The following tuition payment policy is in effect:

\$7,000.00 first/second child in a family

\$6,500.00 third/fourth child in a family

In addition, **\$150.00 security fee for each family.** Other book bill and fees may apply.

TUITION PAYMENT POLICY

All families are contracted to make tuition payments according to one of the following payment plans. Each family's preferred manner of payment must be submitted each year at the time of registration. Options for payment are the following:

1. **Full payment** of tuition by **June 30, 2024**. This payment should be made directly to the school **Please note: Failure to meet this deadline will result in a 2.5% penalty fee.**
 2. **Two automatic payments: May 2023 and January 2024**, through the *FACTS payment plan.
 3. **Ten automatic monthly payments** through the *FACTS payment plan starting in May of the current school year.
 4. **Four quarterly payments** through the *FACTS payment plan (May, September, November and February).
- ♦ **For options 2, 3 and 4, FACTS will charge a \$50 Enrollment Fee.** The payments will be deducted by FACTS from your checking/saving account or charged to your credit card account on the 5th and 20th of the month.

SECURITY FEE PAYMENT OPTIONS (\$150.00 PER FAMILY)

1. Full payment together with tuition by June 30, 2024
2. Two semester payments of \$75.00 through FACTS
3. Quarterly payments of \$37.50 through FACTS
4. Ten Monthly Payments of \$15.00 through FACTS

Late Registration

1. Families registering after July 1, shall be expected to fulfill their tuition obligation according to the tuition policy stated above.
2. Tuition for students registering after school has been in session shall be prorated over the number of school days they will be in attendance.

Non-Admission of Students Due to Non Payment of Tuition

FAMILIES FAILING TO PAY TUITION ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT WHICH THEY HAVE MADE WITH THE SCHOOL WILL BE INFORMED THAT THEIR CHILD (REN) WILL NOT BE RE-ADMITTED. RECORDS WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE IN FULL.

TUITION PAYMENT IN DEFAULT

If a payment is not made, for whatever reason, the following process will be followed:

1. Parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the payment not being received.
2. Parent/guardian will be given **TWENTY (20) calendar days** to bring the account up to date.
3. **If the account is not brought up to current status (up to date) the student's enrollment will cease after the 20th day and the child will not be permitted to attend class until all is brought up to date. Neither schoolwork or records will be given for make-up or transfer.**

DELINQUENT TUITION

ALL UNPAID TUITION MUST BE PAID BY THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IN ORDER FOR A STUDENT TO BE RE-ADMITTED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR. Payments are to be made directly to the school. If payment is not possible, suitable arrangements must be made with the Principal and Sister Yvette.

Closing Exercises

Participation in closing exercises is a privilege, not a right. The school has the right to deny any student from participating in the closing exercises of grade one through grade eight if all financial obligations have not been met, or in the view of the school, the student's conduct, academic or disciplinary record indicate that the privilege should not be extended. (i.e. graduation, assemblies, award ceremonies).

Tuition Refunds

THERE ARE NO TUITION REFUNDS. *

*** If a crisis in the family occurs, or moving away, the school may be open to discussion.**

School Hours

Regular School Days

The school building is open at 7:00 a.m. daily.

No child should be **DROPPED OFF** at school **BEFORE 7:00 a.m.** or dropped off and **LEFT UNSUPERVISED**.

As the children arrive at school they assemble in the Multi Purpose Room and are supervised by a faculty member. Breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. and ends at 7:45 a.m.

The school day begins at 7:50 am. with morning prayer as we pray together as a faith community in the Multi-Purpose Room. No eating in class, expect at morning recess.

Procedures regarding lateness include the need for parents/guardians to sign in and follow the instructions of the school official **who makes sure the children sign the lateness copybook. It is imperative that children sign the lateness copybook so they are not marked absent prior to their arrival.**

The bell rings at:	7:50 a.m.
Recess:	10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Lunch Grades 1, 2, 3, 4:	11:10 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.
Grades 5, 6, 7, 8:	12:00 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.
Dismissal:	2:40 p.m.

First Fridays

On the first Friday of each month, students will attend Mass in the High School Chapel ~ or in school due to inclement weather. *Family members are invited to join the students for the Liturgy.*

On some Fridays, as stated on the calendar, there is early dismissal and a Faculty Meeting. On those Fridays, dismissal is at 12:00 noon.

School Year

The academic year begins after Labor Day and usually extends through the first two weeks of June. Short vacations occur at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. A mid-winter break is held in February. Other holidays are specified in the yearly school calendar.

All Volunteers

In addition to completing two background checks required, all volunteers in any of our school programs, activities and trips **must participate in the PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN** program for adults, which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This program consists of a three to four-hour session that instructs adults who interact with children how to be vigilant so as to protect children from harm of any kind. **THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

Lunch Schedule

Breakfast and lunch is served under the *National School Breakfast Program* and is governed by the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*. Meals are offered to all children without the need to collect applications or payment.

- ⇒ Those not eating NDS lunches need to bring their own to school.
- ⇒ Special lunches **ARE NOT** to be delivered to school. If a student forgets his/her lunch, he/she speaks to an adult who will then contact the lunch staff. This procedure is part of student growth as he/she learns to resolve a dilemma correctly.
- ⇒ Soda or other caffeinated beverages may not be a part of the child's lunch; only milk or juice is permitted.
- ⇒ **Glass containers are never permitted.**
- ⇒ **All** children are **required** to **have a towel/placemat** every day for lunch and recess (if bringing in a lunch).
- ⇒ Neither parent volunteers nor students are permitted to use the microwave in the kitchen to heat individual lunches.
- ⇒ Children are encouraged not to waste food.

Soft pretzels will be ordered MONTHLY and paid by check/money order only. Pretzels are 50 cents each.

Free breakfast is served Monday through Friday until 7:45 a.m.

When ordering free hot lunch:

Your child's order entitles him/her to **one milk**.

All participating students must follow NDS rules.

The Lunch Menu will be posted on the website each month. Substitutions can and will be made as necessary, (i.e. snow days, before holidays, end of school year).

If a lunch is forgotten, we are happy to make one. For further information, email Mrs. Mellon at mmellon@nazarethacademy.net

Curriculum and Methods

Curriculum is the plan for learning which identifies the students' interaction with content, materials, other learners and procedures for assessing the attainment of educational outcomes.

Nazareth Academy Grade School strives to provide a well-balanced curriculum aligned with the National, Pennsylvania State Standards and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Students are challenged to develop to their full potential with an inquiring mind while giving special attention to the integration of Catholic values.

If a child has a 504 plan or an IEP, it will be reviewed as to whether we can accommodate the child. The school reserves the right to decline admission or impose reasonable conditions on the students.

Grades One, Two and Three

Emphasis is given to the spiritual values practiced. Good reading skills along with phonics are the foundation for learning. Teachers strive to build a solid base of mathematics and writing skills which are developed further in each grade. All students learn how to integrate technology into their learning which enhances all of their skills. All students attend STEM classes. Students in grade three receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. These grades are self contained.

Grades Four and Five

In the intermediate level, organization and study skills are stressed. Emphasis is placed on the enhancements of writing and speaking skills throughout the curriculum. Mathematics is constantly challenged with Algebra, Geometry and measurement. Departmentalization begins in Grade Four with those students selected for the Honors Math program. All students participate in STEM classes.

