

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 2020

NEIGHBORHOOD news

709 N. Aiken Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Letter from The Head of School

To: The Neighborhood Academy Community

It is with great joy and hope that I write this letter to share with you the wonderful events that have taken place within our school. In light of COVID-19, we completed our 2019-2020 school year through our Distance Learning Plan. Our students did an outstanding job adapting to virtual learning while maintaining our academic standards. I am proud to report that our attendance rate throughout our virtual learning was 91%. This demonstrates our students' commitment to their learning and their willingness to devote the necessary efforts to pursue their college aspirations.

On Friday, May 29th, 2020 we celebrated our largest graduating class of 18 seniors. On this day we had a blend of virtual prayers, presentations, and speeches, followed by an in-person delivery of diplomas to each senior. Please visit our website to watch a video that highlights this joyous day. This group of young leaders leaves a great legacy for all TNA students, especially the 26 rising seniors who will be members of the 2021 graduating class.

As we prepare for the upcoming summer months, we will continue to educate our students through our distance learning platform. Our summer program is an essential part of the TNA educational experience which provides our students with the academic enrichment to successfully begin the 2020-2021 school year.

This summer we are grateful to receive a very generous gift from the Jack Buncher Foundation, a Matching Grant Challenge of \$25,000. I would like to humbly thank the

Jack Buncher Foundation, and your participation in this opportunity is greatly appreciated.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our faculty who did an outstanding job in preparing and implementing our Distance Learning Plan. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated faculty who have risen to the unprecedented challenges of educating our students during a pandemic.

I also would like to congratulate Kathryn Hardy in completing her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin. Kathryn continues to demonstrate her care and affection for our students through her leadership as the Humanities Department Chair and as a TNA faculty member. Kathryn, we are very proud of all of your efforts, and we appreciate your modeling life-long learning for our students.

Finally, I would like to inform you that I have completed my Doctoral Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. It has been both a challenging and gratifying journey over the past three years. Finishing my doctoral studies during my first year of leadership at TNA and in the midst of a pandemic has been a very challenging task. However, it was very important for me to complete my studies so that I could model for our students. No matter what circumstances you encounter in life, you can achieve your goals, and make what seems to be the impossible, a reality.

As I reflect on my first year of leadership at TNA, I am humbled by the overwhelming amount of encouragement and support that I have received from the TNA community. With your love and commitment to our mission, we



have demonstrated that we can break the generational cycle of poverty through education and prepare our students for college and citizenship. Together we have deeply impacted the lives of economically disadvantaged youth who otherwise would not have access to a high-quality college preparatory educator education. I will be forever grateful for your ongoing belief and support both today and forever more.

I hope that you continue to be safe, and I pray for your physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.

Anthony Williams
Head of School



Double your impact by making a gift between July 1 - August 31, 2020. Thanks to the generous challenge grant from the Jack Buncher Foundation.

- Donate beginning July 1 at www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/support
- Thank you in advance for participating in this challenge grant opportunity, so we may finish out this year successfully!



IMPACT OF COVID-19

SENIOR SHOUT OUTS!

Congratulations to the class of 2020! Despite the global pandemic, our 18 seniors, the largest class in school history, graduated on May 29 with a special celebration that we will never forget. Dr. Anthony Williams, Brent Jernigan, and our faculty members drove to our seniors' homes to present them with their diploma, and to celebrate, social distance style, with family and friends! Watch the event on our Facebook page!

We wish each of our graduates the best as they continue their academic careers at these colleges:

- Allegheny College (3)
- Berea College
- Coppin State University (3)
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Ohio University
- Seton Hill University
- Slippery Rock University
- Spelman College
- Washington & Jefferson College (3)
- West Chester University
- Wheeling University

Senior Stats

Collectively, our seniors were accepted to over **43 colleges** and offered over **\$500,000 in scholarships.**

Along with the rest of the country, The Neighborhood Academy adjusted to a new normal in March, with the COVID-19 outbreak. With the help of our incredible faculty, who designed a Distance Learning Plan, our students were able to continue their studies remotely without missing a single day of class.

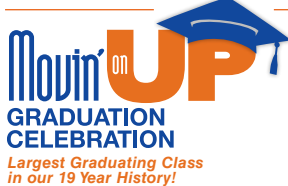
While COVID-19 presented unanticipated challenges for us, it also allowed our school to grow in new, creative ways! Check out some of our COVID-19 efforts below:

Morning worship and individual counseling sessions continued at the school via Zoom video conferencing.



