

The Neighborhood Academy is a faith-based, college preparatory, independent school whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by empowering youth and preparing them for college and citizenship.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

SUMMER 2023

NEIGHBORHOOD news

709 N. Aiken Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Letter from The Head of School

To: The Neighborhood Academy Community



On May 25, the 21 seniors who comprised the Class of 2023 entered Third Presbyterian Church in their caps and gowns and walked out official graduates of The Neighborhood Academy.

This talented class was accepted to 58

colleges and universities and earned over \$1.1 million in scholarship awards.

The word "proud" is an understatement for how I feel about these graduates, and I wish them great success in their future endeavors. This outstanding class consisted of young men from our inaugural 7th grade middle school class. **Our vision for the Middle School for Boys five years ago is now the vision for our first cohort of girls entering our Middle School for Girls this fall.**

Belief in our students brings rise to their empowerment and leadership.

In April, TNA's 9th graders hosted a Community Slam at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania. This special event — sponsored by the Will Allen Foundation — spread awareness of youth homelessness, mental health, and gun violence. Students also collected canned foods and clothes for local organizations.

As a result of the Community Slam, seven 9th graders will be representing our region at Multiplying Good's National Youth Summit at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in June.

I offer a big congratulations to Samaira, Naya, Tyrone, and Gabriel for competing in the Marshall-Brennan National Moot Court Competition & Conference in Washington, D.C. in March. The team was selected through TNA's Constitutional Law class, and each student did an excellent job in the competition.

Continuation, Preparation... Accreditation.

TNA has completed its self-study for the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS). This state-facilitated accreditation ensures that member schools meet and maintain standards of educational excellence defined by PAIS. I want to thank TNA's accreditation co-chairs Rosetta Johnson and Jonathan DeBor for their organization and leadership throughout this self-study. Our first formal evaluation with PAIS will take place in the fall of 2023.

Please be sure to purchase your tickets to TNA's flagship biennial event, the **2023 Nancy & Paul O'Neill Speaker Series**. This year, we will be hosting **Anthony Ray**



Hinton: bestselling author, activist, and former death row inmate who was freed after 30 years for a crime he did not commit. Tickets are available at theneighborhoodacademy.org.

I am honored to announce that I was selected as a recipient of a nonprofit sabbatical program. My last day on our campus was Friday, May 26, and I will return for the 2023-2024 school year on Monday, August 21. During my sabbatical, I plan to sharpen my vision for the direction of our school, tend to my physical and mental wellness, and be active and present in the lives of my family. During these weeks, TNA will be in good hands under the leadership of Brent Jernigan, Assistant Head of School, and Shannon Prentiss, Dean of Student Affairs.

I look forward to keeping you apprised of future strategies and initiatives for the long-term sustainability of our school. As always, I want to thank you for your belief in our mission, and for your ongoing support of The Neighborhood Academy.

Anthony Williams

Dr. Anthony P. Williams
Head of School





Congratulations to TNA Alumni, Lénia Felix...

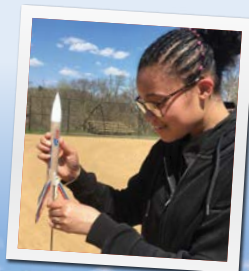
for having her 2022 Senior Seminar paper published by the Journal of Emerging Investigators, Inc. The publication is an open-access journal that publishes original research in the biological and physical sciences written by middle and high school students.

Read the publication "The Relationship Between Income Inequality and Maternal Mortality for Black and White Mothers" at <https://www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/academics/senior-seminar.cfm>



Dr. Diane Nutbrown's physics class recently launched rockets in Highland Park! The class designed, launched, and took video of their rockets to calculate acceleration and force. It's literally rocket science!

"It was so cool to launch real-life rockets into the sky and use math to predict their trajectory and where they would land." – Nakia



Say hello to our stellar defense team!

In February, TNA's Social Justice Class participated in Pennsylvania's High School Mock Trial Competition at the Allegheny County Courthouse.

TNA's entire 11th grade class and two other students participated in the competition involving more than 300 high schools throughout the state. The students either served the role of an attorney or a witness for either the plaintiff or the defendant in the mock trial patterned after a real civil case. Special thanks to Burns White LLC for the guidance and support!



