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**OUR MISSION**

**S**isters 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.

***Congratulations, Class of 2011***



**O**n June 1, our fourth class graduated in a spirited ceremony at the Marikle Chapel at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Families, friends, sponsors, and Board members joined the graduates at the celebration. Our graduation speaker, Gwen Skillern, senior executive at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, encouraged the graduates to “reach for the stars.”

Over the past four years, members of the Class of 2011 did indeed reach for the stars. As a class, they were quiet leaders who worked in a spirit of cooperation to get things done. Nothing was ever too much trouble. They inspired our younger students and helped to create the distinctive culture of peace and respect associated with our school. Our graduates have already left a legacy to Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

Our faculty and staff agree that we have every reason to believe that they will become leaders who will be agents of transformation in our world. This is our vision. Our graduates, in turn, have hope for their futures.

The Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote that “the future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope.” Through your generous contributions as scholarship sponsors, donors, monthly givers, and volunteers, you have given the best of all gifts to our graduates—the gift of hope.

Special thanks to all who contributed to our spring appeal designated for our technology initiatives. Your contributions will provide new opportunities for our students to reach for the stars when they return in the fall.

*Sister Delia Dowling, SSND*

*President, Sisters Academy of Baltimore*

## The News in Review

WBAL-TV 11 news anchor Rod Daniels, one of the team captains for our "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" competition in 2010, took time from his busy schedule to visit our school on May 5. He gave our 7th graders constructive feedback on the speeches they had written and were delivering in class. He also spoke with our 6th graders about the incredible difference the early education he received has made in his life.

The 5th graders took a trip to the Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills on April 16 to see different species of animals in their natural habitat. Walking through a large expanse of woods, students observed insects, birds, and snakes as well as plants that attract animals to this area. In their Life Sciences class, these 5th graders had been studying ways that creatures adapt to changes in their environment in order to survive.

On May 16, two employees of Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems in Linthicum visited Sisters Academy to present information about careers in engineering for students in science class. They stressed that doing well in science and math during middle school is an important step in preparing for these careers. One of the presenters was John Monk. He and his wife Moira Monk are student scholarship sponsors.



*Fifth graders have fun at the AMF Westview Lanes in Catonsville for duckpin bowling at the end of the school year.*

We recently welcomed Cassidy Bartolomei, a student from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, who is in the eight-week Summer Service Learning Program. Cassidy is assisting in New Frontiers, our program for girls who have applied to the Academy.

Students who will begin 8th grade in the fall came to school from June 20-24 to participate in a summer camp that challenged them to learn more about themselves and strive for class unity as they practiced for the process of applying to high schools. After journal reflection and team-building exercises, each girl wrote a personal essay and went through a "mock interview" with a high school admissions director. Two graduates from the Class of 2010 gave a presentation to the girls and answered their questions about high school life.

## Class of 2011

### **Kapre Alexander** *Institute of Notre Dame*

Known for being athletic and an outstanding basketball player, Kapre also brought motivation and self-discipline to her studies. She became a class leader with her warm personality and habit of taking the initiative.

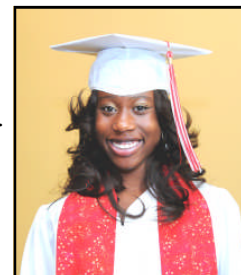


### **Kayla Bias** *Archbishop Spalding High School*

Always a quiet presence in the classroom, Kayla proved to be insightful. She was diligent with her school work and enthusiastically competitive in sports. She established strong friendships.

### **Morgan Dickson** *Mercy High School*

Morgan had a way of inspiring others. She brought high energy and an independent spirit to everything she did. She liked helping others and loved playing soccer.



### **Breanna Dockery** *Institute of Notre Dame*

Although reserved in personality, Breanna effectively took the lead on special projects that caught her interest. She had creative ideas, and she consistently reached out to 5th graders in the cafeteria.

### **Brionna Ford** *Institute of Notre Dame*

Brionna displayed very strong math skills and a subtle sense of humor. She worked dependably on tasks and never drew attention to herself. She enjoyed playing basketball and creating cards for people on special occasions.





