

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 2021

NEIGHBORHOOD news

709 N. Aiken Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Letter from The Head of School

To: The Neighborhood Academy Community



Summer is upon us and so is the promise of new beginnings. While this academic year has brought great challenges, we have also witnessed exceptional accomplishments and academic achievements from our students who

benefit from your ongoing devotion to their education.

I am proud to announce that our **largest graduating class of 26 seniors** has shattered records. They have been admitted to **50 colleges and universities**, earning more than **\$1.3 million in scholarship dollars**. I am very proud of their tenacious efforts to pursue their college aspirations.

Remarkable academic achievements have transpired in both the middle and high school. For the second year in a row, 8th grade student, Nathan Shelton, placed as a top finalist in the Penn Hills Entrepreneurial School's Fourth Annual Soaring Shark Tank Business Pitch Competition. Nathan designed an app that connects parents to resources of

schools with students with special needs. His entrepreneurial attitude has inspired me and demonstrated his ingenuity of thought.

Currently, TNA staff and faculty are diligently finalizing this year's summer program, which will be held in-person on our campus. We look forward to welcoming 150 new and returning students to our campus for our four-week summer program. Throughout the summer, we will intentionally combat the impact of learning loss that plagues many students.

It is with deep gratitude and admiration for Charlie Ferrara that I thank him for his seven years of service as Chairman of our Board as he steps down on August 31, 2021. Charlie has forged a solid foundation for us to build upon for future generations. His stellar leadership contributed to the growth and progressive evolution of our school. I am indebted to Charlie for his service, and I am pleased to announce that Ed Haller IV will succeed Charlie as our fourth Board Chairman. Ed has served on TNA's Board of Directors since 2013, and he has been instrumental in the advancement of TNA in multiple facets. I enthusiastically anticipate the opportunity to work strategically with Ed to further improve the lives of deserving Pittsburgh youth.



Due to your generosity and your faith in our mission, our students will continue to receive a high-quality education that guarantees them a pathway to college and opportunities they otherwise would not receive. Please know that you and your family remain in my thoughts and prayers. I look forward to your next visit to our campus.

Anthony Williams

Dr. Anthony P. Williams
Head of School



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

by making a gift July 1 - August 31, 2021

Thanks to the **generous challenge grant** from **The Burke Family Foundation**.

Donate beginning July 1 at theneighborhoodacademy.org/support or respond to the summer appeal.

THE **BURKE**
FOUNDATION

Thank you in advance for participating in this challenge grant opportunity that we may finish out this year successfully!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nickolett Donoughe



TNA senior, Nickolett Donoughe, will set sail for an Ivy League education. Having been accepted into impressive colleges such as Carnegie Mellon University and Howard University, Nikki has decided to pursue excellence at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn). She came to Pittsburgh from Colorado in 2017, and it's easy to say she's come a long way, geographically and academically.

"I was not a good student, believe it or not! Some circumstances made it hard for me to care about school. It was not that I didn't have the ability or that I wasn't 'smart' enough," said Nikki. "I'm experiencing a see-saw of feelings being accepted to such great universities! There are a lot of times where I doubt myself, but I'm finding pride in myself."

Nikki has a tremendous respect for art, and she loves to dabble in all forms of artistic expression. However, her favorite expressive outlet is creative writing.

"I currently have over 30 different stories plotted and planned in my Google Docs. I absolutely love the adventure and fantasy genre stories, and I am fascinated by authors creating different worlds, cultures, and norms," she said.

With this passion for writing, Nikki intends to major in English and minor in Spanish or Korean.

Visit our blog at theneighborhoodacademy.org to view the full articles about Nickolett, Dajiah, and Phil and Lorrie Roberts.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Dajiah Allen



A natural sleuth, Dajiah Allen is always hungry to know more and find answers. She credits The Neighborhood Academy and a particular teacher for her inquisitive nature.

"When I was at TNA, my favorite teacher was Ms. Tweedy. She would always go on interesting tangents that would make me ask more and more questions. She knew everything about everything, so I always joked that she was a secret FBI agent," laughed Dajiah.

After graduating from TNA, Dajiah went on to Edinboro University, where she pinpointed her passion in criminal justice and her fascination in how people think.

"One of the first classes I took at Edinboro was The Psychology of Drugs and Human Behavior. This class really sparked my interest in the criminal justice side of things," said Dajiah.

