SHINING BRIGHTLY

Sisters Academy of Baltimore

ANNUAL REPORT 2017–2018
Our vision is that graduates of Sisters Academy will be well-educated, self-assured, spiritual, and committed young women who are so needed in our community, our nation, and indeed our world. They will be leaders who make a positive difference.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of Sisters Academy of Baltimore,

We are pleased to present you with our report on a year of **Shining Brightly** at Sisters Academy of Baltimore. In times of both light and darkness, your commitment and generosity helped our students become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society. Thank you!

Marianne Williamson, an author and spiritual guide, has reflected, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We are all meant to shine as children do.”

And how do children shine? Freely and fearlessly. Our students shine freely in the classroom, during special activities, and on field trips. They shine fearlessly exploring the outdoors, offering service, and taking risks. Our graduates shine as they receive their high school diplomas, and now as they receive their college degrees.

As scholarship sponsors, class sponsors, donors, foundations, Sisters of the sponsoring congregations, volunteers, and friends, you shine as children do. Your gifts helped us to meet our annual financial goals. During the past year, annual giving was particularly strong, with an increase of 10% over the prior year. We met our goal in grants and came within two percentage points of our goal in scholarship sponsors. Most importantly, your gifts helped our students shine.

In the past year, our Board of Directors initiated the planning process to develop the school’s next five-year Strategic Plan. The growth of the endowment is an important component of the Plan. In this report, we are pleased to tell you about the beginning of our endowment fund, the growth of the fund over fourteen years, and the purposes of the fund in the near future. We are especially grateful to all donors who have made contributions for the endowment over the years. Your gifts are expressions of confidence in our students, our graduates, and our mission.

As you read this report, may you find joy in knowing that you have helped our students and our school shine brightly as a beacon of light in Baltimore. And may you continue to shine as our children do.

**Sister Delia Dowling, SSND**
President

**Andrea Giampetro-Meyer**
Chair, Board of Directors
Our fourteenth year was marked by transitions with the hope and gratitude that come during times of change. We welcomed 21 new students into the fifth grade as the Class of 2021. Our total enrollment remained steady at 71 students. Throughout the year, students continued to learn in the classroom, during field trips, through community service, and in special activities. The Investiture, Fall Fest, Advent prayer groups, Christmas sale, Girls Night In, Seder Meal, and Eighth Grade Farewell provided opportunities for leadership, responsibility, and creativity. The annual High School Fair and Career Day provided a glimpse of life beyond middle school. In team sports, students were introduced to lacrosse for the first time.

Along with our steady enrollment, Sisters Academy graduates grew to 135 young women who are moving forward in high school, advancing to college, pursuing graduate school, and beginning their careers. Graduates kept in touch with the school when attending social gatherings, providing volunteer service, assisting in the summer programs, and speaking at special events. During the past year, Deara Parker ’08 gave the graduation address, Bria Thomas ’13 shared her college experience at the Fall Reception, and Hannah LaCour ’14 welcomed the new students at the Blessing and Investiture.

We welcomed six new faculty members who brought both experience and enthusiasm to the school community. At the end of the year, we bid a fond farewell to those who completed their service. We are particularly grateful for the service of Eileen Copple as Principal; Kathleen Donnelly, our faithful Administrative Assistant for eleven years; Mildred Simmonds-Brown, teacher for twelve years; and Regina Goodman, teacher for eleven years. Our teachers, staff, and volunteers, both new and seasoned, served throughout the year as a team of talented individuals dedicated to advancing the mission of Sisters Academy.

In October we held a Sunday afternoon reception to honor our Student Scholarship Sponsors and to introduce them to our faculty and staff. The social event also provided the opportunity for sponsors to meet students and their parents, tour the school, and introduce a friend or family member to Sisters Academy. The event was held in addition to our annual spring Sponsor Appreciation Day in April.
Our eleventh class, the Class of 2018 graduated on June 6 in the Marikle Chapel at Notre Dame of Maryland University. The graduates made significant gains over their four years at Sisters Academy in academic achievement, leadership, and service. Members of the class are attending the following high schools: Archbishop Spalding High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Institute of Notre Dame, Mercy High School, Mount De Sales Academy, and Western High School.

Among our eighth grade graduates, four students received partial tuition scholarships from the Flaherty Family Foundation, and one student was awarded a Samuel Ready Scholarship providing full tuition to attend the Institute of Notre Dame.

The 2018 Young Playwrights Festival of Baltimore Center Stage selected Tahjae Young’s play, “The Show,” as one of the six winners. For eight years, the seventh grade students have participated in the festival in their Language Arts class. The play was produced and performed for a live audience at Center Stage in May.

In February, the Sisters Academy student body traveled to Loyola University Maryland for “Field Trip Day” where they participated with 600 other middle school students. The most significant highlight of the event was the announcement of the student essay contest winners for their essays on the topic “How can we make the world a better place for everybody?” Sisters Academy students swept the competition with nine students taking the top honors among the twenty winning essays selected, with winning entries in each grade.