Grades Six, Seven and Eight

In our Junior High level, we focus on teaching students to find deeper meaning in the beliefs and practice of their faith. Effective communication skills along with creativity encourage and challenge the students to utilize their talents in projects, presentations and displays. Science, Math and Social Studies emphasize note taking, critical and deductive thinking, organization, experimentation and further developing study skills. Classes are fully departmentalized. STEM classes are included in science.

Specialized Areas

Nazareth Academy offers a wide range of specialized programs allowing all students to learn in their preferred "learning style."

All students are exposed to Spanish, Art, Music, Technology and Physical Education. If the student is able, he/she will be invited to take part in our honors program in ELA and Mathematics.

Honors ELA promotes the development of fluent readers, articulate writers and speakers, discerning listeners and avid researchers. This subject is integrated with a strong focus in Grammar and Writing.

Honors Math begins in Grade four to invited students. It is designed to challenge students to work at an accelerated pace. The program follows the seven strands set by the National Council of Mathematics.

Students are invited into these programs based on class participation and behavior, Terra Nova Assessments, report cards, class test grades and teacher recommendation.

Technology

This program begins in grade one with basic computer skills on Chrome Books. Students in grades two through eight are issued Chrome Books utilizing Google Classroom and all its tools. All students learn appropriate and safe use of the Internet as well as how to create Google documents, Power Point presentations, and Excel.

STEM Learning

By fostering critical thinking through problem solving, our STEM program for all grades provides opportunities for exploration, creativity and ingenuity.

Latin

The study of Latin in Grades 7 and 8 enhances Vocabulary and Reading skills, which include, but are not limited to the Common Core Standards.

Spanish

The Spanish curriculum begins in grade one and is designed to introduce each student to vocabulary, culture and conversation while building skills and language mechanics. Translation and comprehension are further developed preparing each student to enter high school with advanced learning.

Art

Weekly lessons in Art inspire the free spirit in every student. It is discovered through the use of varied art media where the students are encouraged to create.

Music Program

Education in the arts is an integral part of the development of children. Music presents its own language and message that is unique to all of us. In addition to class and voice instruction, the students learn to play choir chimes, and hand bells. Lessons in piano are also offered.

The Grace Notes and Joyful Ringers are a select group of students in grades 4 through 8 who participate in special performances representing Nazareth Academy Grade School. The criteria to be part of this group is:

- ♦ A serious desire to sing or play
- ♦ A commitment to attend every practice and performance
- ♦ A commitment to be on time for every practice and event
- ♦ No less than a "B" on their academic assessment
- ♦ Student selection by the Principal and Music Teacher

The Spring Musical is a significant production in which all students are invited to participate. Involvement in performing arts builds self-confidence while encouraging teamwork and creative collaboration.

Participation in any of the school's musical ensembles is dependent on proper conduct and academic performance.

Dance

Students interested in dance are encouraged to participate in the Dance Program offered each Monday after school.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program gives each child the freedom to develop a sound body through exercise, balance, health, coordination and sports. Emphasis is placed on good sportsmanship.

Health

Once a month, students in grades 1 through 8 receive classes on a variety of age-appropriate health-related topics with their teacher or Physical Education teacher. A nurse will meet with students in grades 5 and 6 each year to provide resources that educate children concerning the changes and development associated with puberty.

Sacramental Program

Our faculty encourages parents to share the importance of the sacramental life with their children. The Academy supports the parents/guardians in their role as the first religious instructors in faith. This truth is essential to Catholic education. God is ever-present and therefore, the Trinity is praised and honored both at home and in school.

During the winter of third grade, students receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the spring of third grade, students receive their First Holy Communion.

Our sixth and seventh grade religion curriculum incorporates the preparation for Confirmation. Confirmation is received in the home parish of each child. Nazareth Academy Grade School notifies the home parish of the eligibility and preparedness of each Confirmation candidate.

In preparing for these milestones in the lives of our students and celebrating the culmination of eight years of Catholic education, retreats are organized by the faculty for students in grades 3 and 8 to further enrich the sacramental preparation. Grade 6 students attend a parish retreat on days assigned by their pastors.



Liturgical Functions

The Eucharistic Liturgy, prepared by the children under the direction of their teacher, is celebrated monthly for the entire student body in either the Nazareth High School Chapel or Multi-purpose Room in school, depending on weather conditions. Parents, guardians and guests are always invited to these liturgies.

Since the Liturgy is the "heartbeat" of our worship, it is proper for all present to observe the necessary silence which depicts reverence. The use of Professional Cameras may not be used in the chapel during First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, or Graduation unless permission is granted by the principal.

Parents / Guardians are encouraged to set the example for the child's frequenting the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This example provides the children with the family experience of worship and prayer.

Prayer Celebrations

The opportunity to nurture family and spiritual values is evidenced throughout the school year. Para-liturgical activities focus on the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist provide a deep spiritual connection with the Christian community. Additional family activities are sponsored by the Nazareth Academy Grade School Parent Association (NAGSPA), which give us many opportunities to bond as a school community while supporting Catholic education and mission of the school.

Standardized Tests

The Terra Nova Test is administered to students in grades two through seventh each March. The scores are used as a baseline for students' potential and are also used to identify specific strengths and weaknesses in each class.



Sports Program

The Athletic Director is responsible for the sports program. The philosophy of the NAGS sports program is rooted in learning and playing games in the spirit of good sportsmanship. The school holds athletic membership in the Catholic Academy League in soccer, basketball, lacrosse, baseball, softball.

Soccer, swimming and track provide an opportunity for boys and girls to work together as a competitive team. In the spring, the baseball team and the softball team utilize those skills needed to create team spirit and unity of purpose. Invitational swim and track meets are scheduled in the spring. Lacrosse is also incorporated as long as we have enough students to make up a team. Team membership and participation in sports is dependent on proper conduct and academic performance.

Separate boys and girls teams exist for basketball, baseball and softball. Kickball is offered to students in grades 3 & 4. These programs are designed to teach the basics of the sports while encouraging students to be part of a team.

Students in grades 1, 2, 3 can participate in instructional soccer and whiffle ball.

Student Development

To ensure order, to safeguard the rights of others, and to promote academic honesty, cooperation and understanding, a school needs certain rules and regulations.

Given the changing morals and values in our society, the administration and faculty see the need to **encourage honesty, honor, and integrity** in the daily life of each student. Therefore, it is deemed necessary to implement policies regarding *cheating, inappropriate language, relational aggression, ill use of devices of any kind and cyber bullying*. Bullying is far more serious than just name-calling and teasing. It also includes all forms of harassment such as, physical injury, inappropriate use of technology, death threats and cyber bullying. The school has a **"No Tolerance Policy"** for bullying that includes observations of teachers, attempts to correct the behavior, meetings with the student and with his/her parents and counseling that parents would be asked to pursue if the Academy deems it necessary.

"For The Love of the Child"

The English word "discipline" comes from disciple, which to ancient Latin speakers meant "learner." In the family and school context, child discipline is a process which generally aims to promote school and home order and harmony and to teach young people how to conduct themselves so that they can be the best they can be.

Here at Nazareth Academy Grade School, we hope to reach these goals:

To Teach each child that his/her actions have consequences which he/she is responsible for and can control.

To help maintain order, harmony and security in school.

To enhance the self and mutual respect for children and teacher.

To protect the child, property and others from harm.