**Molly Fowler**  
*The Seton Keough High School*

Everyone who met Molly could tell that she was intense. She never hesitated to express her beliefs and values. Molly showed great determination in reaching her goals. She also shared her love for animals.

**Shanice Morrison**  
*Institute of Notre Dame*



Shanice was the quiet one with the big smile. When she spoke in front of a group, she proved to be articulate and self-assured. Shanice was a deep thinker and she enjoyed writing.

**Nicole Hall**  
*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

Nicole was always cheerful, friendly, and sociable. She was kind to her classmates and took an interest in the younger students. In 8th grade, Nicole hit her stride academically. She also developed good computer skills.



**Shaniya Mullin**  
*Institute of Notre Dame*

Shaniya set high academic goals for herself and met them. She demonstrated good communication skills and artistic talent. Shaniya made math and science her priorities because she hopes to become a pediatrician one day.



**Dayona Harvey**  
*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

Dayona displayed talent in art as well as sports. She took a leadership role in planning and promoting this year's "Girls Night Inn" student event. When Dayona wasn't drawing or painting, you could find her tossing a football on the playground.

**Tieria Stepney**  
*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

Tieria was a motivated student who made steady academic progress over four years. She showed real sensitivity to the needs of others and didn't wait for a classmate to ask her for help. Tieria was the school's best runner.



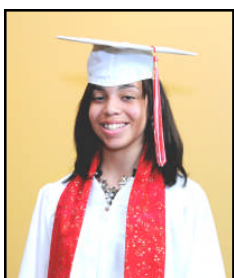
**Lakeshia Holmes**  
*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

Lakeshia never hid her interest in performing on stage. In the yearbook, her classmates voted her most likely to become a famous singer. Lakeshia welcomes opportunities to try new experiences, and she has a gentle, compassionate way with people.



**Christal Stukes**  
*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

Christal became a confident and independent student in the 8th grade. She was a reliable supervisor of the weekly cleaning chores performed by students. Christal liked poetry and loved music.



**Mickayla LaCour**  
*The Catholic High School of Baltimore*

Mickayla was a leader in the classroom with good ideas and outstanding effort. She liked to keep things organized, so she created flashcards for studying different subjects. Mickayla also enjoyed playing volleyball.

**Breanna Wallace**  
*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

Breanna performed well in math. She was the best problem-solver in her 8th grade science class. Breanna was full of energy. She designed an eye-catching website in computer class.



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### *Class of 2011 Courtyard Beautification Project*

The Class of 2011 has left a special gift to Sisters Academy by improving the outdoor courtyard space adjacent to our gym/cafeteria building and renovating the porch of the old convent building near the cafeteria. This class project began in June 2010, when the rising 8th graders decided to create a “reflection garden,” a “greenhouse,” and a “mural” on school property.

A team of three students devised a plan for transforming the neglected grounds between the two buildings into a peaceful garden. Their work included pulling weeds, tilling soil, laying a tarp, and covering the whole tarp with small white and grey stones. The girls also selected shrubs, herbs, and flowers and planted them in three beds. Lastly, they sanded and painted a discarded bench to put in one corner and placed a sturdy, donated bird bath on the other side of the new garden.

Seven students refurbished the screened-in convent porch, so it could be used for potting and pruning both indoor and outdoor plants. The group removed old equipment and debris, hosed down the concrete floor, and replaced torn screens. They sanded and painted all the window frames and a long wooden bench that had been left on the porch. The girls assembled two new work tables to set against an inside wall. Finally, they measured, cut, and installed indoor/outdoor carpet.

Another five students took responsibility for painting a colorful mural on one of the brick walls facing a small patio outside the cafeteria. After traveling to see murals at various sites in the city, the group developed a sketch of a girl looking out her bedroom window at night. They worked with chalk to outline the sketch on the wall using the correct dimensions. After mixing paints to get the desired colors, they slowly filled in the sections. Lastly, the girls painted letters for the dedication which encourages Academy students to “Reach for the Stars.”



*The Class of 2011 created the mural for the refurbished courtyard and garden.*

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