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OUR MISSION

Sisters Academy of Baltimore, a Catholic, community-centered middle school, educates girls of different races, ethnic groups, and religions, from families of limited economic means, particularly in southwest Baltimore. The Academy empowers its students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society.

Making a Difference Every Day!

We call them “the sweet sixteen.” The Class of 2015 entered Sisters Academy of Baltimore on September 1, 2011 from twelve public elementary schools. Neither Hurricane Irene, floods, nor an earthquake, could dampen the spirits of our new students as they came on their first day. With the help of their “big sisters,” they are adjusting to new teachers, new friends, new subjects, new schedules, and new expectations.

This year, our theme is “Making a Difference Every Day.” One of our generous donors has a creative way of making a difference through her contribution of tote bags each year. The bags help the students to keep pencils, papers, and books together during the change of classes and to be organized for the whole day. The tote bag reminds all of us of the theme as the students go about their work each day.

As benefactors and friends of Sisters Academy of Baltimore, you make a difference every day. You are our monthly donors, annual donors, student scholarship sponsors, class sponsors, honorary and memorial gift donors, and volunteers. Your generosity makes it possible for our girls to go about their days in middle school with the conviction that they are making a difference today and that they will make a difference in our world in the future. How good is that!

Two local foundations will make a difference far into the future in the lives of our students and their families. Recently, the France-Merrick Foundation awarded Sisters Academy a 1:2 challenge grant of \$100,000 for our scholarship endowment. Before receiving the grant, we must raise \$200,00 from other contributors—primarily individuals. Last week, the Middendorf Foundation awarded Sisters Academy a grant of \$50,000 to help meet the challenge. By building our scholarship endowment, Sisters Academy will carry out its mission of transformation through education for years to come. Please call or email if you would like to learn more about efforts to strengthen the Academy through endowment and legacy gifts.

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND

President, Sisters Academy of Baltimore



The students of the Class of 2015 show off their school tote bags.

The News in Review



Marc Steiner, with teammates Amanda and Daria, captained the Wise Guys at the October 2010 "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" event. He is ready for a rematch in October 2012.

We're beginning to plan for our next "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" competition in October 2012. The Event Planning Committee will hold its first meeting in a few weeks. Volunteers are needed. The initial steps will include determining the venue, identifying possible celebrity contestants, and outlining the benefits for corporate sponsors. If you'd like to learn more about helping with this fun event, contact Joeann Karibo (tamukar@gmail.com) or Moira Monk (mdmonks@comcast.net).

William L. Gaudreau, AIA, Chairman and CEO of Gaudreau, Inc., hosted a special breakfast at the L'Hirondelle Club of Ruxton on June 16 for Sisters Academy donors and friends. Eleven guests and three board members enjoyed a hot breakfast and learned about the Academy's **student sponsorship** program. Three of our graduates (Autumn Walker '08, Kierra McCollum '08, and Shakiera Keyser '09) and two mothers of graduates (Tina Lee and Alnita Sherrill) spoke from the heart about what Sisters Academy has done for them. "The students were incredibly articulate..., and the parents credited Sisters Academy faculty and staff for their daughters' development. I don't think there was a dry eye at any of the tables," said Mickey Fenzel, Sisters Academy Board Member and Professor and Interim Dean of Education at Loyola University Maryland.

Right before school started, Sisters Academy received a generous donation of new polo shirts for students from the Bon Secours Health System Mission Fund. The short-sleeved red and white shirts are suitable to be worn as part of the girls' uniform. Each Academy student received two shirts—a plain red one and a white one with our red school logo. Twenty women in Peru, who benefit from health clinics run by the Sisters of Bon Secours in their country, sewed these shirts. They are employees of a fair trade business sponsored by the Sisters.

For the 2011-2012 school year, Sisters Academy is fortunate to have four **class sponsors**—organizations that are supporting one class of students with a contribution of \$25,000 each. The Leroy M. Merritt Charitable Trust has been sponsoring this year's 8th graders since they entered the Academy in the fall of 2008. The Bon Secours Health System Mission Fund is in the third year of sponsoring our 7th graders. The Sheridan Foundation has just begun sponsoring our 6th graders, and Daniel G. Schuster, LLC is sponsoring our new 5th graders.

An Enriching Summer

In June, 8th grader Acora Dredde completed a one-week session of the 2011 Summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Program at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. This overnight academic program, designed for students entering 8th to 11th grade, introduced Acora to real-world applications of mathematics and science through hands-on activities. The program was designed to encourage students to pursue a course of study in engineering or technology. Over 300 applicants from around the country were selected, and each participant received a full scholarship.

In July, 8th graders Antoinette Holmes and Kafui Anthony traveled to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania to attend week-long STEM Camp for middle and high schoolers. This is the third year that Bucknell has invited and sponsored two students from Sisters Academy. The girls stayed in a dorm on campus and were joined by Morgan Bell '10, who is currently a sophomore at Maryvale Preparatory School.