To model how teachers lovingly guide, protect and care for children.

To show the child that people have limits as to what they will tolerate and what happens when these limits are exceeded.

Disciplining to *teach, guide and protect* instills in the child positive self-worth and security. The child perceives "You care enough to endure my complaints respectfully and you will guard me and I am safe." We try to be totally fair but it is inevitable that we will not be in others estimation. *Therefore we:*

- Keep clear on our main priorities
- Are as consistent as possible
- Are flexible to adapt to new situations
- Are caring teachers, not buddies
- See mistakes as chances to learn and improve
- Use students' complaints as chances to learn what is needed and to teach children how to problem solve effectively

Student Behavior Log

The *Student Behavior Log on Teacher Ease* is an effective way for the school to communicate with parents regarding each student's on-going progress on a weekly basis. **It is the parents' responsibility to check this Behavior Log on Teacher Ease each week, to affirm/challenge their child's progress.** Teachers, parents/guardians and children all need to be accountable for this means of communication! *Do not give your child the code to sign in to your account.*

The first and second grades make use of the Behavior Log to keep parents informed of student growth in personal skills and study habits. Please note that each teacher adapts this recording and reporting process to a developmentally appropriate one.

The methods used for determining accountability and consequences in these two classes are shared with families at the *Back to School Night* meetings.

Care is taken to help students understand that every person is responsible for his/her actions. One must follow rules in order to live peacefully; when one does not, there are consequences.

The discipline code applies to student and parents/guardians in school, at school events, as well as outside the school where behavior is contrary to Catholic teaching or could bring disrepute or embarrassment to the school. The above regulation is applicable at the discretion of the administration.



Explanation of Codes		Report Card Grades
0-3 Codes	Exceeding	(4/O)
4-8 Codes	Developing Appropriately	(3/VG)
9-14 Codes	Needs Improvement	(2/I)
14+ Codes	Unsatisfactory	(1/U)
3 codes in one week = detention 3 detentions = in house suspension 3 in house detention = 1, 3 day at home suspensions 3 at home suspensions = expulsion		
Report card grades are based on the number of codes and decisions. Any student that receives below a "3" in any subject on his/her Report card will not receive Honors.		
Codes are based on:		
<u>Personal & Social Growth:</u>		<u>Effort & Study Skills:</u>
Cooperative		Attends to task
Respectful		Completes assignments
Responsible		Unprepared for class
Self-control		Listens & follows direction
Honesty		Works cooperatively
Other		Works independently
 <i>Examples:</i>		
If a student does not bring in tests, papers, behavior logs, etc., that were to be signed, that child receives a code for lack of responsibility.		
If a student does not complete homework, that child gets a code for incomplete assignment.		
If a child does not follow the dress code, a code for not being cooperative is given. This includes nail polish, colored or tinted hair, un-tucked shirts and dangling earrings.		
No child may have a cell phone unless for emergency reasons which have been discussed with the principal.		
All phones are collected, and kept in the classrooms. Phones are returned at the end of the school day. Phones may not be turned on while on school property. It will be confiscated and a parent needs to come to retrieve it. An automatic detention will be given.		

Codes may be given for the following reasons

- ♦ Violation of class rules
- ♦ Incomplete homework, class work, projects, etc.
- ♦ Not returning tests, paper, behavior logs that need to be signed.
- ♦ Littering
- ♦ In an unauthorized area (elevator/fire stairs)
- ♦ Disrespectful to fellow students
- ♦ **Disrespectful to teachers**
- ♦ Inappropriate items in school
- ♦ Failure to line up when bell rings during outside recess.
- ♦ Failure to keep hands and feet to one's self
- ♦ Dress code violations
- ♦ Disruption of class
- ♦ Continually unprepared
- ♦ Rough play
- ♦ Excessive physical contact
- ♦ Disrespect/impertinence
- ♦ Violating COVID-19 rules

Automatic Detentions are given for:

- ♦ Cell phone usage
- ♦ **Lying, cheating**
- ♦ Throwing food
- ♦ Unacceptable language
- ♦ Threatening another student
- ♦ Damages to school property
- ♦ Profanity, obscene language or gestures
- ♦ **Defiance**
- ♦ Stealing
- ♦ Students putting their hands on one another

Actions deemed by the teacher or principal to warrant a code.

Behavior Log must be signed and checked weekly on Teacher Ease.

Teacher will contact parent by e-mail when a code is given.

Any Student who receives 3 codes in one week must serve detention.

Detention is held every Thursday after school until 3:45 p.m.

Three detentions = one in house suspension

Three in house suspensions = one 3 day at home suspension = 3 at home suspensions = expulsion

Any suspension or detention will be given immediately if the conduct is over and above acceptable behavior.

School Visits

All visitors must ring the doorbell, identify himself/herself, sign in with the guard, receive a visitor's tag and the guard will escort you to the office. If there are any students in the Multipurpose Room, the guard will direct the visitor to another door. This is imperative for the safety of all within the building. Classes are **not** to be interrupted **by anyone** unless authorized to do so. No projects, homework assignments, or materials are accepted after 7:50 am. If a student has forgotten something, he/she needs to speak to the teacher in order to learn how to handle this mistake. This is a life experience.

All doors are locked to ensure the safety of all. A doorbell is available at both the front and back entrances. Children are never permitted to answer the doorbell. **Only the security guards and secretary may answer the door.**

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences may be arranged at any time during the school year. These conferences may be held before or after school hours by appointment. Parents **are never permitted** to visit a child's classroom without the permission of the Principal.

Teachers **are never** to receive phone calls from parents/guardians or children at their residences. **Teachers have 72 hours to respond to your e-mails.**

Please adhere to these requests.

Transportation

Free school bus service is provided by the School District of Philadelphia for our students living within an eight to ten mile radius in the city. Several of our neighboring townships provide bus service for our students residing in those areas. If you have issues with the bus, call them for immediate action:

Philadelphia Transportation 215-400-4350

Class One 215-934-5885

Abington Transportation 215-884-0421

Bensalem Transportation 215-750-2800 ext. 4400

Bristol Transportation 267-599-2370

Lower Moreland 215-938-0280

Neshaminy 215-809-6284

Pennsbury 215-428-4165



Please Note: School bus drivers are permitted to transport **only those children listed on their route.** **Students not listed on the route may not ride the bus to another student's home.** Notes from parents requesting this service will not be accepted.

Satisfactory behavior is expected **at all times** on the bus and at the bus stop. Incidents of misbehavior will be reported to the administration and to the parents. Parents need to correct the situation so that the child may continue to ride the bus. *Busses are equipped with a camera for recording and GPS for tracking.*

In order to maintain bus safety, all children must adhere to the following bus regulations:

- ◆ Students must *remain seated* on the bus and talk in a *normal tone* of voice.
- ◆ There is to be **no eating or drinking** on the bus. (If a child has a lengthy drive home after school, he/she may eat a snack in the classroom before dismissal.)
- ◆ No student may access *the internet* while on the bus.
- ◆ Responsible students in Grades 7 and/or 8 will be assigned to assist the bus driver in enforcing the rules of the bus. These students will report to a designated faculty member on a regular basis.
- ◆ Students may not throw anything inside the bus or from the bus.
- ◆ Students will respect all property i.e., bus property and student property.
- ◆ Students **must cooperate** with the directives of the bus driver, or they will not be permitted the convenience and privilege of riding the bus.