Dajiah likes to stay "in-the-know" and finds herself digging deep into important matters.

"I love reading up on things I don't know about. I always like to know both sides of every story," she said.

Dajiah currently works as a police officer for the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, and she is close to completing her official training.

CORPORATE CONNECTION



The impact that takes place within The Neighborhood Academy would not be possible without the unwavering belief of the Northwestern Mutual-Pittsburgh office ever since our establishment in 2001.

Beginning in TNA's early years, associates of the Northwestern Mutual-Pittsburgh office generously supported our scholarship fund, ensuring that economically disadvantaged students have access to a high-quality education. Their generosity has supported hundreds of students over the past two decades.



Ed Haller

Exemplary leadership has also emerged from this office which has provided TNA stellar leadership at the Board Chairman position. **Peter Leone** held the Chairman position for two years, and **Charlie Ferrara** held the Chairman position for six years. On September 1, 2021, **Ed Haller, IV** will be appointed our next Board Chairman.



Charlie Ferrara

Their commitment to our students and exemplary leadership have inspired countless associates of Northwestern Mutual. **In our Fiscal Year 2020/2021, 37 Northwestern Mutual associates have supported our scholarship fund and have devoted their time through volunteerism. Their generosity combined is nearly \$500,000 to date.**

This fall, the Northwestern Mutual-Pittsburgh office and TNA will collaborate to launch a career access program focusing on mentoring and workforce development. Through this program, associates of Northwestern Mutual-Pittsburgh office will provide TNA students with workshops and career-readiness activities, which will promote leadership development, positive civic engagements, and community enrichment.



As our students think about careers that await them upon graduation and our alumni seek meaningful jobs, EATON Corporation will now be on their radar.

Through a grant from the EATON Charitable Fund, TNA will host a diverse group of speakers who can provide business, industry, and geographic insights to our students.

This two-way engagement will allow EATON Corporation employees and others to meet our stellar students and provide our scholars with a glimpse of corporate America.

Through a generous grant and referral from our friends at PNC Foundation, the Pittsburgh Hardball Academy has established a training hub within The Neighborhood Academy. TNA's Athletic Facility is the perfect venue to create a full-sized, state-of-the-art baseball and softball facility within the City of Pittsburgh. It provides our students with the unique opportunity to participate in a program of this magnitude right here at TNA.



Pittsburgh Hardball Academy's BASEPATH PROGRAM is a fulfilling athletic, academic and social enrichment program. The spirit of this program is to grow interest, access, equity, participation, and diversity in the game while exploring other exciting opportunities using baseball and softball as a platform.

America Walks

TNA is proud to be one of the 13 organizations nationally to receive a Community Change Grant from America Walks!

Through this grant funding, TNA plans to design and develop a "TNA Community Outdoor Trail" combining existing pathways with newly created pathways, allowing our valued students to safely enjoy nature. Stay tuned for more information on the project!

Volunteers needed! theneighborhoodacademy.org/support/volunteers.cfm



PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program

Why pay taxes when you can convert your dollars into scholarships for the students of The Neighborhood Academy?

For more information on how you or your business can transform your tax dollars into scholarship dollars, visit theneighborhoodacademy.org/support/taxcredits.cfm or contact Sheila Rawlings, Director of Development at 412-626-6851 or sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org.



We extend a BIG thank you to NexTier Bank for their Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donation of \$15,000 that will be used to fund scholarships to our valued students!

FemaleFOCUS

Our 14-week Female Focus program, in partnership with PPG, has been providing TNA girls hands-on activities, as well as career exploration in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM.) This program has been taking place in-person and virtually every Saturday since April 17, and incorporates the following learning objectives and activities into its program design:

- 1) Math intensive, blended learning curriculum
- 2) Collaborative learning, social etiquette and skills building in the sciences
- 3) High-interest STEM activities such as science and home economics projects
- 4) Awareness and exposure to STEM-related fields through guest speakers
- 5) Confidence building, validation, and affirmation in STEM-related fields



SUPPORTERS CORNER

The word "supportive" is an understatement that would not do justice in describing Phil and Lorrie Roberts' commitment to changing the lives of students at The Neighborhood Academy. They are firm believers that education and equal opportunity are keys to success. They have gone far beyond their "Over the Bridge" giving level in their dedication to and involvement with TNA.

