Advertisement Speech

Topic: Nazareth Academy High School

General Purpose: To persuade

Specific Purpose: To persuade my audience that Nazareth Academy would benefit their child by means of scholarship, service, and student life.

Thesis: Nazareth Academy High School would benefit your child due to excellence in scholarship, service and student life.

I. Introduction

A. Attention Getter: Imagine a high school with a 99% rate of attending college, ranking 97% nationwide on average ACT scores, with a close relationship between students and teachers, where students can actively get involved and strive for the objectives of scholarship, service, spirit and unity…This describes the ideal high school, where you would want to send your child, and this school is Nazareth Academy.

B. Motivation: You are all now forced with the decision of which high school to send your child to. I have many reasons why the school you should choose is Nazareth.

C. Credibility: I graduated from Nazareth in 2002 so I have personally experienced the benefits of the school. I also researched updates on the school and talked to current students and parents of current students.
D. Specific Purpose: I am here to persuade you that Nazareth would benefit your child by means of scholarship, service, and student life.

E. Thesis: Nazareth Academy High School would benefit your child due to excellence in scholarship, service, and student life.

F. Preview of main points: First, I will give some basic information about Nazareth Academy, and then I will tell you about the pursuit of high scholarship, service, and student life.

II. Body

A. Nazareth Academy is a Catholic, co-ed, college prep high school.

1. Located in LaGrange Park, IL, it is within 10 minutes of more than 4 main highways and has 5 bus routes traveling to all surrounding areas.

2. Nazareth was praised in “Newsweek” as a high school with an enrollment just fewer than 800 students “from 100 communities and 95 grade schools” around the western suburbs of Chicago.

3. Uniforms are mandatory which provides students with a sense of equality and an academic atmosphere.

4. The school year consists of 4 quarters.

   a. Each day consists of 7-50 minute periods, including a lunch and study period.

   b. An optional 8th period is available for individual time with teachers and extra curricular activities.

B. Scholarship is looked highly upon at Nazareth Academy.
1. It is highly competitive to get into Nazareth because of the striving for excellent students.
   a. On the Nazareth website it states that “a competitive entrance exam, called the High School Placement Test, is administered to 8th grade students on the second Saturday of January. Nazareth accepts only those students capable of being successful in its college prep curriculum.
   b. With tuition of $7,200, many scholarships are awarded to high test scores, and other forms of financial aid are available for those who can not afford it.

2. Once accepted, students are expected to live up to the high standards in classes.
   a. A student can take placement tests to enroll in honors courses, which some other schools do not offer.
      1.) In regular classes an A is worth 4 points on a 4.0 scale.
      2.) In honors classes an A is worth 5 points on a 4.0 scale.
   b. It is required that students take 3 years in religion, 4 years in English, 2 years in a foreign language, 3 years in science, 3 years in math, 2 semesters in fine arts, 2 semesters in physical education, 1 semester in health and 1 elective.
      1.) This allows the student to become well-rounded and knowledgeable in many areas.
2.) AP classes are available where college credit can be given.

3. Geralyn Weber, a parent of a current Nazareth student, stated, “I feel [Nazareth] has high academic standards that will well prepare you for college.”

   a. Students with high gpas can be invited to join the National Honor Society where they serve as role models in leadership and character.

   b. The average ACT score at Nazareth is 24 which ranks at the 97th percentile nationwide.

   c. Just fewer than 100% of graduating students continue onto college, 93% of which go to 4-year colleges or universities.

   d. The class of 2003, 186 students, received a total of over $4 million in non-financial aid based scholarships.

   e. Dan Weber, another parent of a current Nazareth student, stated, “Individualized attention brings out the students attributes.”

   1.) Because of the optional 8th period, students can meet one on one with teachers for extra help.

   2.) Small class sizes allow students to be more comfortable to voice their opinions and participate in class.

C. Service is also looked highly upon at Nazareth.
1. It is required that students complete 20 hours of community service during their 4 years.

a. There is a program for the service projects which helps students plan their hours and suggests various places they can volunteer at.
   1.) After starting their hours, many students do more than what is required because they find it very rewarding and fun.
   2.) Some service projects students have done include volunteering at soup kitchens, nursing homes, and homeless shelters.

b. There is a full time campus minister and part time service coordinator to help students with their community service.

c. There are also required retreats for the students.
   1.) Freshmen and sophomores have a one day retreat sponsored by upperclassmen where it is used as an opportunity to get to know other students and reflect on their own life.
   2.) Juniors and seniors have overnight retreats which take place off campus and gives them the opportunity to learn and have fun outside of the classroom setting.

d. Though the high school is Catholic, students do not have to be Catholic to go there.
2. There are a number of programs students can become involved in.
   
a. COR is an organization which strives to build bridges between people of different races which improves student’s communication skills.

b. Environmental Activists is a group which devotes their time to helping the environment by recycling, volunteering and speaking to others.

c. Hodgkin’s Tutoring is a program for high school students to tutor kids who need extra help in certain subjects.

D. Organizations and sports at Nazareth enrich the student’s lives.

1. Because of the small size, all students can join a number of organizations.
   
a. Some organizations include the Announcer-an award winning newspaper, student council, theatre, and history club.

b. Daniel Weber, a current student who is involved in golf and the history and science clubs stated, “You get more than an education at the Academy.”

2. Students can also participate in a number of sports offered.
   
a. There are 8 sports offered for males and 9 sports plus cheerleading and poms offered for females.

   1.) Spirit is promoted through sports.
2.) Students continue that spirit at pep rallies, dances and social functions.

b. Because of the small size, some sports do not require try outs; therefore more students can be on a team.

c. There are also intramurals, tournaments, and open gym for those not on a team, which can still teach sportsmanship and responsibility.

d. A number of past Nazareth students continued their participation in sports at a higher level.

1.) There are currently 9 students from the past 4 graduating classes playing for division 1 schools in baseball, football, tennis, softball, and volleyball.

2.) 3 past students got recruited to play professionally including Mike Spidale playing class A baseball for the Chicago White Sox.

III. Conclusion

A. Review of main points: I have told you about how Nazareth Academy High School would benefit your child in the areas of scholarship, service, and student life.

B. Refer to introduction: Picture this…not thinking out your decision clearly and sending your child to the local public school and having your child be lost in a huge crowd of people, not getting enough attention, and not becoming involved…or sending your child to another private school
because that’s where his or her friend is going, and having your child miss out on the college prep education.

C. Now picture this…Sending your child to Nazareth Academy, where he or she will be treated as a unique individual, given the opportunities that suit his or her needs, excelling academically in service and spirit, gaining the education that will bring your child to a brighter future.

D. Final thought: When it is time for the placement test, remember to register here at Nazareth Academy High School, where we live up to the objectives of scholarship, service, spirit and unity.