

The Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



Graduation 2023 at Christian Cultural Center

Graduation 2023 – Let’s Celebrate!

By: Lizmarie Recio

June has a reputation for sunshine, weddings, summer vacations, and graduations. This year, Nazareth's Class of 2023 celebrated their commencement ceremony at Christian Cultural Center on June 1, 2023.

Graduation 2023 began with the soon to be graduates walking down the aisle to the famous “Pomp and Circumstance,” surrounded by proud families, friends, faculty and staff. Then Mr. Miller, our Campus Minister, opened the ceremony with a beautiful prayer, and Mr. Dire, our Principal, gave a welcoming speech with some words of wisdom for the graduates.

Valedictorian Iyobose Ebesunun and Salutatorian Tracey Thompson then

spoke about their fond memories of Nazareth and surviving remote classes during the COVID-19 lockdown.

After the speeches, students were called up to receive the gold and silver subject medals and other awards. Then, the much-anticipated moment during graduation happened - what every high schooler dreams about: The walk across the stage, receiving your diploma. The students walked with pride as their families, friends, faculty and staff cheered them on.

After all their hard work and ups and downs - through “thick and thin” - seventy-four seniors became our newest Nazareth alumni, moving their tassels from one side to the other and stepping into an exciting future!

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Graduation Edition



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Valedictorian's Speech by Iyobose Ebesunun

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Iyobose Ebesunun, the valedictorian of the class of 2023.

Four years ago, I never imagined giving this speech or even being at Nazareth. Without God, we would not even be here for graduation. I thank my mother, father, brother, and sister for always being there for me. I also thank our teachers who taught us so many things. And lastly, I thank my fellow graduates for making the past four years so worthwhile.

Our high school years have been challenging, from COVID-19 to applying for colleges, and have given me lessons that I will never forget. I am glad that we have made it to the end of our journey as the class of 2023. Despite the limitations set by the world, we have been able to put our heart into maximizing our time and enjoyment.

The first lesson that I learned in high school was to break out of my shell and dabble in new things. I started by joining the Summer Bridge program, which was my first taste of being at Nazareth with the other new students and their unique interests.

The first teacher that I met at Nazareth was Ms. Cruz, who was a bit quirky but also very welcoming. A student that caught my attention was the 7-foot-tall Jeremiah Sejour, who was a "giant" compared to everyone else! However, as soon as I got to know him, I discovered that he was one of the best people to "hang around with." Another student I got to know was Hermani Bhola, who would become one of the school's photographers and videographers. I could see him

working at a fashion company such as Louis Vuitton.

My sophomore year was entirely virtual due to COVID. At first, I thought it was great not having to go to school physically. However, as time progressed, isolation and boredom became the "new normal." I decided to have as much fun as possible by "messing with" teachers, playing video games, exercising, and chatting with other students. In AP World History, Ms. Sanfilippo would always blame me for "hacking" her computer!

During my junior year, I learned how to integrate back into school. COVID protocols were still in place, including social distancing and wearing masks. Nonetheless, I was glad to be back in school physically. Coach Ron's AP U.S. History class was the class I looked forward to every day. I enjoyed participating in my first walk-a-thon, for which Jerry inspired zeal throughout the school – me included! The days from summer to the next school year went by quickly.

Senior year holds my fondest memories. I "loosened up" to have more fun rather than worry so much about my grades. I tried out different ways of community service, from farming to setting up the stage for special events for our school. I joined Mr. Trama after school and decided to hang out with some of my classmates. I stayed in the school longer than usual as I began to feel more comfortable. Despite being a camera-shy person, I decided to have pictures taken as it was going to be my last year at Nazareth. Prom night was the best as we all had fun, "chilled" with each other, and made once-in-a-lifetime memories.

You may be wondering why these experiences matter so much to me. I recounted these moments because they helped me to realize there is so much more to learn about myself and others and the best ways to succeed and prosper. If I could go back in time to choose my "high school path," I would choose Nazareth again!