Distance Learning Vlog

During the months of April and May, our faculty and students presented TNA supporters with a look into their daily routines with a focus on how they adapted to distance learning. Videos were released every Friday and focused on highlighting the accomplishments and activities of our students and faculty, including all of the exciting projects they worked to complete. If you missed our vlogs, catch up here: <https://www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/support/distancelearningvlog.cfm>



Although our graduation event was canceled, this impediment did not stop us from highlighting our 2020 graduates. Our seniors were celebrated in a video version of our Movin' on Up event, allowing our donors to virtually meet our senior class! Watch the video on our website today!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

- African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania
- Calgon Carbon Corporation
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Dapper, Jr.
- Dollar Bank
- Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, Inc.
- Simpson McCrady
- The Pittsburgh Foundation

#GiveFromHomeDay

Thanks to our generous supporters, we raised over \$11,000 during #GiveFromHomeDay, a 24-hour day of giving organized by True Sense Marketing, to ease the impact left by COVID-19 on local non-profits.

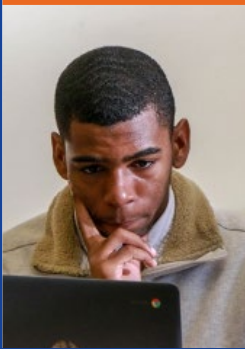


COVID-19 By the Numbers

91% attendance rate during COVID-19	142 Laptops	1 laptop per student donated by Comcast Internet Essentials Program Fall 2019	1250 meals delivered to students & their families over 10 weeks.
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BONNER SCHOLARS

Congratulations to Ryan Crosier, Anthony Duckett and Zaire Mitchell, who were all accepted into the Bonner Foundation's Bonner Scholars Program to attend Allegheny College in the fall. The Bonner Program helps students who might otherwise not have the opportunity to attend college due to financial reasons. The program awards participants with four years of financial aid and an opportunity to participate in an intensive, developmental community engagement experience.



THANK YOU TO COMCAST

Last fall, we recognized Comcast and their Internet Essentials Program for generously providing our students with laptops to bridge the digital divide in readily accessing online educational resources. Little did we know that this gift would continue to benefit our students, allowing them to successfully continue their education online.



GIRLS BIKE TO CINCINNATI!

On the first day of spring break in March, six female TNA students and three staff members bike from Dillon State Park to Cincinnati, Ohio. Along the way, there were many accomplishments, but most notable was that senior, Aujah Johnson, became a 1,000-mile cyclist as the group reached the outskirts of Cincinnati! When they arrived in the Queen City, the group rode across the Ohio River into Kentucky, a new state to check off for many of the girls. The bike trip ended with a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.



MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS WIN SHARK TANK!

On May 15th, three of our middle school boys competed for the first time in the 3rd annual Soaring Shark Tank virtual pitch competition hosted by Penn Hills School District. In this competition, students in 7th & 8th grades delivered a business pitch to a panel of judges for a chance to win cash prizes!

We are proud to announce that 7th graders, Dominic Moore and Courtney Wallace, won first place. The duo proposed a music app that supports all types of music from multiple apps all in one! Congratulations, Dominic and Courtney!



Nathaniel Shelton, 7th grader, received a honorable mention for his participation in the competition. His proposal was for a subscription-based, custom, virtual instant greeting card site, which would help save paper and time for customers.

Tribute to Gay Palmer

We lost our dear friend, Gay Palmer, in February of this year at the age of 69. Gay spent many years as a volunteer at our school. We will miss her warmth and kind spirit.

Ronika Frank, Director of Administration & Transportation, remembers Gay:

"Ms. Gay was like an additional mother, grandmother and friend to all of us at The Neighborhood Academy.

She always remembered the details of conversations regarding your family, dreams and accomplishments. Ms. Gay became a true asset to whomever was lucky to cross her path. She loved her family so much with still enough love to make us all feel like we were just that, her family."

Generosity runs in the Palmer family. We are fortunate to have Gay Palmer's sister, Merri Clark serve as a volunteer for the 2020-2021 academic school year.



TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

*As of 6/10/20

IN MEMORY OF Gay Palmer

Molly and Collin Neu
Paula & Gary Brant
Terri Greenberg
Ms. Susan Nydes
Emily Grunstein
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Fischler
Clayton Engineering Company
Ms. Linda Levitt
Mrs. and Mr. Lois A. Keating
Mr. Ifeanyi Aguanunu
Jody Sunseri
Joshua Nydes
Eleni Manganas
Breanna Whiting
Drew Isler
Amy Kilbane
Amelia Salter
Dr. Leslie Hollins
Ms. Elizabeth Vuchinich
Karen Evans
Ann Pollack
Dr. David J. Kolko and
Mrs. Judith C. Kolk
Ms. Paula G. McWilliams
Mr. and Mrs. Walt Smith
Mr. and Ms. Arthur R. Ruprecht
Mr. Fred Abbott and
Penelope D. Abbott
Mr. Mike Wagner
Lindsay Cashman
Mr. Robert Palmer
Ms. Stephanie Wallach
Ronna Delitto
Mr. Brian Palmer

IN MEMORY OF

Joseph and N. Joiner

Ms. Ida Joiner

IN MEMORY OF

Della M. McDougal

Mr. David A. McDougal and
Mr. Jeffrey Miller

IN MEMORY OF Paul O'Neill

Ms. Linda M. Limberis
Mrs. Nancy O'Neill
Mr. Charles Wolf
Ms. Marie Anderson
Philip & Barbara Long Family Foundation

IN HONOR OF Mary L. Means

Mr. Daniel Nadler

IN HONOR OF Caroline Krochka

Ms. Deborah Krochka

IN HONOR OF Francine Abraham

Patti Michaud

IN HONOR OF Kathryn Hardy

Miss Morgan Finkelstein
Mr. Paul Semapongpan
Mr. Nathan Kliewer

IN HONOR OF Thomas Johnson

CREED College Readiness Program

IN HONOR OF Thomas Johnson and Jodie Moore

Rev. Denise Mason Bullitt and
Mr. Jon Curtis Bullitt

IN HONOR OF Kathryn Hardy

Ms. Morgan Finkelstein

IN HONOR OF Robert J. Harris

Mr. Christoph Elben

Remembering Paul O'Neill

In April, we lost Paul O'Neill, a longtime supporter and friend to The Neighborhood Academy. Paul and his wife, Nancy dedicated much of their lives to helping our students and living out the mission of our school. The O'Neill family has supported the beautification of TNA's campus through the planting of trees and flowers. They initiated the development of The Nancy and Paul O'Neill Speaker Series, which started at The Neighborhood Academy eight years ago. This series introduced our students and the community to Pulitzer Prize Winning Authors. We thank the O'Neill's for their generosity and kindness. **Paul will always remain in our hearts.**



Join the Legacy Society

There are many ways to extend your support of The Neighborhood Academy to make a lasting impact. If you have included TNA in your will or other estate plans, you are invited to join The Neighborhood Academy Legacy Society. Let us know of your charitable plans so we may thank you and welcome you to this group. For more information, please contact Carolyn Sanford at carolyn.sanford@theneighborhoodacademy.org or 412.362.2021



EITC THANK YOU

Thank you to our corporate partners and individuals who provide much-needed scholarships through PA's State Tax Credit Program.

For more information on how you or your business can turn your tax dollars into scholarship dollars, contact Sheila Rawlings at 412-626-6851 or sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org.

"Turn your PA State tax dollars into scholarship dollars!"

COVID 19

Wish List

As we prepare for an adapted fall semester due to the global pandemic, we are asking for critical items to help our students and their families during this time of uncertainty.

All wish list donations are tax-deductible, and can be made online by visiting our website at: <https://www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/support/wish-list.cfm>

CURRENT NEEDS

- TI-83 graphing calculator - \$92
- One Chromebook - \$250
- Chromebooks for a classroom - \$2,500
- One charging cord & accessories - \$50
- Charging cords & accessories for a classroom - \$500
- One-month tuition for a student - \$50
- One-month tuition for ten students - \$500
- Weekly food for a student - \$30
- Weekly food for a student & their family - \$90
- Monthly food for a student - \$120
- Monthly food for a student & their family - \$360
- Summer meals (June-August) for a student - \$360
- Summer meals (June-August) for a student & their family - \$1,080



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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