Students who are reported for disobeying bus rules may be suspended from riding the bus for a determined length of time.

Arrival and Dismissal

All students are driven to school by bus or car. To ensure the safety of the children, **drivers are asked to remain in the car and drop the children off in the back of the school building, using the lane closest to the sidewalk.** Bus drivers are required to do the same. When all cooperate, the arrival system works, thus ensuring the safe arrival of your children. **If you are late (unless an emergency) three times, your child will go to "Kids Club" and you will be charged a fee.**

Students who ride the bus are dismissed first, followed by students who go home by car. To secure the safety of all children, drivers picking up the students must wait behind the busses. Pick-up in the parking lot is at 2:45 p.m. by car or bus only. The faculty will direct the movement of all cars and the movement of children. Please follow their instructions.

Each driver of a car must display a sign with the last name of the child(ren) who is / are to be picked up.

The printing of the name in LARGE BOLD letters should be legible from several feet away to facilitate the movement of the car line in an orderly manner.

NOTE: Children need to be picked up promptly at dismissal! Children not picked up on time will remain in the Multipurpose Room until their rides arrive.

- Children may **not** ride bicycles to school, unless permission is given.
- Children may not walk to/from school unless the written permission of their parents is on file in the Principal's office.
- Children must be picked up on time from sports and afterschool clubs/activities. If a parent is late when picking up their child, the child will no longer be able to participate in afterschool activities

****** Phone calls regarding changes in pick-up of car or bus are discouraged. Please inform your child before they leave for school if they should go in the bus line or car line.**

The school office cannot be responsible for notifying children on this subject on a daily basis. Children need consistent communication for a peaceful school day and teachers can not be continually interrupted to notify students about transportation.

Attendance

Regular attendance is expected of all students in order that they make progress in their studies. A student who is not in school at 7:50 a.m. is considered late for school. State law declares that all absences shall be treated as unlawful/unexcused until the district receives a written excuse explaining the reason for the absence, this is to be submitted in writing within three (3) calendar days of the absence. Failure to provide a written excuse (no e-mails) within 3 days will result in the absence being counted permanently as unlawful/unexcused.

If a child misses 30 days of unlawful absences, the school has the right to release the child or fail the child. This is considered educational neglect. When a child is absent, the parent is asked to call school between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. to report the absence. *Request for homework is to be made at this time and picked up after 1:30 p.m.*



An absence in excess of three (3) consecutive days must include a physician's note.

Chronic Lateness will not be tolerated and will result in detention.

Students must also be picked up on time. Three "no shows" will result in your child going to 'Kids Club' and you will be charged a fee.

Please note:

No perfect attendance will be recorded.

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. It must be completed within a reasonable amount of time after the child returns to school. Students from Grades 5 and above need to speak to the teacher about make-up work on the day he or she returns to classes. Teachers in Grades 4 and below make arrangements for make-up work with the parents. **Teachers are not obligated to give make up work or tests to students who miss due to vacation.**

No child is allowed to leave the school building or premises during school hours without written request from parents/guardians and permission from the Principal. When a student leaves school during the day for any reason, a parent/guardian or other authorized adult must report to the school office to sign out the child.

Routine medical and dental appointments should not be scheduled during school hours if possible.

Family vacations should not to be taken when school is in session, but rather be taken during extended weekends, over the Christmas and/or Easter holidays, and/or mid-winter break.

Note well: *Excessive absences and lateness hinder a child's educational growth and can be detrimental to High School admittance.*

Medication

In order for the school to administer any medication to your child, the school must have your written permission if it is "over the counter" and/or a doctor's note if it is a prescription. Should your child experience symptoms such as fever, nausea, stomachache, etc., you will be notified immediately. Prescribed and over-the-counter medications may be sent to school (with clearly marked dosage instructions). These medications are to be taken to the principal/secretary at the start of the day. The principal/secretary will administer all medications.

School Photographs

Each year individual student pictures are taken in the Fall. Group pictures of the classes are taken in the Spring. Parents/Guardians have the option of purchasing these pictures. Graduates also have a special photograph taken in cap and gown in the Spring.

Change of Address

Parents/Guardians are requested to notify the school **immediately** whenever there is a change in address, e-mail or telephone number. Telephone updates enable parents/guardians to be contacted when necessary.

Emergency cards given to students at the beginning of the school year should be completed accurately and updated when necessary.

STAY INFORMED

Weekly Communication: E-envelope

Information pertaining to NAGS, NAGS affiliated extra-curricular activities, NAGSPA Fundraisers, and schools affiliated with NAGS (e.g., kindergartens and high schools) will be the **only** material distributed in the White Envelope that goes home electronically on a weekly basis. No other flyer **will be distributed** by means of the White Envelope. If you have signed up for electronic delivery of the E-Envelope, you will receive it Thursday afternoons. Since we are paperless, if you wish a hard copy of the items sent home, you need to notify the office.

It is vital that you view this communication.

Grading System

Grades 1-2

Personal and Social Growth; Effort and Study Skills

Marking Code: The number indicates the level of performance the student has demonstrated.

- 1 - Unsatisfactory
- 2 - Needs Improvement
- 3 - Developing Appropriately
- 4 - Exceeding

Academic Progress: Grades 1 and 2

Marking Code: Marks are determined by tests, class work, homework, class participation, independent projects, and a variety of assessment practices.

- O - Consistently produces work of high quality and applies learned skill.
- VG - Regularly produces work of high quality and applies learned skill.
- G - Frequently produces quality work and applies learned skill.
- S - Produces work of satisfactory quality and usually applies learned skill.
- I - Produces work of inconsistent quality and needs frequent re-teaching.
- U - Produces work of unsatisfactory quality.

Electronic Grading

Parents have the opportunity to monitor their child's academic progress online. **Teachers update the marks every week.**

The student will receive the "True" grade in all subjects. If required materials are not submitted the student receives a "O".

Physical Education Policy Regarding "Outside Injuries"

(Broken bones, sprains, etc.)

A student will receive a "3" on his report card if an injury causes him to miss three or more classes per Trimester.

A student will receive a "N/A" mark on his report card if an injury causes him to miss at least half the classes in a Marking Period.

Homework Policy

Homework is assigned daily in all grade levels because it reinforces what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility, and helps students to develop positive study habits. Homework may include written assignments, oral review, projects, book reports, assigned reading, study and memorization. All assignments are written in the Homework Assignment Books each student must have. ***Study and review is always a part of each night's homework assignments.*** Although teachers post planned work on Teacher Ease, students are taught to listen to details that may not be stated online. Not every detail can be stated online. ***Any missed homework will be done at lunchtime. Three misses = one code.***

The school expects the parents to oversee their child's nightly assignments. Parents/Guardians should pay careful attention to the weekly Student Behavior Logs that are updated online each Friday. Parents can ascertain if their child is neglecting assigned homework by checking the log, as well as becoming aware of their child's overall progress in effort, behavior, and study skills.

Grades 3-8

Personal and Social Growth; Effort and Study Skills

Marking Code: The number indicates the level of performance the student has demonstrated.

- 1 - Unsatisfactory
- 2 - Needs Improvement
- 3 - Developing Appropriately
- 4 - Exceeding

Academic Progress: Grades 3-8

Marking Code: Marks are determined by tests, class work, homework, class participation, independent projects, and a variety of assessment practices.