Our partnership with Outward Bound Baltimore Chesapeake Bay grew to include the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. In August 2017, members of the eighth grade class had a five-day camping and wilderness experience that included canoeing and hiking along the Potomac River. During the fall, the sixth and seventh grades traveled to Outward Bound’s base at Leakin Park for a full day of outdoor experiences that focused on overcoming fears, taking risks, and working as a team. All of the students agreed that the experience helped them by deepening their friendship, providing team building experiences, and developing leadership.

Our new faculty member, Sister Stacy Gunnip, SSND, introduced Spanish to the sixth grade. Our plans are to extend the weekly Spanish classes to the seventh and eighth grades over the next two years.

All of the music classes performed in a special Christmas concert before an overflow gathering of parents, friends, and donors. Students sang and performed on recorders, keyboards, and percussion instruments. The performance was enthusiastically received by the audience.

We continued our partnership with Baltimore Dance Crews Project (BDCP). Classes were held weekly from January through May. The Sisters Academy crew performed for the guests attending Sponsor Appreciation Day in April. In addition, members of BDCP who are now in high school returned to provide dance instruction for our incoming students during New Frontiers.
Poised and deliberate comes to mind when meeting Ashae Singletary, Class of 2014. In fourth grade Ashae was a quiet, shy girl who wanted to learn but needed to focus. After finding Sisters Academy, things changed. “Fifth grade was an even bigger change than I could have imagined. Every teacher at Sisters Academy knew my name and stayed on me to succeed. Sr. Debbie was a big influence on my ability to adapt. She helped me realize there is a time and place to study and to play.”

Ashae attended Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. “It was similar to Sisters Academy with the exception of boys.” During her internships, Ashae worked for Catholic Relief Services, Enoch Pratt Free Library, and at Sheppard Pratt. “I was prepared for my internships. Sisters Academy taught me how to connect with people, to look someone in eye during conversation, to shake a hand, and to project my voice when speaking.” Ashae also found her voice in choir class that led to an after school activity. “I enjoy singing and writing music.” And in her English literature classes, she found her voice in writing with a love for reading.

After graduating from Cristo Rey in June 2018, Ashae is now a college freshman attending Notre Dame of Maryland University. “NDMU is a good fit for me as an extension of my education. I became familiar with the College when we would come here during the summer program. And our 8th grade graduated in the Chapel.” She plans to major in English, specifically writing and possibly teaching. Asked if she would consider teaching at Sisters Academy, with a shy smile she replied, “Perhaps, but first I see myself as a college professor.” Ashae Singletary is focused and ready to pursue her college career.

Sisters Academy graduates attended the following high schools in 2017-2018:
- Archbishop Spalding High School
- Baltimore City College High School
- Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
- The Catholic High School of Baltimore
- Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
- Friends School of Baltimore
- Institute of Notre Dame
- Lansdowne High School
- Marriott Ridge High School
- Maryvale Preparatory School
- Mercy High School
- Mount de Sales Academy
- New Era Academy
- Notre Dame Preparatory School
- Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts
- Pikesville High School
- Sharon High School (PA)
- St. Frances Academy

100% of all Sisters Academy graduates in the Classes of 2008 to 2014 have obtained a high school diploma.
When Morgan Bell was in fourth grade, her mother paused as she answered the question about why she wanted Morgan to attend the new school. Then she wrote, “Morgan is like a star that is waiting to gleam and shine brighter than she already is and I can’t wait for the opportunity that I feel this school will give her to do just that.”

Now, twelve years later, Morgan Bell is doing just that – shining brightly. Morgan graduated from Sisters Academy in 2010 and attended Maryvale Preparatory School, graduating in the Class of 2014. After high school, Morgan continued her education at St. John’s University in New York City, earning her BA in May 2018 with a major in Political Science and a minor in Sociology.

While at St. John’s, Morgan became a leader in identifying issues and developing policies related to diversity and inclusion. She held the position of President of the university NAACP chapter and worked on programs for Black History Month. She served on the university Task Force for Diversity and Inclusion. She was recognized among her peers for her activism and leadership.

While in her junior year at St. John’s, Morgan came to the realization that she was meant to be a teacher. She was accepted into Teach For America and is currently teaching social studies at Woodland Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Morgan credits Sisters Academy with helping her “come out of her shell” during her middle school years. She commented that Sisters Academy challenged her to think and not to be satisfied with doing the bare minimum. Today, Morgan continues to shine brightly as an alumna, as a daughter, as a leader, and now as a teacher.
Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2017-2018, our financial requirements continued to increase as we expanded our instructional program. Our benefactors responded generously through the student scholarship program, the class sponsor program, and annual giving.