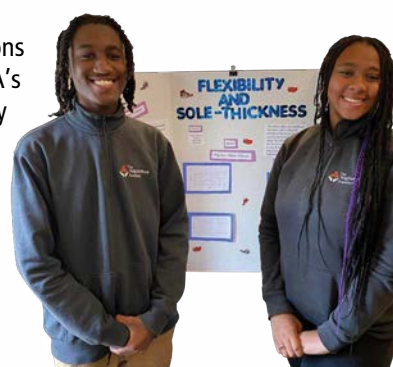
"Every student gained valuable public speaking and advocacy skills while refining their analytical abilities as they competed directly in four separate 'trials.' - Bob Dapper, Jr., TNA Board Member; Partner, Burns White.



Do energy drinks really hydrate you? Does pollution in the ocean affect sea birds? Can we extend the life of flowers?



These are some of the questions our students answered at TNA's school-wide STEM Fair in early May. Students from grades 6-11 filled the hallways of TNA's academic building to present their impressive science displays to teachers, fellow students, and interested guests!



10th graders, Adam and Nate, received Pittsburgh Youth Leadership's Babcock Leadership Award for demonstrating the best in positive leadership on all their many biking adventures. The two cyclists were each awarded a brand-new set of wheels for commuting and future excursions.

"Perseverance and determination created two powerful cyclists which PYL is proud to watch. We're so happy to have Adam and Nate with us!"
- Mark Rubenstein, PYL President



HIGHLIGHTS

Kristin Rubin's seventh and eighth grade science classes went on a **field trip to the Carnegie Science Center** as a part of their Astronomy unit. The students saw the new Mars exhibit and then kicked back and watched the stars in a **Buhl Planetarium show, "Stars over Pittsburgh."** The field trip was generously funded through a Bayer grant from the museum.



This past winter, TNA students visited **Pittsburgh Center For Arts & Media** to create pottery using the Raku firing method. Raku is an ancient Japanese ceramics technique when glazed ceramics are taken from the kiln while they are still glowing red hot and are then placed in a material that would be able to catch fire. Special thanks to Audra Clayton for giving a tour and teaching this fascinating technique!



TNA juniors visited the **Carnegie Museum of Art** and **The Andy Warhol Museum**. The students were immersed in a constellation of artwork and breath-taking exhibits including the 58th Carnegie International.

"Students had the opportunity to see some of the all-time masters such as Monet and Van Gogh. Having the opportunity to see Monet's 'Water Lilies' in-person is not the same as viewing this masterpiece on the web or in print. The massive size alone usually leaves students staring at all the details and layers of colors... Van Gogh painted in multiple layers and with a thickness that can only be seen and experienced in person. Most people don't realize the screen-printing process that Warhol used to create his Pop Art master pieces. Museum trips are vital for students to experience how art pieces are made and preserved in an isolated controlled environment."

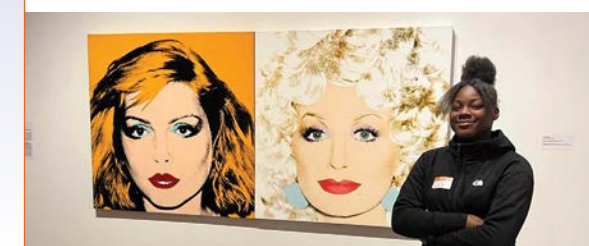
-TNA Art Instructor, Joe Roenker



Our 6th graders explored the **Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems** to study the wild variety of rocks and minerals. They learned about the geology of Pennsylvania and checked out some fascinating fossils.

In April, TNA's Photography Club, led by Math Instructor, Jason Scott, visited the **Pittsburgh Zoo** to snap some nature pics. The zoo's Education Department gave the students some close-ups with Majeck the Macaw and Bill the Box Turtle!

(Pics by Paul A. Selvaggio)





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Claire Johnson, '12, is a Program Director for Ability Connection in Dallas, Texas. She finds her purpose in life through offering care to those struggling with mental health diagnoses and those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD). Ability Connection has been providing services for adults with IDD for over 70 years.

Prior to her position at Ability Connection, Claire worked as a community case manager for TRUE Mental Health, providing intensive outpatient case management to adults living with severe mental health disorders. She credits her previous position at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital for preparing her for the duties in her roles in Dallas.

Prior to relocating to Dallas, Claire also worked at FamilyLinks for two years, providing direct care to adolescents who were in a group home setting receiving behavioral intervention.

Claire earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. She is currently working towards her Master of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington where she just completed her first year with a 4.0 GPA. She has plans to become a licensed clinical social worker and do individual therapy for adults, while serving as a hospital social worker on the side.