A numerical grade is the general evaluation for the subject. A mark of 70 indicates a passing grade. If two failures are received in major subjects, the child must attend summer school or be tutored in that subject. Marks received in the summer will replace the final grade given in June and will be recorded on the permanent record card.

An "H" next to mathematics or ELA indicates an "Honors" course.

An "A" signifies "accommodations" made; an "M" signifies modifications made.

Honors

Students in grades 4 through 8 qualify for honors.

First Honors: 94 average with no mark below 90; 3 or above in conduct, effort, technology, art, music and physical education.

Second Honors: 90 average with no mark below 86; 3 or above in conduct, effort, art, music, and physical education.

Honorable Mention: 88 average with no mark below 83; 3 or above in conduct, effort, art, music, and physical education.

Nazareth Academy Grade School Policy for Bullying and Cyberbullying

Introduction

All students have the right to attend a school that provides a safe and secure learning environment. It is the intent of Nazareth Academy Grade School to provide all students with an equitable opportunity to learn. To that end, the Grade School has a significant interest in providing a safe, orderly, and respectful school environment that is conducive to learning and teaching.

Bullying is detrimental to the school environment and student learning, achievement and well-being. It interferes with the mission of the school to educate their student and disrupts the operation of the school. Bullying affects not only students who are targets but also those who participate and witness such behavior. These behavior must be addressed to ensure student safety and a productive learning environment.

The following behaviors are prohibited:

1. Bullying
2. Cyberbullying
3. Harassment and sexual harassment
4. Retaliation against those reporting such behaviors
5. Knowing and false accusations of bullying behavior

Any person who engages in any of these behaviors that constitutes bullying shall be subject to consequences.

Definition:

"**Bullying**" includes but is not limited to a written, oral or electronic expression or physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student or students.

- A) Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property.
- B) Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to student's property.
- C) Creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment for the student.
- D) Interfering with the students' academic performances or ability to participate in services, activities or privileges.

Examples:

1. **Repeated** or pervasive taunting, name-calling, belittling, mocking, putdowns or demeaning humor.
2. Behavior that is intended to harm someone by damaging or manipulating relations with others including gossip, spreading rumors and social exclusion.
3. **Repeated** nonverbal threats or intimidations
4. **Repeated** threats to harm a student, his possessions or relations whether verbally or in writing.
5. Blackmail, extortion
6. Blocking access to school
7. Stealing, hiding books, backpacks or other possessions
8. Stalking
9. Physical contact or injury to another person or property.

Cyberbullying

"**Cyberbullying**" means bullying through the use of any the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

Cyberbullying Examples:

1. Posting slurs or rumors or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate disparaging, violent, abusive, profane or sexually oriented material about a student on a device or social media.
2. Posting misleading or fake photographs.
3. Impersonating or representing another student through e-mails, text messages, instant messages or phone calls.
4. Sending e-mails, text messages, IM or leaving voice messages that are mean, threatening or numerous.
5. Using a camera phone or digital video to take or send pictures/videos without the permission of the child's parents.

This policy applies to bullying that takes place:

On school grounds, building, property.

During a sports related activity or event.

During transportation to school, to a sports related event, school activity, program, instructions, training. If situations occur outside this realm, it is parents' responsibility.

Reporting:

Faculty, staff, coaches and advisors are required to report incidents of bullying to the school principal or whoever is designated.

Students who have been bullied, or are aware of incidents, are strongly encouraged to inform the principal or whoever is designated.

Parents and other adults who are aware of incidents are encouraged to report the behavior to the principal.

Any reprisal or retaliation is prohibited.

False accusation of a bullying incident shall be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Responding:

School Principal or designee will call parent:

The first time the principal/designee will investigate and if necessary respond to allegations.

A written documentation of all allegations will be kept.

The second time, the principal/designee will contact the parent.

The third time, there will be a meeting with student and parents. Counseling, anger management and intervention will follow.

The fourth time, the student will have in-school detention for two days. If a fifth incident occurs, the student will be permanently removed from the school.

The school reserves the right to contact law enforcement for any incident determined to warrant such involvement.

Sexual Harassment: Inappropriate sexual conduct will not be tolerated and may constitute sexual harassment. Our school is committed to the maintenance of learning environment in which all students are part of an atmosphere free from all forms of sexual harassment and if there is an occurrence this constitutes inappropriate behavior and is subject to disciplinary action. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome advances, requests, written or physical. This includes grabbing, touching, patting, sexually offensive pictures, notes, cartoons, or jokes, verbal abuse, graphic comments about an individual body or dress, and sexually degrading names and anything else deemed offensive by the administration.

If you believe that a child is a target of sexual harassment or the focus of inappropriate behavior, the incident must be reported to the school authorities and the parents of both parties. Once communication is documented it will be determined if law enforcement be involved depending on the situation. Counseling, anger management, intervention, detentions, in-school suspension, and expulsion may all be used.

The Acceptable Use Policy for Technology

PURPOSE

Technology is a valuable and real-world educational tool. Nazareth Academy Grade School is committed to teaching its students, faculty, administrators, staff, and school community to work and to learn effectively with technology and to ensure the responsible use of technology. The policy outlined below applies to all technology use including but not limited to Internet use. It applies to any and all prohibited devices that enable students to tape conversations or instruction. *The Acceptable Use Policy for Technology* applies to all students, faculty, administrators, staff, volunteers or community members allowed access to school technology resources. In some cases, outside or personal uses of technology may be applicable under this policy.

SCOPE OF USE

We recognize that the digital world allows *anytime, anywhere access*. Uses mentioned in this policy apply to **inside school** use and may in certain instances apply to personal technology use and/or uses **outside of school**. Where personal outside use of technology threatens a likelihood of substantial disruption in school, including harming or interfering with the rights of other students or teachers to participate fully in school or extra-curricular activities, these activities may be viewed as a violation of the *Acceptable Use Policy* and may be subject to the disciplinary measure found herein. Parents accept this policy when they place their child in our school.



N.B.: The types of electronic and digital communications referenced in this *AUP* include, but are not limited to, social networking sites, cell phones, digital cameras, text messaging, email, voice over ip, audio or visual recording devices, newly-marketed devices not listed, chat rooms, instant messaging, Nooks, Kindles, and the like.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF USERS

Nazareth Academy Grade School will make every effort to provide a safe environment for learning with technology including Internet filtering and safeguards. The students, faculty, administrators, staff, and school community are granted the privilege of using the computer hardware and software peripherals, and electronic communication tools including the Internet. With this privilege comes the responsibility for appropriate use and the consequences decided by the school should violations occur.

If a situation occurs involving the phone and students and it happens off school property, parents need to call the offending parents or the police depending on the severity of the incident. The parents own the phone, not the school. Parents are responsible.

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Nazareth Academy Grade School, we use information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways. We embrace the following conditions or facets of being a digital citizen:

- ◆ **Respect One's Self.** Users will select online names that are appropriate and will consider the information and images that are posted online.
- ◆ **Respect Others.** Users will refrain from using technology to bully, tease or harass other people.
- ◆ **Protect One's Self and Others.** Users will protect themselves and others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications.
- ◆ **Respect Intellectual Property.** Users will suitably cite any and all use of web-sites, books, media, etc.
- ◆ **Protect Intellectual Property.** Users will request to use the software and media others produce and protect license agreements for all soft-ware and resources.