On behalf of the Class of 2023, I would like to thank the faculty for teaching us, the security team for protecting us, the maintenance staff for keeping our school clean, and the cafeteria staff for serving us food every day. I would also like to thank my aunts, uncles, and grandma for helping me throughout my life up until this moment. And most importantly, thank you, parents and guardians, for coming out to support your children as future college students.

I would like to end with a quote from Marcus Aurelius: "Very little is needed to make a happy life. It is all within yourself in your way of thinking."



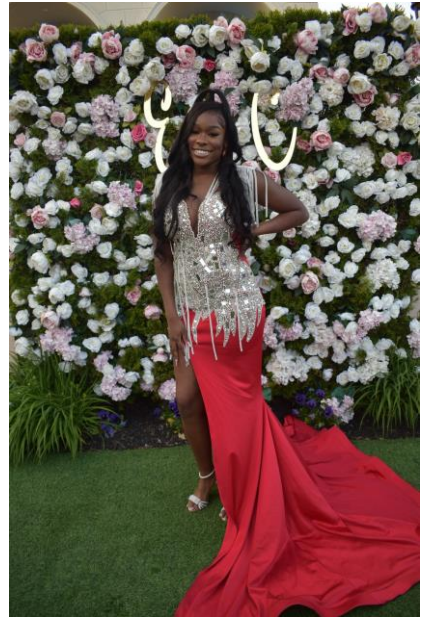
Iyobose at Graduation 2023

Prom 2023 – Dinner & Dancing at El Caribe!



Alexis Brandford

Brianna Douglas



Leah Springer



Arsh Guirand, Jr.



Field Day 2023

By: Analiz Ortiz

As Vice President of the Freshman class at Nazareth Regional High School, I was excited to work with the student council to plan our first-ever field day. Ms. Davis is an amazing educator who brought so much energy to the event. She danced and announced each game with such passion, and it was clear that she wanted every student to have a great time.

But none of this would have been possible without the help of Mr. Dire, the student council advisor and Principal. He guided us throughout the planning process and provided invaluable support. He was a leader who made sure everything ran smoothly, and we were all grateful for his guidance.



The student council worked tirelessly to make this day special for the students, and they succeeded in every way. From the games to the food, every detail was carefully thought out, and the result was an event that everyone could enjoy.



Honoring a Great Teacher

By: Jaenai Tercius

As the school year closes, we would like to honor our music teacher, Mr. Alvira. He has been responsible for everything related to music at Naz – our shows, music classes, and the musical part of each mass. He is a great teacher who makes the lessons as engaging as possible and makes sure that we do not feel overwhelmed by anything we do. He also leads the choir as we practice for each mass, and he is the primary reason why our performances have been so successful. He has helped many of us get over our stage fright and fears about trying new musical techniques.



Mr. Alvira is easygoing and makes everyone around him happier. He always manages to teach us something, whether it is music related or a valuable life lesson. We love you Mr. Alvira!



The games were fun as we played connect four, capture the flag, musical chairs, shadow boxing, and kickball. It was an incredible experience to be a part of, and one that I will always remember with fondness.

Spring Fine Arts and Fashion Show

By: Briana Patrick



Gregg White-Crawford

Another year, another wonderful showcase done by the Nazareth students. This year's theme was "Summer Selection." We had dance, fashion and singing. The students at Nazareth did an amazing job as always. They performed excellently with fun music and dance that the crowd loved. Everyone put a lot of time and effort into their performances and executed them perfectly on stage.

The first act of the night was by Charmela John, LeeAnne Lacroix and Briana Patrick with their rendition of "Say My Name" by Destiny Child.

Then we had Mirdred Joazard and Briana Patrick with their cover of "Real Friends" by Camila Cabello.

Our third act was the iconic long song "Best Part" by H.E.R. and Daniel Caesar done by LeeAnne Lacroix and Damari Norville.

Our fourth act of the night was Melody LeBron, with her cover of "Where Have You Been" by Rihanna.

Then we had our wonderful fashion show, where the students wore beautiful outfits and dresses.



