



“Crossroads is preparing my child for college. Because I did not attend college, I’m grateful for the extra support.”
~ Parent

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www.crossroadsfoundation.org

GUIDANCE



PREPARATION



SUCCESS



What is Crossroads Foundation?

In 1988 Crossroads was founded to help youths from low-income families in underserved communities in Allegheny County receive a quality high school education. We officially became a public 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization in 2003 and later opened our office on Webster Avenue in the Hill District. We have helped nearly 400 youths successfully graduate from Catholic high schools and have prepared them for higher education and selected careers.

“Crossroads takes a ‘holistic approach’ to education. This enables my child to develop skills she will use inside and outside of the classroom which will help her in everyday life and into the future.” ~ Parent

Our Mission with a Vision

From its inception, Crossroads was and continues to be an unusual secondary education support program. In addition to tuition assistance, Crossroads provides scholars with the consistent wrap-around support services necessary to promote academic achievement and positive personal development. The mission of Crossroads Foundation is to provide promising youth who have limited options access to a quality Catholic education by nurturing their academic and personal growth so they may succeed in college and in life. Working in partnership with family, school and community, Crossroads Foundation helps scholars cultivate the habits that encourage young people to set goals, stay focused, and acquire the confidence and resourcefulness to attain their goals and become contributing members of our community. Our vision for each and every scholar is for him or her to believe in hard work, scholarly dedication and a hope for a bright future.

Our Working Philosophy

Crossroads is an organization with a hands-on philosophy at every level. Counselors, staff, and board members are dedicated to mentoring and taking an active interest in the progress and well being of all scholars. Together with parents and guardians, we work to guide and prepare our scholars for success inside and outside the classroom. Our Crossroads counselors play a mission-critical role in the organization as advocates, mentors and advisors for scholars from grades 9 through 12. Our counselors take responsibility for implementing programs and identifying other resources that help support the academic, psychosocial and developmental needs of our scholars. They work with scholars to supplement, rather than supplant, the responsibilities and involvement of parents/guardians, school administrators, teachers and counseling staffs.

Our Educational Success

At Crossroads, we understand that a better high school education is only the first step to success. Our primary role is to teach scholars how to be successful. Crossroads counselors work hard to prepare scholars for the important transition into high school, teaching them study skills and providing leadership training. We also expose them to life on a college campus so they can imagine themselves going there someday, and reinforce at every grade level the steps required to be college-bound. Because we believe that you can't be what you can't see, we provide opportunities for our scholars to model the behaviors and habits that lead to success.

Our GPS System for Success

At Crossroads we believe that true success comes from within. The Crossroads GPS System is Guidance, Preparation and Success. Crossroads guides and prepares our scholars to achieve success. Each and every scholar is provided with clear expectations of academic achievement, as well as adult mentoring and emotional support to help them stay on track. Our collaborative partnerships with local colleges, universities and educational enrichment programs offer Crossroads scholars opportunities for continued achievement.

Our program services include:

- Scholarships/tuition assistance
- Academic support, monitoring, advising and tutoring
- Psychosocial support
- College preparation for grades 9 through 12
- Volunteer/community service activities
- Opportunities for career exploration
- Partnerships with local colleges and universities
- Summer enrichment programs

It is imperative the parents/guardians work in partnership with Crossroads to keep scholars on track, focused, motivated and engaged.

Our Path to Success

At Crossroads, our goals are threefold and serve to guide our scholars in the direction of success. We consistently strive to:

- Ensure that scholars are proficient and competitive in all academic areas.
- Strengthen the developmental assets of all scholars through social and emotional support programming.
- Create a college-bound culture supported by rigorous and academically challenging courses and support programs.

Reaching Our Objectives

Our tangible program objectives help to keep our scholars on track. By highlighting specific areas for achievement for each scholar, Crossroads is able to ensure that all scholars are progressing appropriately.

We consistently seek to:

- Engage scholars to maintain a strong GPA (Grade Point Average) and guide them in their course selection, encourage them to take honors classes, and increase performance on standardized tests.
- Ensure that scholars develop resiliency and cultivate the relationships, opportunities and personal qualities that young people need to achieve in order to thrive and avoid risks.
- Empower scholars to become self-aware, accountable and successful through meaningful self-exploration and healthy relationship building.



PREPARATION

“The program embraces each student and meets them where they are to ensure their academic success. They also keep close contact with the parents to make sure there is a circle of communication...” ~ Parent

Our Accomplishments

For over 20 years, Crossroads Foundation has helped scholars from low-income and underserved urban communities achieve success. Our model has resulted in consistently higher educational outcomes and exceptional graduation rates for scholars within this demographic. Each year, Crossroads scholars have met or exceeded the expectations of our program.

On average, our scholars have a 98% graduation rate.