Copyright/Intellectual Property and Identity: All sources obtained for teacher and student work should be properly cited. Users are to respect the rights of and the intellectual property of others in accordance with Federal Copyright Law. Transferring copyrighted material to or from a school without expressed permission of the owner is a violation of Federal Law.

The program "**Go Guardian**" will be incorporated this year. The program filters and monitors any device, and notifies teachers of online activity. This will help keep our children safe when they are online.

Communications: Electronic and/or Digital communications with students should be conducted for **educationally appropriate purposes** and employ only **school-sanctioned** means of communication. The **school-sanctioned** communications methods include:

- ◆ Classroom/curriculum web pages
- ◆ Teacher school e-mail
- ◆ Teacher school phone number
- ◆ Teacher-created, educationally-focused networking sites
- ◆ Teacher Ease for homework

Parents - It is of utmost importance that you know your child's social media or email passwords. Please check it periodically to see where your child has been online and with whom they are communicating.

The Acceptable Use Policy for Technology ~ continued

Teachers or administrators in their normal responsibilities and duties may be required to contact parents outside of the school day. A teacher or administrator is free to contact parents using a home phone or a personal cell phone. However, they should not purposely distribute a home phone or a personal cell phone number to students. If a student contacts a teacher or administrator using a teacher or administrator's personal numbers, email or networking sites, the teacher or administrator should immediately report this to the administrator or appropriate authorities.

Electronic and Mobile Devices, Cell Phones and Recording Devices: Users must adhere to local school policy that may further define uses of mobile devices. Access will be determined by the administrator of the school. If a particular mobile device is to be used for educational purposes, the school administration and/or teacher will provide parameters for this use.

Reporting: Users must immediately report any damage or change to the school's hardware/software that is noticed by the user.

Administrative Rights: *Nazareth Academy Grade School* has the right to monitor both student and employee use of school computers and computer accessed content. Due to the evolving nature of Technology, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Office of Catholic Education and *Nazareth Academy Grade School* reserve the right to amend or add to this policy at any time without notice.

Personal Use of Social Media

This section of the policy refers to the personal use of social media sites such as, but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube and Instagram.

Teachers and students may not mention members of the school community without their consent unless the subject is of public concern.

"Friending" of current students by teachers is forbidden on a **teacher's personal social networking site**. Personal posts must use appropriately respectful speech, and refrain from harassing, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, threatening or other inappropriate communications.

Policy Violations

Violation of the above rules will be dealt with by the administration of *Nazareth Academy Grade School*. Violation of these rules may result in any or all of the following:

- ◆ Loss of use of the school network, computers and software, including Internet access. The student will be expected to complete work on a non-networked, stand-alone computer system.
- ◆ Issuance of codes, detentions, and/or suspensions.
- ◆ Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal and/or legal action by *NAGS*, by civil authorities or other involved parties.
- ◆ No Child will have a chrome book on his/her desk during morning recess or at indoor lunch.
- ◆ No free use of the Chrome book for movies, games, and communication. This is not the purpose and will only be overridden by the principal.

Should a student wish to bring any type of mobile device to school, he/she must fully adhere to *Nazareth Academy Grade School's Acceptable Use Policy*. Encouraging students rather to enjoy playtime and social interaction, e-reader specific devices (Nook or Kindle) may only be used for independent reading purposes and may not be used during recess and lunch times. In addition, *Nazareth Academy Grade School* will not be responsible for damage or theft during the school day, including time at the bus stop and on bus rides. All cell phones are collected each morning and placed in a bin in the faculty room. Cell phones are returned before the end of the day. If phones are turned on in the building, they will be taken and only the parents may pick them up in the principal's office.



Student Learning Skills

A child who is prepared:

- ◆ Brings all materials to class: a notebook, paper, pen, pencil, folders, newspaper articles, etc.
- ◆ Is an active participant in the classroom, listens well, takes part in discussions.
- ◆ Asks questions if a concept is not understood or if a problem arises.
- ◆ Plans work and schedules time for homework, making sure that the assignment is understood before leaving class.
- ◆ Uses what is learned and sees how each subject applies to others.
- ◆ Notes changes in assignments in the Planner and reviews all work presented in class every night.

How to Study

- ◆ Attitude is important - think positively, work independently. Seek help only when you have exhausted your own resources; then ask questions, use library resources.
- ◆ Learning requires concentration - keep your mind on what you are doing. It will take less time.
- ◆ Have a well-lit, quiet place to study at home.
- ◆ Read the entire assignment rapidly to grasp the basic content. Re-read slowly to understand content, details, explanations, directions. If the assignment is not written, make notes of your own, outline what you have learned; use index cards.
- ◆ If the assignment is a long-term project, do a little of it each day; do not let it go until the last minute. It will be easier and you will do a better job.

CORA & Catapult: Counseling or Referral Agency (CORA) provides services in remedial reading and mathematics, speech therapy, counseling, and educational testing. Students are referred by teachers with parental consent. These services are conducted during the day on school property. In addition, CORA provides career counseling for the eighth grade. CORA also offers guidance and counseling services for individuals, groups, or families, and assists teachers with direction in guiding students.

Student Activities

Student activities promote an atmosphere for growth in a fellowship of faith. The students learn an awareness of social justice through community service projects. These activities emphasize our rootedness in our Catholic values. They include service projects involving:

- ◆ Saint Francis Inn for the homeless
- ◆ Archdiocesan Food Bank
- ◆ Blessed Mary Castello Home for Crisis Pregnancies
- ◆ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- ◆ St. Christopher's Hospital
- ◆ American Cancer Society
- ◆ Mount Nazareth Convent
- ◆ Thanksgiving Food Baskets for the needy
- ◆ Holy Family University Collection

To augment and enrich class-related topics, educational field trips are coordinated by the classroom teacher. Students enter invitational competitions in art, music, and writing.

Students are also provided opportunities to partake in school, state, and national scholastic competitions across the curriculum, such as:

- ◆ First In Math, St. Jude Math-a- Thon, Pennsylvania Mathematics League Tests, NAHS and HGP Grade School Math Competition
- ◆ World Math, Spelling, and Science Day Competitions
- ◆ Science Olympiad
- ◆ Reading Olympics
- ◆ Archdiocesan Music and Art Competitions
- ◆ Johns Hopkins Talent Searches
- ◆ People to People Programs
- ◆ Junior National Young Leaders Program
- ◆ National Young Scholars Program
- ◆ National Science League
- ◆ National Social Studies League
- ◆ STEM Expo

Student Council

Leadership is very much encouraged within the school setting. In particular, members of Student Government are afforded the challenge and responsibility to lead, direct, coordinate, and make decisions. The Student Government is comprised of four officers from the eighth grade with class representatives from grades six through eight in each trimester. Their efforts are aimed at working with the administration in serving local community, school and fellow students.

Heads-Up Program

The "Heads-Up" Program was established to attack drug problems from a preventive standpoint. Members of the Police Department along with volunteers from the recovering community and the family members who have lost loved ones to drugs and violence have devoted their time and energy to educate children in order to prevent their involvement in drug use and to give them the tools to build solid character. This program is offered whenever possible to the students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

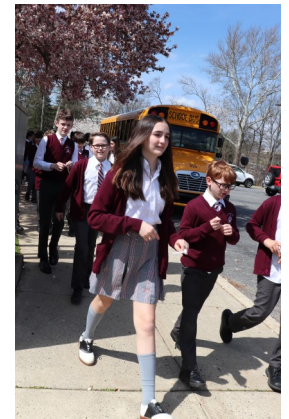
Enrichment Activities

Student planning, initiative, creativity and leadership find their source in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

We open the door to the arts by encouraging participation in our music and theater arts programs, further expanding the diversity of students' talents.