While Claire playfully considers herself a "workaholic," she always finds time for her Labrador-Pointer mix, Ari, sleeping, and the occasional happy hour!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Valedictorian for the Class of 2023 and Penn Hills native, **Sierra Rose Riley** will be staying in the 'burgh to study science at Chatham University. Sierra has a knack for transforming her biggest fears into her biggest strengths.

"The things that interest me the most now are the things that scared me the most growing up," Sierra said. "I had a fear of meteors crashing into the earth, so I studied space and now want to become an astronomer... I also had a fear of the ocean and the creatures that inhabit it, so I studied the ocean, and now I would also like to study marine biology!... Ask me anything about sharks, and I have the answer."

In her free time, Sierra enjoys reading nonfiction books – particularly science and philosophy. Over the summer, she plans to work with Science Instructor Dr. Diane Nutbrown on some physics projects.

Sierra credits her mother for her love of Biology.

"I want to earn my masters or a doctorate in either Marine Biology, Astrobiology, or Astronomy... I love science because it is both analytical and creative," she said. "I want to do something that has the right amount of wonder and structure to it."



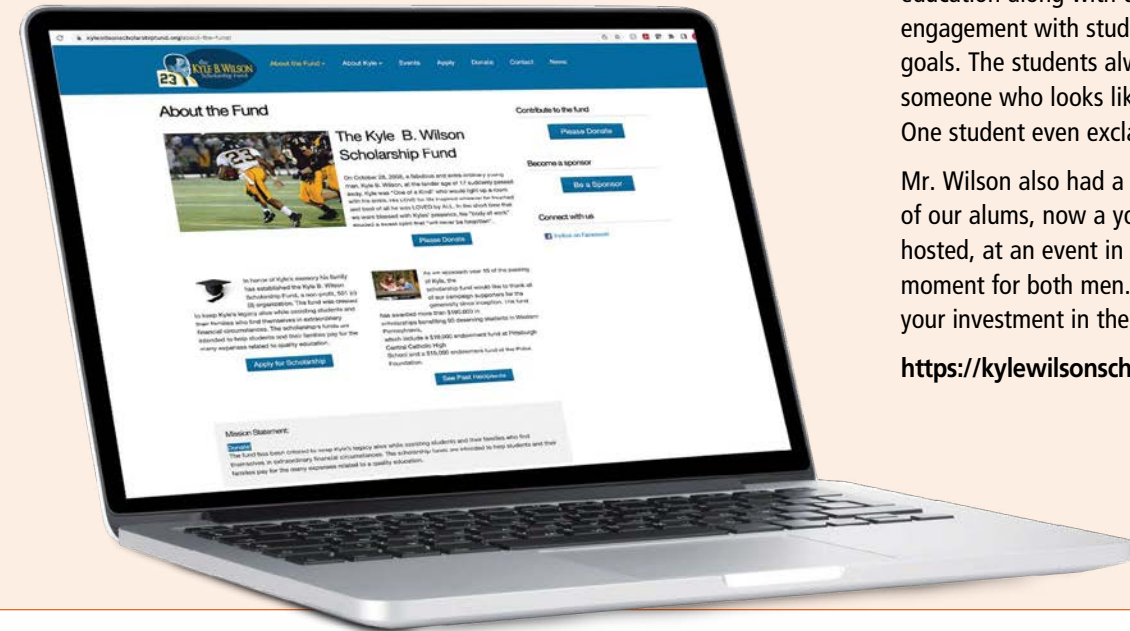
Visit our blog at theneighborhoodacademy.org to view the full articles.



CORPORATE CONNECTION

More than just a vendor, a donor and a friend - The Wilson Group

In 2019, The Neighborhood Academy and The Wilson Group began building a relationship centered around supporting students. President and CEO, Mr. Derrick Wilson immediately embraced the vision of TNA and one of our graduating seniors was a recipient of the Kyle B. Wilson scholarship named in honor of Mr. Wilson's son, who tragically passed away at the age of 17.



Over the past several years, not only has The Wilson Group sponsored several events, including the legendary Smokey Robinson event in December 2019, Mr. Wilson has hosted three classes of Juniors, at his headquarters in RIDC Park. Mr. Wilson has proven to be a superb role model to our students by demonstrating the benefit of obtaining a good education along with dedication and hard work. Each engagement with students inspires them to achieve their goals. The students always come away encouraged to see someone who looks like them excel as an entrepreneur. One student even exclaimed, 'I am very proud of him!'

Mr. Wilson also had a proud moment when he ran into one of our alums, now a young professional, whom he had hosted, at an event in downtown Pittsburgh. It was a special moment for both men. Thank you to The Wilson Group for your investment in the lives of our young people.