Lorrie taught a Calligraphy class to TNA students, and for a number of years, the Roberts would invite the students and their families to their home for a summer cook-out!

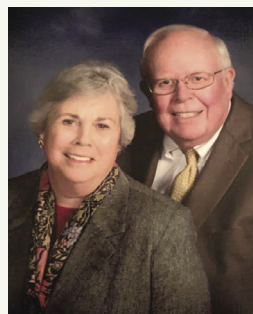
"After a few years, the school began to grow to the point where we had over 100 people at our house!" said Phil.

Phil and Lorrie are very proud of is their stained-glass window panel at the school's W. Gregg Hansen Memorial Chapel as a symbol of their support.

Phil and Lorrie believe that being "Over the Bridge" donors strengthens their bond with the school because it is a three-year commitment to a specific student.

"With this level of giving, our impact feels more direct and personal because we have a connection with a particular student... It's special seeing the results of your help right there before your eyes," said Phil.

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



TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS From 9-10-20 until 5-11-21

IN HONOR OF Delores and Thomas Johnson, Sr.
Reverend Thomas Johnson

IN HONOR OF Aaron Davis
Angela Garrett

IN HONOR OF Anthony Williams
Charles Quillin

IN HONOR OF Carolyn Sanford
Ellen Brooks

IN HONOR OF Carrington North
Mary Beth Leech

IN HONOR OF Bonnie Blaxter
J. Brodhead Moore

IN HONOR OF Laurie Bly
Carolyn Sanford

IN HONOR OF Ellen Brooks
Barbara Pippin

IN HONOR OF Tracy Simpson
Eliza Brown

IN HONOR OF Dede Acer
Mimi Colville

IN HONOR OF Charles and Jackie Ferrara
Tom Wiese

IN HONOR OF Isaiah Boswell
Julie Rost

IN HONOR OF J. Brodhead Moore
Charles Claggett
Sheila Rawlings

IN HONOR OF John & Lucy Douglas
Frances Mosle
Marc Field

IN HONOR OF Robert Crawford
Philip & Lorraine Roberts

IN HONOR OF William Rydell
Quentaja Barnett

IN HONOR OF Jon Steffey
Quincy McCormick

IN HONOR OF Marlene Roberts
Robert Tuscano

IN HONOR OF Kimberly Payne
Sheila Rawlings

IN HONOR OF Melissa McKrell
J. Brodhead Moore

IN HONOR OF Talia Landerman
Donna Welsh-Johnson

IN HONOR OF Reverend Thomas Johnson, Jr.
W. P. Snyder III

IN HONOR OF Charitable Fund
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IN HONOR OF Nancy Mears
Raymond Bolling

IN HONOR OF Kathleen Sturgeon
Josh Freeman

IN HONOR OF Viola Davis
Angela Garrett

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Jerry Coleman

IN MEMORY OF Bruce Wolf
Sheryl Wolf

IN MEMORY OF Della Maree
David McDougal

IN MEMORY OF Emily E. Jarrett
Kenneth Stiles

IN MEMORY OF Gay Palmer
Lauren Kamil

IN MEMORY OF Harriet R. Schach
Eliza Brown

IN MEMORY OF James Hairston
Jerry Coleman

IN MEMORY OF Jessica McClelland
Paul Radkowski

IN MEMORY OF Lori Cohen
David King

IN MEMORY OF Kelly Mannion
Eric Probola

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Stacey Brumbaugh

The Little Garden Club
of Sewickle

Mark Graban
IN MEMORY OF Philip Frances

Grace Frances
IN MEMORY OF Rob Bell

Priscilla Oehl
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Mark Latterner
IN MEMORY OF Robert W. Goode

Phyllis Goode
IN MEMORY OF Ruth L. Thompson

Jerry Coleman
IN MEMORY OF Trudy and Earl Spangler

Susan Spangler
IN MEMORY OF Willie J. Coleman

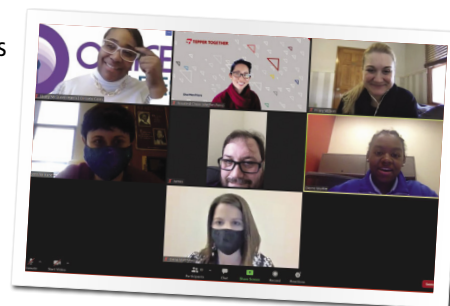
Jerry Coleman

Josh Freeman Carynn Richards Diamond Washington

In March, our 9th grade students spent a week swimming with the sharks!