We are proud to say that:

- 92% of graduating Crossroads seniors successfully complete an approved pre-college program in Pennsylvania.
- Over 50% of graduating scholars make Honor Roll status at their high school and have completed at least 80 hours of community service during their high school career.
- 96% of graduating seniors matriculate to 4-year colleges and universities and a very small number go to 2 year college programs. Nearly half of those scholars receive scholarships and awards.
- On average, 75% of Crossroads scholars take advanced/honors classes.
- 88% of alumni attended a 4-year college or university, 4.8% of alumni attended a community college, and 2.4% of alumni attended a technical or vocational school according to responses from the recent 2011 Alumni Survey. Additionally, 15% also possessed advanced degrees (Master's Degrees or Ph.D.'s).



Journey of a Crossroads Scholar

Year	Summer Programming	Yearly “Wrap-Around” Services
9 th	Jumpstart Program Math and English enrichment classes (4 weeks) Low Ropes Study Skills Workshop Computer Applications Connecting with Crossroads	Academic Tutoring Academic Advising Academic Enrichment eFolio (Electronic portfolio) Study Skills Support
10 th	Weeklong St. Vincent College Experience Life on College Campus College Classes Career Interest and Exploration High Ropes	College Readiness Goal Setting Career Exploration College Mentoring College Visitations PSAT, SAT, ACT Test Preparation
11 th	Pre-College Summer Program Scholars Select Pre-College Program Related to Career Interest	Psychosocial Volunteer and Service Learning Leadership Development Peer Group Workshops Parental Support Counseling Support
12 th	Pre-College Summer Program Career Related Internship Dual Enrollment Program	Scholarship Tuition Assistance College Mentoring



“Crossroads gave me a great opportunity to receive a quality Catholic high school education. It not only helped me focus on my education but taught me to become a man of character.”

~ Alumnus

Our Partners

Families are an important part of a Crossroads scholar's success. We realize that the parents and guardians of our scholars are making a financial sacrifice to ensure that their children are receiving a high quality education in Catholic high schools. In turn, Crossroads is making an investment in each and every one of our scholars.

Our Application and Selection Process:

Every year Crossroads' admission runs from October 1 thru January 15.

“Crossroads helps you through all the challenges that high school brings.” ~ Student

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for acceptance into Crossroads requires:

- Student must attend one of the 19 designated elementary schools for 3 years
- Parent/guardian has received an SOS grant while their child is in 8th grade based on a completed Private School Aid Service (PSAS)
- Acceptance into a Catholic high school
- Student must have a 'C' average (or 80%) or better

The comprehensive application process includes:

- Parent/student informational meeting
- Completion of parent/student online application
- Upon completion of online application, Crossroads requests additional information from the elementary school (transcript, principal/teacher recommendations and current year PSAS (SOS) status)
- Review Committee assessment of completed application

Selection Process

Selection into the program is highly competitive and submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance into Crossroads. On average, between 30-35 students are accepted each year. Decisions made by the Crossroads Selection Committee are based on the completion of the entire application process. Crossroads four-year scholarships are awarded based on financial need and academic merit. Student motivation and parental involvement are also considered.

On average
it costs about \$7,500
a year per scholar
in the program. Of that
total, approximately
\$2,500 goes toward
tuition support and
\$5,000 provides
wrap-around support
services to help our
scholars with
academic, social and
emotional support.



Financial Aid & Crossroads Award

The primary sources of financial aid for Crossroads scholars include direct financial aid from the high school, Scholastic Opportunity Scholarship Fund (SOS), the Bishop's Education Fund (BEF), as well as the Poise Foundation, Junior Achievement, and other scholarship awards. However, Crossroads is the "last dollar" Tuition Award given to a scholar accepted into our program.

- Crossroads receives financial aid information from business offices at individual high schools in May and June
- Crossroads determines scholar awards
- Crossroads seeks to help families procure 70-90% of tuition costs based on family need (as determined by PSAS)
- Crossroads informs parents in June of the complete Scholarship Award Program Package

“Crossroads has given my son the opportunity to mature socially with a support system. It is important for our children to know if they have difficulties, there are people besides their parents willing to guide them to make positive, sound decisions.” ~ Parent

Grade Schools in the Crossroads Feeder School Network:

1. Word of God
2. St. Rosalia
3. Brookline Regional Catholic
4. Northside Catholic
5. St. Benedict the Moor
6. St. Raphael
7. Immaculate Conception
8. Bishop Leonard-St. Mary of the Mount
9. Sister Thea Bowman St. Bede
10. Sacred Heart
11. St. Bede
12. St. Anne
13. St. Sylvester
14. St. Joseph Regional
15. Good Shepherd
16. St. Agnes
17. St. Malachy
18. St. Joseph
19. St. Bartholomew

Crossroads Scholars Attend the Following Host High Schools:

1. Central Catholic
2. North Catholic
3. Oakland Catholic
4. Serra Catholic
5. Bishop Canevin
6. Seton LaSalle