<https://kylewilsonscholarshipfund.org/about-the-fund/>

SUPPORTERS CORNER

Sally Ann Bensur has worn many hats in her professional life and now wears many hats in her support of The Neighborhood Academy.

Sally Ann retired from BNY Mellon after 30 years doing everything from strategic sales and corporate relationship management, to treasury management and consulting. After two years of retirement, she returned to the workforce at The Boys and Girls Club of America, where she developed cause marketing partnerships with corporate clients. Today, Sally Ann dedicates her time, treasure, and leadership skills to TNA.

In 2012, Sally Ann was introduced to TNA's co-founder, Jodie Moore, at a mutual friend's cocktail party. After an 'infectious' conversation about TNA, Sally Ann was invited to take a tour of TNA.

"At the conclusion of my tour, Jodie and I sat for a few minutes discussing my impressions: It was clear TNA was doing something very special for kids."

From then on, Sally Ann served on several Nancy & Paul O'Neill Speaker Series' Host Committees, the Development Committee and chaired the Nominating and Governance Committee. Today, she plays an important role on the Board of Directors and in TNA's Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) accreditation process.

Sally Ann and her husband, Bill, continue their support of TNA through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, where they redirect their PA State tax liability to approved schools such as TNA and receive a 90% PA tax credit.

Thank you Sally Ann and Bill for your commitment to our students!



"The EITC program makes it so much easier to give at higher levels, and it's a win-win for the taxpayer and TNA."

SPORTS HIGHLIGHT



The **High School Boys Basketball team** advanced to the quarterfinals of the WPIAL playoffs. The team qualified for PIAA playoffs first time in school history.

Courtney and **John** made the **2023 WPIAL All-Section Team** for High School Boys Basketball.

Nathan was selected to play in the **Roundball Classic Game** to represent the 2023 seniors.

Justice was named **SWPAA Eastern Conference MVP**.

The **Middle School Bulldogs** won the **SWCAC Middle School Championship** for the second year in a row.

Caliyhp and **Darrin** placed 5th at the **WPIAL Track and Field Championships** at Slippery Rock University qualifying for the PIAA Track and Field championships.

Jalise broke the **long jump record** that was 15 years old and 200m record that was 12 years old.

8 total school records were broken in track and field.

Rashad medaled at **WPIAL Northern Wrestling Championships**. TNA's First ever wrestling medal.



On May 25, 21 outstanding scholars donned their royal blue caps and gowns ready to take the next step on their academic journey. Third Presbyterian Church was packed with family and friends witnessing the Class of 2023 receive their diplomas. We were honored to have Dr. Kathy Wilson Humphrey, President of Carlow University, as our commencement speaker. Dr. Humphrey shared her message through her speech (and song!) and a powerful parable about a pencil maker.

Faculty and leadership presented “Academy Awards” to students who went above and beyond during the academic year. TNA extends a special congratulations to Sierra Rose Riley for earning Valedictorian, and to the six other graduates who received special TNA scholarships.



Photos from the celebration can be found on TNA's Flickr page and a video of the ceremony can be viewed on our YouTube channel.



COLLEGE ADMITTANCES FOR CLASS OF 2023



- Bethany College (1)
- Carlow University (1)
- Chatham University (1)
- Community College of Allegheny County (1)
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2)
- Lincoln University (1)
- North Carolina A&T (1)
- Pittsburgh Technical College (1)
- Point Park University (2)
- Robert Morris University (2)
- Seton Hill University (1)
- Temple University (1)
- University of Pennsylvania (1)
- University of Pittsburgh (2)
- University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg (1)
- West Liberty University (1)
- Youngstown State University (1)

HONORS AND TRIBUTES
From 9/1/22-5/1/23

IN HONOR OF
Charlie Ferrara
Mr. Kevin Bode

IN HONOR OF
Chris Waruszewski
Ms. Katherine Lukaszewicz

IN HONOR OF
The Cookinham Family
Ms. Jean Zappa

IN HONOR OF
Ellie Rising
Mr. and Mrs. David Hicks

IN HONOR OF
Leslie Fleischner
Mrs. Patricia K. Gibbons

IN HONOR OF
Lucy and John Douglas
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crawford
Mr. Marc S. Field &
Ms. Donna S. Duchene