Ms. Jennifer Kane's English class pitched their innovative ideas to a panel of judges from various companies in the Pittsburgh region. While this shark tank did not take place in-person, the students still presented with clarity and enthusiasm virtually over Zoom. Diamond Washington, Josh Freeman, and Carynn Richards all received the top award (\$5,000 in virtual cash) from the judges!



Senior Seminar

We're proud to announce that all of our seniors have completed their Senior Seminar projects. This year-long independent research project replicates the demands of a college-level seminar requiring the student to develop a 15+ page thesis as well as an oral hour-long defense. For our students it is the culmination of years of work, and it is a shining example of the academic excellence of which they are capable. Visit theneighborhoodacademy.org/academics/senior-seminar.cfm to read through the 2021 thesis papers!

Junior Capstone Projects

The Juniors completed Capstone Projects in American History, with a Pittsburgh focus; and Chemistry, focusing on spectrometry at home and identifying concentrations of dyes in food.

2021 COLLEGE ADMITTANCES

50 COLLEGES
to which our

26 STELLAR SENIORS
have been admitted!

Allegheny College 1	Michigan State University
Berea College	Mitchell College
California University of PA	Morgan State University
Carlow University 2	Norfolk State University 2
Carnegie Mellon University	Ohio State University
Central State University 1	Penn State University, Main Campus
Champlain College	Point Park University 1
Chatham University	Robert Morris University
Chestnut Hill College	Seton Hill University
Clarion University	Slippery Rock University 4
Clark Atlanta University 1	Spelman College
CCAC 2	Susquehanna University
Drexel University	Temple University
Duquesne University	Thiel College
Elizabeth City State University 1	University of Miami
Elizabethtown College	University of Pennsylvania 1
Fisk University	University of Pittsburgh 5
Gannon University	Villanova University
Hampton University	Virginia State University 1
Howard University 1	Washington and Jefferson College
Indiana University of PA	Waynesburg University
Jackson State University	Xavier University
Kent State University 1	Yale University
La Roche College	
Lehigh University	
Lincoln University 2	
Mansfield University of PA	

GO BULLDOGS!

The
Neighborhood
Academy

The Nancy and
Paul O'Neill Speaker Series

presenting...

WES MOORE

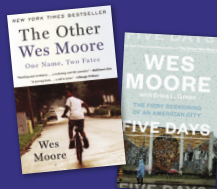
Author of

THE OTHER WES MOORE

&

FIVE DAYS

Wednesday, September 29, 2021



Join The Neighborhood Academy for a thought-provoking evening with Wes Moore: bestselling author of books "The Other Wes Moore" and "Five Days." Moore is a combat veteran, social entrepreneur, and the former CEO of Robin Hood.

TICKETS AVAILABLE:
theneighborhoodacademy.org

PRESENTING SPONSOR: The Nancy and Paul O'Neill Family



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Joe Wilson & Sarah Williams Wilson

Join the Legacy Society! Consider creating your own legacy of support by investing in our students' futures. The Neighborhood Academy's Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have included TNA in their estate plans which sustain the school in profound and pragmatic ways. Consult with your financial advisor as you plan your legacy gift to the school.

READY TO JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY?

Sheila Rawlings, Director of Development, 412-626-6851 or sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org

Carolyn Sanford, Assistant Head of School for Development, 412-362-2021 or carolyn.sanford@theneighborhoodacademy.org

Wish List

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

- Hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion): \$8
- Computer case for a student: \$10
- Sick day supplies (tissues, cough drops, Tylenol): \$10
- Art supplies (paint brushes, acrylic paints, Sharpie markers, painters tape, wax painting pallets): \$24
- Knee pads for volleyball: \$25
- Weekly food for a student: \$30
- One-month tuition for a student: \$50
- One charging cord and accessories: \$50
- SAT prep for a student: \$52
- Weekly food for a student and their family: \$90
- Instructional materials: \$100
- Monthly food for a student: \$120
- Texas Instruments TI-84 CE calculators: \$150
- One Chromebook: \$250
- Monthly food for a student and their family: \$360
- Charging cord and accessories for classroom: \$500
- One-month tuition for 10 students: \$500
- Chromebook for classroom: \$2,500



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.theneighborhoodacademy.org

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The
Neighborhood
Academy