



For Immediate Release

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Nashville Fire Department's BLAZE Mentoring Program Awards \$5,000 in Scholarships to MNPS Graduating Seniors; \$22,000 awarded to date *Nashville Predators Foundation sponsor the 2024 BLAZE Scholarship Awards*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 9, 2024) – Nashville Fire Department's BLAZE Mentoring Program surprised the recipients of the 2024 BLAZE Scholarship on Monday, April 8, 2024, with the news that they had been selected for the \$1,000 scholarship award, at each of their schools.

The Nashville Predators Foundation sponsored the BLAZE scholarship awards this year, allowing the BLAZE Mentoring Program to continue to sow into the futures of graduating MNPS Seniors.

BLAZE announced the following recipients:

Nathan Ashley, Martin Luther King, Jr. High School
Cathalene Barlow, Early College High School
Laila Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr. High School
Kai Wardlaw, Hume Fogg High School
Alexandria Yaba, Cane Ridge High School

Mission:

BLAZE Mentoring Program is a plan of action established through the Nashville Fire Department targeted to reach high school adolescents that attend the Academies of Nashville within Metro Nashville Public Schools. We strive to expose students to a variety of local career opportunities, guide students towards positive paths and decisions, and build connections with the students beyond the classroom.



The BLAZE Mentoring Program made the special announcements in person to each student who was present at school on Monday. This was the first time the students were notified this way and it was very special for everyone involved. Each scholarship recipient is awarded \$1,000.

“This program continues to amaze me,” Director Chief William Swann said. “I watch our personnel engage with our youth doing everything from community service projects to helping families during the holiday season; and to top it off they are partnering with amazing organizations like the Nashville Predators Foundation. It’s simply amazing work.”

The BLAZE Mentoring Program has been operating since 2018. The mentoring program’s goal is to make a positive impact on the lives of Metro Nashville Public School High School Students.

BLAZE mentors are all Nashville Fire Department personnel who aim to reduce any limits that students have relating to their future and to push students to be their best. BLAZE mentors expose students to a variety of local career opportunities, guide students toward positive paths and build connections with students beyond the classroom.

BLAZE partners with PENCIL and MNPS high schools to provide community service opportunities to students throughout the academic school year.

Community partners such as the Nashville Predators, Tennessee Titans and Nashville Soccer Club, offer support in varying ways; including allowing students opportunities to attend sporting events, special access to facilities, and even donations to the scholarship fund.

In 2023, BLAZE awarded seven (7) \$1,000 scholarships to recipients graduating from MNPS. In 2022, BLAZE awarded eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships and in 2021, BLAZE awarded two (2). Combined with this year’s awards BLAZE has awarded \$22,000 in scholarships total.

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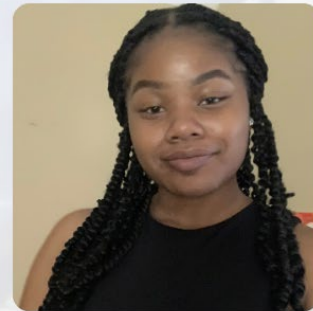


CONGRATULATIONS!!



Nathan Ashley
MLK Jr.

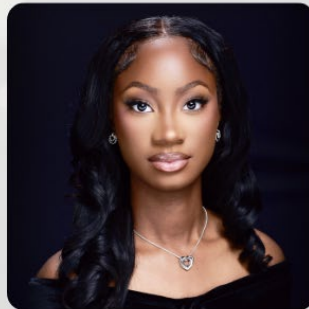
**2024
BLAZE
Scholarship
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Alexandria Yaba
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