In addition, students may select from the following extracurricular activities:

- ◆ Science Olympiad
- ◆ Reading Club
- ◆ Math Club
- ◆ STEM Club
- ◆ Choir Chimes
- ◆ Joyful Ringers
- ◆ Choir
- ◆ "Grace Notes" Choir
- ◆ Flag Football
- ◆ Dance Program



UNIFORM SCHEDULE:

September 6 - October 20: Spring/Summer Uniform

October 23 - April 19: Fall/Winter Uniform

April 22 - June 7: Spring/Summer Uniform

Fall/Winter Uniform

Reflecting present-day societal influences, concerns about student attire have continued to emerge in the realm of education. To help fulfill the mission of instilling Christian values, emphasis is placed on pride in personal grooming, hygiene, and appearance. Students wear spring/summer and fall/winter uniforms for classroom instruction and physical education. These uniforms allow the children comfort, freedom, and flexibility to participate fully in the daily activities presented to them. Emphasis on cleanliness and neatness as applied to personal appearance helps all students of Nazareth Academy Grade School learn how important it is to dress correctly and to follow regulations. Homeroom teachers check uniforms in the morning and all teachers remind and correct students who may appear disheveled throughout the day. Values delineated in the Student Development process apply.

Boys: Boys in grades 1 through 8 wear gray pants with a black belt, a plain white oxford shirt, a school tie, gray socks, and **black dress tie shoes** (NO velcro) with **non-marking soles**. (Please avoid the purchase of other styles for the boys). A regulation pullover burgundy sweater vest or cardigan is **required**. Hair is to be well-groomed at all times and it may not extend over the eyes, ears, or collar. Haircuts may not reflect the extreme or current fad: i.e., either too long or excessively short, spiked or streaked hair. Earrings may not be worn.

Girls: Girls in grades 1 through 4 wear a gray and burgundy plaid jumper with a white round-collared blouse, either long-sleeved or short-sleeved. Girls in grades 5 through 8 wear a plaid skirt with a white long-sleeved or short-sleeved blouse with a buttoned down collar. Jumpers/skirts **must reach the knee; special sizes are available so that skirts reach the knee**. Gray knee socks and black and white saddle shoes are worn by all girls. Stockings may be worn by girls in grades 5 through 8; leotards for girls in grades 1 through 4. A regulation pullover burgundy sweater vest or cardigan is **required**. Girls' hair styles should be appropriately simple, as well as any hair accessories, which should be grey and/or maroon. No colored hair tints are permitted. One small earring may be worn in each ear as well as a small cross necklace. Large dangling earrings, make-up, and colored nail polish may not be worn to school.

Boys' shirts and girls' blouses are to be tucked into pants/skirts at all times, unless it is a knit shirt.

As a private school, Nazareth Academy Grade School requires all children to dress according to the school's regulations.

Spring/Summer Uniform

Boys: a white or maroon banlon shirt with the Nazareth Academy logo, khaki camp (must be purchased at Flynn & O'Hara) no tie.

Girls: a maroon or white banlon shirt with the Nazareth Academy logo, short sleeve round collared blouse and khaki skorts (must be purchased at Flynn & O'Hara).

Gym Uniform

The summer gym uniform consists of maroon shorts and gray tee shirts with the Nazareth Academy logo, and white socks. (Hooded sweatshirts are not permitted for gym).

The winter gym uniform consists of maroon sweatshirts and maroon sweatpants with the Nazareth Academy logo, and white socks.





SOLID WHITE support, athletic sneakers such as cross-trainer or aerobic type shoes are to be worn with white athletic socks for both the summer and winter uniform. **No other type is acceptable.**

Unless otherwise stated or when inclement weather occurs, this uniform is worn ONLY on the day the children have gym class. If your child does not come to school dressed in the gym uniform, he/she will not be permitted to participate in gym class. (Parents are not called to bring gym uniforms.)




**Parental support regarding our dress
code is essential and is gratefully appreciated!**



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Faculty Meeting	1	2
3	4 Labor Day 	5 Faculty Meeting 1st Grade Orientation 6:30 p.m.	6 First Day of School 	7 Backpack Blessing Back to School Night Noon Dismissal 	8 Opening Prayer Services	9
10	11 Pretzels Begin	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Breakfast/Hot Lunch Begins Gifts' N Things Fundraiser	19	20	21 NAGSPA Meeting	22	23
24 Family Mass 11:00 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	30




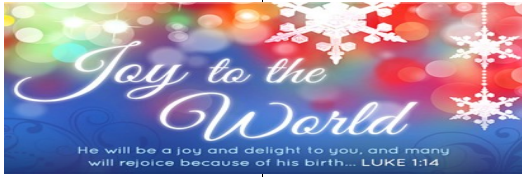
October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 St. Francis Lunches Gifts' N Things Fundraiser Ends Dance	3 Celebration of Sacraments Grade 3 6:30 p.m.	4 St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Pets	5 High School Night	6 Noon Dismissal Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Faculty Meeting	7
8	9 Columbus Day Dance	10 ← Book Fair →	11	12	13	14
15	16 Progress Reports Dance	17	18	19 Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00– 6:00 p.m.	20 No classes Teacher Conferences	21 Trunk or Treat 
22	23 Winter Uniforms Gifts' N Things Delivery Dance	24	25	26 Board of Trustees Meeting NACSPA Meeting	27	28
29	30 Buddy Halloween Dance	31 Halloween Celebration 				





November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 No Classes 	2	3 Noon Dismissal Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Faculty Meeting	4
5	6 St. Francis Lunches Dance	7	8 Picture Day	9	10 Veterans Day Prayer Service	11 
12 Mother Foundress' Birthday	13 Dance	14	15	16 NAGSPA Meeting	17 First Grade Open House	18
19	20 Dance	21 Mother Foundress Feast Day Thanksgiving Prayer Service	22 Noon Dismissal	23 No classes 	24 No classes 	25
26	27 Dance	28	29	30		

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Noon Dismissal Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Faculty Meeting First Trimester Ends	2
3	4 St. Francis Lunches Second Trimester begins Dance	5	6 St. Nicholas Day Christmas Tree Lighting 	7 Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m.	8 No Classes <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i> NAGSPA Jingle Ball Dance	9
10	11 Dance	12 Retake Pictures	13 Reconciliation Gr. 4-8 1:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18 Report Cards Dance	19	20 Advent Retreat	21 Christmas at NAGS	22 Noon Dismissal Christmas Prayer Service	23
24	25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No classes 	2 No classes	3	4	5 Noon Dismissal Liturgy 10:30 p.m. Faculty meeting	6
7	8 St. Francis Lunches Dance	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr No Classes 	16	17	18 NAGSPA Meeting	19	20
21	22 Dance	23	24	25 Board of Trustees Meeting	26	27
28	29 Dance	30	31	<div> <div>←</div> <div>Catholic Schools Week</div> <div>→</div> </div>		
						