IN HONOR OF
Shataya Taylor
Dr. Valire Copeland

IN MEMORY OF
Beverly Little and Bob Grandizio Sr.
Mr. James Greece

IN MEMORY OF
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brodbeck
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Steinberg
Mr. James B. Lieber
Ms. Martha Poehler
Ms. Cheryl Kelemen
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Ms. Phylisha South
Mr. Greg Weingart
Mr. Christopher Amar
Ms. Liz Cooper
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Mr. Thomas McCartney
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Levine
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Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stover
Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. James McLean
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cotter
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barbour
Mr. Paul Supowitz
Mr. Brian Simmons
Ms. Mary Pat Johnston
Mr. Edward Steckel
Mrs. Kelly Kurpeikis

IN MEMORY OF
Diane Stone, MD
Dr. and Mrs. Alan D. Bramowitz

IN MEMORY OF
Hans Fleischner
Ms. Janet Wagner
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Gibbons, Esq.

IN MEMORY OF
Gay Palmer
Mr. Robert Palmer

IN MEMORY OF
Jessica McClelland
Ms. Janie McClelland
Ms. Edana Hendrix
Mrs. Tracy Rocco
Mr. Scott Zanella
Ms. Pamela Francis
Ms. Karen Roth
Ms. Barbara Foltz
Ms. Molly Burns
Ms. Yvonne Novick
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Burnikel
Mrs. Frances Maslowski
Mr. Robert Blose

IN MEMORY OF
Josie Dietrick
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dietrick

IN MEMORY OF
Kadiatou Conte
Mr. Frank H. McNutt

IN MEMORY OF
Mary Means
Mr. Donald C. Beaver

Ms. Betsy Wentz
Mr. Tony Grieco
Ms. June Schaut
Ms. Mollie Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simmons
Mr. and Mrs. Mark McDonel
Mr. G. Ogden Nutting
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Edson, Jr.
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Mrs. Barbara Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Riordan
Mr. Robert Kopf Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Nadler
Mrs. and Mr. Eliza S. Nevin
Mr. and Mrs. Ira Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Todd
Ms. Candida Vene
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Karl
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Sebastian

IN MEMORY OF
Priscilla Oehl
Mrs. Constance S. Donnelly
Mrs. William B. Mosle, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William McConnel
Ms. Helen Abdalla
Ms. Martha Boucher
Ms. Theresa Boboris
Ms. Lori Dunn
Ms. Barbara Ebert
Mr. Michael Oehl
Ms. Joan Sieber
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hutchinson
Ms. Elizabeth Roughen
Mrs. Molly Sauereisen
Mr. Matt Schwartz
Ms. Jody Foster
Mrs. Nancy Brownell

WISHLIST

All wish list donations are tax-deductible and can be made visiting givetna.org/waystogive

Item(s)	Price
Computer Case for a Student	\$10
Dice Set	\$10
Gram Scale	\$15
Art Supplies	\$25
Classroom Décor	\$25
25 Pack of Clip Boards	\$40
One-Month Tuition for a Student	\$50 / 10 students: \$500
One Charging Cord and Accessories	\$50 / for classroom: \$500
SAT Prep for a Student	\$52 / for 10 student: \$520
4-Pack of Floor Cushions	\$60
Indoor Garden Starter Kit	\$65
Apple Pencil (6 Needed)	\$100
Classroom Stools	\$100
Ti-84 Calculators	\$125
Monthly Food for a Student	\$120 / for a family: \$360
Golf Clubs	\$200
Chromebook	\$250 / for a classroom: \$2,500
Push Mower	\$300
iPad (6 Needed)	\$330
Epson Projector	\$750
11-Inch Apple iPad Pro	\$1,100
Commercial Carpet Care Machine	\$1,500
Macbook Pro	\$1,600
6 iPads & 6 Apple Pencils	\$2,700



 The Neighborhood Academy

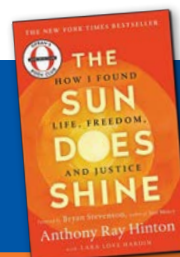
The Nancy and Paul O'Neill Speaker Series

presenting...

ANTHONY RAY HINTON

Author of

THE SUN DOES SHINE



Join The Neighborhood Academy on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, for a powerful evening detailing a thirty-year journey to exoneration and freedom.

Anthony Ray Hinton is an author, activist, and former death row inmate who was exonerated for a crime he did not commit. Hinton's New York Times bestselling book, *The Sun Does Shine* is a testament to the power of hope and is destined to be a classic memoir of wrongful imprisonment and freedom won.

TICKETS AVAILABLE: theneighborhoodacademy.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.theneighborhoodacademy.org

phone: 412-362-2001 fax: 412-362-2004

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

709 N. Aiken Avenue

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