### Operating Income 2017-2018

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students &amp; Class Sponsors</td>
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<td>Annual Giving</td>
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### Operating Expenses 2017-2018

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<td>Administration</td>
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These figures do not include capital income/expenses, donated goods/services, or depreciation, which are included in our audited financial report. For a copy of our most recent audit, please refer to our website, www.sistersacademy.org, under News & Media.
NOW MORE THAN EVER
THE ENDOWMENT FOR SISTERS ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE

Before Sisters Academy opened, we received an unexpected gift from the Jesuit Community of Loyola University in honor of Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J. The purpose of the gift was to establish an endowment to fund an annual scholarship. Building on the initial gift, the Board of Directors set a goal to increase the endowment to $1,000,000 so that the school would have the financial position and physical resources needed to sustain our mission into the future. Through grants, gifts, and an unexpected bequest, Sisters Academy reached the goal in 2013. Since then, the endowment has grown steadily.

Building our endowment now rises from our desire to place girls like Caira Lee on the road to success, year after year after year. Grounded in the vision to have a transformational influence on the life of each young girl we educate, the Board’s strategy is to increase the endowment to reach a new goal of $5,000,000.

The funding from the endowment will further the mission of Sisters Academy in specific areas:
• Establish named endowed scholarships to continue to offer tuition-free, scholarship-based education.
• Increase enrollment moderately while maintaining small classes and individual attention.
• Maintain academic excellence by offering competitive salaries for faculty and staff.
• Assess and develop the curriculum to respond to the ongoing holistic needs of the students.
• Invest in graduate support to ensure that graduates continue to excel during high school and college.
• Enhance visibility and service in the communities of southwest and west Baltimore.

With a strong endowment, we will continue our deep and steady growth year by year, educating students who need us NOW MORE THAN EVER.

“When I think about exactly what was the pivotal factor in my life that placed me on the road to success, I know it was attending and graduating from Sisters Academy. Sisters Academy changes lives—we need you now more than ever.”
—Caira Lee, Class of 2008
Sisters Academy is grateful to the following individuals, religious communities, businesses, and foundations that have chosen to make a multi-year commitment to sponsor a student for four years.

**Endowed Scholarships**
Mary Catherine Bunting  
Jeanne Bur Fischer Scholarship Fund  
France-Merrick Foundation  
Jesuit Community of Loyola University Maryland in honor of Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.  
Middendorf Foundation  
Joseph & Clare Mosmiller

**Sponsoring Congregations**
School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province  
Sisters of Bon Secours USA  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur East-West Province and Ohio Province

**Class Sponsors**
Bon Secours Health System Mission Fund  
Frank Family Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation  
The Leroy M. Merritt Charitable Trust
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Janice & Ronald Ford  
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Mary Hambleton  
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Pam & Sam Himmelrich  
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Peggy & John Wilckens
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Ellen Yankellow & William Chapman

† Deceased
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We appreciate your generous gifts as scholarships sponsors, donors to our Annual Appeal, contributions of in-kind services, and many volunteer hours to benefit our students’ education, inspiring our vision for success. Thank you to all who support Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

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- Mary Catherine Bunting
- Joseph Mosmiller

### Circle of Excellence ($50,000 to $99,999)
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- Frank Family Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- South Central Community
- Kathy & Jerry Wood Foundation

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- MSDE School Construction Program
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Paul, Sue, Claire & Brooke Weber
The Toby and Melvin Weinman
Foundation
Laishy Williams-Carlson &
James Carlson
Deborah & Joe Wyda
Matthew & Christina Wyskiesi
Debbie & Brian Yeatman

Circle of Initiation
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In 2017, we received exciting news that the Frank family created a new fund for Sisters Academy at the Baltimore Community Foundation. The fund provides annual support for the sponsorship of a full class and an academic scholarship for an individual student in perpetuity.

Members of the Frank family, now representing the third and fourth generations, wanted to create a philanthropic plan that would embody their parents’ guiding values – a strong work ethic, giving back to their community, and a commitment to education and their Catholic faith. Mimi Frank Bozzelli shared how the family arrived at the decision to include Sisters Academy. “Our dad loved education and thought it was the greatest gift you could give anybody. So, when our family agreed to create a fund for St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, we said, ‘What about the girls?’ Without hesitation, the family agreed to establish a fund for Sisters Academy of Baltimore.”

The Frank family’s relationship with Sisters Academy began with Kate Hubbard, Mimi’s niece, who volunteered as a tutor during high school at Notre Dame Prep. Kate’s enthusiasm for the school inspired her mother, Alice Frank Hubbard, and her aunt, Mimi, to contribute through their family’s foundation as a student scholarship sponsor. Over the years, Mimi and Alice have served as the family’s point persons for communications with their student and the school. Both expressed gratitude for receiving letters from their student, seeing her progress over the years, and meeting one another at Sponsor Appreciation Day.

The family’s decision to establish The Frank Family Fund for Sisters Academy of Baltimore at the Baltimore Community Foundation was the result of two generations coming together to discern their priorities for their philanthropic mission. We are grateful to this remarkable family for their foresight and spirit in giving the generous gift of education for future generations of students at Sisters Academy.
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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 those in southwest Baltimore. The Academy empowers its students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society.

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