Morgan, Antionette, and Kafui are waiting for their ride to Bucknell.

Graduate Jazzmen Crafton '08 was one of 26 Cristo Rey Network high school students selected to attend a three-week pre-college program at Georgetown University in July. These rising high school seniors from across the country lived on campus and attended writing and biology workshops, SAT prep sessions, meetings with university admission officers, and a tour of Washington, D.C. Six Georgetown undergraduates served as mentors to the Cristo Rey students. Jazzmen is currently at the top of her class at Cristo Rey Jesuit in Baltimore.

Graduates Shakiera Keyser '09 and Brittany Biggers '09 attended the NativityMiguel Collegiate Prep Academy that was also held at Georgetown University this summer. This overnight campus immersion was designed to prepare students for the college application and selection process.



Antionette Holmes, Maria Velazquez, and Judy Anaya carefully reloaded bookshelves after we moved 12 good-conditioned wood bookcases from the former Cardinal Gibbons School.

September Scenes



Sixth and seventh graders catch up on the first day of the new school year.



Sisters Academy provides bus service from a central location at St. Peter Church at Hollins and Poppleton Streets to and from school each day.

This year, we increased the service and added a second stop at St. Veronica Church in Cherry Hill.

Approximately half of our students ride the bus each day.



During orientation, student discussed how they plan to make a difference this year. Each student put her ideas on a square that will be incorporated into a new quilt. A quilt made of the squares from each class will hang in the entrance corridor during the year.



Four members of the Class of 2015 are siblings of current students or graduates.



Khristian and her mother arrive at Sisters Academy on the first day of school.



Sixteen graduates returned for the Investiture Ceremony. These high school students were among the early arrivals. Kierra McCollum '08 offered reflections. After the ceremony, our grads stayed for a pizza party and camaraderie.



Jo-Nai Duncan, Kavon Atkinson, and Jaelah Jupiter spoke as representatives of the Class of 2015 at their Class Investiture.

Spotlight on a Grandparent

Brenda White learned about Sisters Academy of Baltimore in 2008 when her granddaughter, Antoinette, brought home an application in her backpack. At the time, Antoinette was in the 4th grade at an elementary school in the Allendale neighborhood where they live. Brenda recalls, "I was skeptical at first, but Antoinette's teachers were so enthusiastic about Sisters Academy." Antoinette was accepted and this year she is an 8th grader considering high schools.

During Antoinette's first three years, Brenda arrived regularly at the corner of Hollins and Poppleton Streets at 5:15 p.m. to meet the school bus and make sure all of the riders were picked up safely. Brenda cooked and served food at two of our school's annual "Taste and See" Spaghetti Dinners, and she helps office staff prepare special mailings.

Brenda has been raising her granddaughter since Antoinette was 4 years old. Brenda believes that Sisters Academy has taught Antoinette how to "think outside the box." She points to her granddaughter's ease in expressing herself, her enjoyment of clubs, and the close friendships she has developed with other students. Brenda also finds the Academy teachers very approachable and willing to spend time with parents. "I couldn't think of a better place for a girl to go to school," she adds.



Brenda White is a very willing volunteer.

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End of Year Giving

Honorariums

Are you starting to feel the holidays approaching? Will you soon be wondering what to give to family members and friends who already have everything? Don't stress! You can warm the hearts of your loved ones with a gift that reflects the true spirit of the season.

MAKE A DONATION TO SISTERS ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE IN SOMEONE'S NAME AND HELP A GIRL WITH PROMISE ACHIEVE IN 2012.

Here's how it works:

- Use the enclosed envelope or donate online and designate your honorees.
- We'll send your honorees a card informing them of your gift in their name. Or if you prefer to present the card to your honorees personally, just let us know and we'll send the cards to you instead.

Are You Eligible?

The IRA charitable rollover has been extended through December 31, 2011. Individuals who are 70½ or older may roll over up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to a qualifying charity without recognizing the assets transferred to the qualifying charity as income. The gift to charity must go directly from the IRA and the amount will count against a donor's minimum required distribution.

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is an eligible tax-exempt organization. You are encouraged to contact your tax advisor if you are contemplating making a gift under this law. Please feel free to contact the Development Office at Sisters Academy of Baltimore at 410-242-1212 with any questions.

Charitable Giving

Fall usually marks the time for many organizations to hold charitable giving campaigns in the workplace. Please remember **Sisters Academy of Baltimore** as you make your pledges for the coming year.

- **United Way**—Sisters Academy of Baltimore is a **write-in** designee.
- **Combined Federal Campaign—#46817**
- **Maryland Charity Campaign—#2746**
- **Combined Charity Campaign for Baltimore City—#2746**

Also, **Giant Food** is continuing its **A+ School Rewards** program. You need to re-register your **GIANT** card and designate Sisters Academy of Baltimore (School ID **#04638**). Re-register online at www.giantfood.com/aplus or call 1-877-275-2758.