Jaenai Tercius

Spring Fine Arts and Fashion Show (cont.)

Then for our sixth act we had Gregg White-Crawford with his rendition of “The Man” by Aloe Blacc. Our seventh act was by Alexis Branford and Spencer Sanders with their dance duet to the song “You Rock My World” by Michael Jackson.

Then we had Spencer Sanders, Gregg White-Crawford and Ephrem George with their cover of “Skate” by Silk Sonic. Then, we had Jaenai Tercius with her cover of “Broken Clocks” by SZA.

Then we had Samiyah Duncan with her amazing poem. Then after we had the cheerleaders with their impressive performance.

Next, we had Briana Patrick with her dancers, Leah Springer and Alexis Branford, with their cover of “Déjà Vu” by Beyonce (see photo below).

Then we had a rendition of “The Night Begins to Shine” by B.E.R. done by Gregg White-Crawford and Ephrem George. Then our final act of the night was by the Dance Club, which danced to a mix of songs by Beyonce.

In the end, we had an amazing show that all the students and teachers enjoyed. The students showcased their talents with excellence and gave a memorable and entertaining performance.



Salutatorian's Speech

By: Tracey Thompson

I know many of you in this room are excited to receive your diplomas and are already thinking about plans after graduation, such as going out to dinner to celebrate with your friends and family, or going on a vacation, since summer is right around the corner. Or maybe, you are reflecting on the past few years of your life, such as the fun memories of high school, and how it all has led up to this very moment. However, many of us never take the time to enjoy the moments of what is happening currently. We are so used to remembering the past and thinking about the future that we tend to overlook what is currently happening. It is only after the moment has passed that we think about it more carefully.

When I was a young child attending elementary school, I used to think about how exciting it would be to grow up and become older. I wouldn't have to worry about boring 8:00 p.m. bedtimes and I could stay up for as long as I wanted. I could get a fancy car, eat junk food to my heart's content, and watch the PG-13 and R-rated movies that my mom told me not to watch because I was "too young." My younger self claimed that I would be the "coolest teenager ever" and that high school would be a big musical where everyone would break out into singing every ten minutes. I even thought about what I would be like as an adult - I would have even more freedom and could tell people what to do without having them boss me around! I was so caught up in this alternate future reality of being older that I didn't fully appreciate those current moments of being a kid. I didn't think I would miss the moments of being tucked into bed by my mom before she read me a story about the Gingerbread Man, a book that I picked quite often ... or other moments of just being a kid who didn't have to deal with so many responsibilities. As I got older, I started to think about the future and reflect on the past much more than I had before.

My time in high school wasn't that much different when it came to my way of thinking. I was always focused on keeping my grades up, making sure they were the best they could be. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night." If I wanted to be the best at my work, I had to put in the effort and keep my focus.

If I wasn't working, I was thinking about how I could pass the time and wondering what the next day would bring. It wasn't until I reached my final year of high school that I slowly began to appreciate these moments. These would be the final pages of this chapter, which was quickly ending. The chances of seeing all my classmates together again were slim. I wouldn't be taught and helped by the same faculty I had come to love. Like a light switch that had been turned on, my viewpoint changed. "Another day in school" turned into "One less day before graduation." It was like a big countdown before graduation, and while I was actively looking forward to my graduation, I also learned to appreciate the small, everyday moments. The most mundane moments of my senior year were like small pieces of gold to me, because I will never have moments like them again.

Not everyone is blessed with another day, another chance to appreciate the life that is given to us. We shouldn't constantly spend our time worrying about the mistakes of the past, or what exactly the future holds. Instead, we should spend our time appreciating what we have now - the moment of waking up in the morning and getting ready for the day, the moments of spending quality time with loved ones, the moment of being here, ready to move on to the next chapter of our lives, because we may have future graduations, but we'll never have another high school graduation.

I would like to thank the teachers and staff and my friends ... and my family for always being there for me and making me feel safe and loved ... Thank you, everyone, for your time. God bless you.





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