February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Catholic Schools Week	2 Noon Dismissal Faculty Meeting	3
4	5 St. Francis Lunches Progress Reports Dance	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Dance	13	14 Ash Wednesday 	15	16	17
18	19 	20	21 Religion Bee	22	23	24
25	26 Dance	27	28	29 NAGSPA Meeting		

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Noon Dismissal Terra Nova Liturgy 10:30 p.m. Faculty Meeting	2
3	4 St. Francis Lunches Dance	5	6	7	8 End of second trimester	9
<div>← Terra Nova Testing →</div>						
10	11 Third Trimester Begins Dance	12 1st Reconciliation Grade 3 6:30 p.m.	13 Religion Bee	14	15	16
17 	18 Report Cards Dance	19 St. Joseph's Day V.I.P. DAY (Dads, Uncles, Granddad, or a Special Guy)	20 Reconciliation Gr. 4-8 1:00 p.m.	21 Universal 7 grade Visita- tion NAGSPA Meeting	22	23
24 Palm Sunday <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 Living Stations 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Dance	26 Living Stations 1:00 p.m. at Chapel	27 No classes Teacher Retreat	28 No classes Holy Thursday	29 No Classes Good Friday	30
31 Easter <i>Easter Greetings</i>						


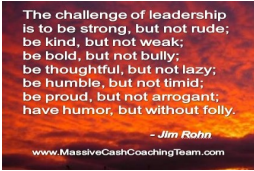



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No Classes Easter Monday 	2	3	4	5 Noon Dismissal Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Faculty Meeting	6
7	8 St. Francis Lunches Dance	9	10	11	12	13 NAGSPA Auction
14	15 Dance	16	17 Class/ Graduation Pictures	18	19 School Play	20 School Play
21 School Play	22 Summer Uniforms Dance	23	24 ← STREAM EXPO →	25 NAGSPA Meeting	26	27
28	29 Dance	30				


May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Noon Dismissal May Crowning Faculty Meeting	4 First Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. 
5	6 St. Francis Lunches 3rd grade No class Dance	7	8	9 No Classes Ascension of the Lord	10	11
12 Happy Mother's Day 	13 Dance	14 K.I.S.S. Kids invite someone special (Mom, Aunt, Grandmom, or a Special Lady)	15 Reading Olympics	16 NAGSPA Meeting	17	18
19	20 Dance	21	22	23 Board of Trustees Meeting	24 No Classes Planning Meeting	25
26 	27 No classes	28	29	30	31 Noon Dismissal Field Day	

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Class of 2024 Dance	3 Graduation 6:00 p.m. No Classes for 7th & 8th Grade	4 Yearbook signing	5	6 Grade 1-7 Awards	7 Last day of School Dismissal 10:00 a.m.	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Happy Father's Day	17	18	19 	20	21 	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<div>← <i>Dance Camp</i> →</div>						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<div>← <i>Dance Camp</i> →</div>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Our History

In 1941 the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth opened the doors of Nazareth Academy Grade School to those families seeking an educational environment for their children founded on love and respect as primary values. Built on property that was purchased in the 1920's, the original school building was housed in a renovated barn at the corner of Grant and Frankford Avenues. When Holy Family College was established in 1954, it later became necessary to relocate the already existing grade school facility to a new location. On September 10, 1967, the cornerstone was laid and Nazareth Academy Grade School took its new location at 4701 Grant Avenue.

Nazareth Academy Grade School is now part of a larger and continually expanding educational campus that includes Holy Family University, Nazareth Academy High School and Alpha House Pre-School. On this magnificent campus, one can truly feel the warm energy and charisma by strolling the grounds and enjoying the buildings, old and new. In visualizing continued growth, progressing in stages, one is able to acknowledge the historical diversity emphasizing the place of family and devotion in the educational process.

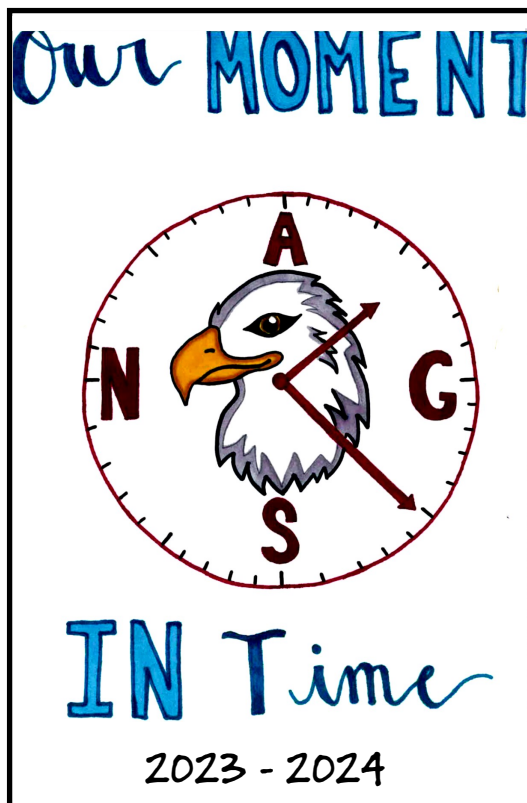
Nazareth has been fully accredited by the *Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools* since 1981. The accreditation process has validated educational excellence while recognizing school improvement, thus constantly sustaining a quality education for our students.

Since its inception, Nazareth has contributed its own spirit to the campus and remains strong. In 2002, a Capital Campaign entitled "*Building a Better World, One Student at a Time*" was initiated to increase instructional classroom space. Through prayer and stellar efforts of many dedicated and talented individuals, an addition was opened in 2006 featuring bright and inviting classrooms for Science, Mathematics, and Music.

The academic excellence to which students are called, in combination with the value-based curriculum helps Nazareth promote and continue the "*Tradition of Excellence*" that it professes. The dedication and commitment of Nazareth Academy Grade School to achieve its objectives and strategic planning for the future is evident from its past accomplishments.

Eighty-two years later, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and their mission continue to guide our school in an everlasting vision, which captivated our foundress, Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Frances Siedliska): "***We are committed to creating communities of love and hope which celebrate the oneness of the human family.***"





MISSION STATEMENT

Nazareth Academy Grade School, founded in 1941 by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, is a private co-educational Catholic School for students in grades one through eight.

Our mission is to spread the Kingdom of God's love by creating a family-friendly environment in which we invite students and their families to discover God in everyday life events and to be an integral part of the Nazareth family.

We are committed to promoting Christian morals and values and academic excellence, and to demonstrating, through our students' personal engagement in service projects, God's love and care for the poor and others in need.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe that:

- ♦ Each child is created in the image and likeness of God.
- ♦ Our children can become true reflections of God's love by imitating the Holy Family of Nazareth.
- ♦ The family's supportive involvement in their child's school experience is critical for that child's happiness and success.
- ♦ An environment of love helps children grow and develop to their potential.
- ♦ The education of the whole child - intellectually, artistically, spiritually, morally, socially, and physically - cultivates productive and compassionate members of society.
- ♦ Children are entitled to an education in surroundings in which they feel safe and respected.
- ♦ Each child's learning style and personal achievements should be valued and acknowledged.
- ♦ We are building God's reign of love in our world, step by step, moment by moment in this place. The more we recognize God in the daily environment, the more compassionate and caring we will be.
- ♦ Appreciating diversity and understanding other cultures, races, and religions are values that should be encouraged and modeled.
- ♦ A challenging and evolving curriculum is a driving force behind the school's success and longevity.