New Year - New Sisterhood

The 2019–2020 student body gathers in the gymnasium.
DEAR FRIENDS OF SISTERS ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE,

With gratitude and joy, we are pleased to present you with our annual report on a year characterized by Resilience.

In fall 2019, 14 eighth grade students and two teachers at Sisters Academy of Baltimore completed a Leadership Expedition on the Potomac River with Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound. Students navigated the river in canoes, prepared meals over campfires, and set up the campsite each night. They maintained their motivation despite fatigue, primitive conditions, unfamiliar circumstances, and no cell phones. Over five days, they persevered and grew in resilience.

At the end of the week, one student reflected on the meaning of her experience, “My belief in myself and those around me gets me through hard times.” In October, none of us could have predicted the hard times that were coming in 2020. In March, without warning, our students and teachers left the school for the remainder of the year. The coronavirus affected all of us: students, teachers, staff, families, volunteers, donors, sponsors, foundations, businesses, board members, and our sponsoring religious congregations.

Our commitment to transformation through education and your strength as members of our extended community helped Sisters Academy grow in resilience throughout the year.

Through your generosity, we exceeded our annual financial goals during hard times. Even with the limitations caused by the coronavirus, our school community grew through faith, perseverance, and resilience.

- Motivated students completed the school year remotely.
- Creative teachers stretched themselves to ensure continuity of learning.
- Patient administrators and staff kept the practical affairs of the school in order.
- Enthusiastic new students applied for and participated in New Frontiers.
- Committed Board members met virtually, advising and planning for the future.
- Generous donors responded to our appeals and endowment campaign.
- Our founding religious congregations offered financial, spiritual, and emotional support.

With deep gratitude for your generous gifts throughout the year, the community of Sisters Academy of Baltimore moved ahead together with renewed strength and resilience.

With gratitude,

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND
President

Andrea Giampetro-Meyer
Chair, Board of Directors
YEAR IN REVIEW

A NEW TYPE OF LEARNING
Sisters Academy of Baltimore welcomed 17 new students into the fifth grade in September 2019. Whether in class, meeting with our donors, or adjusting to life in a pandemic, each and every one of them embraced the values of the school and became a part of our community.

Students began the year full of promise and excitement. However, everything changed on March 13. Due to the coronavirus, students transitioned to at-home learning. It was an adjustment for all, but students rose to the challenge. With the help of faculty and staff, the work continued, and the girls finished the school year on a strong note!

HANDS-ON LEARNING
Students had many opportunities this year for creative, hands-on learning.

In the Science Lab, eighth graders studied colloids, kinetic and potential energy, and properties of matter through experiments. They also learned about elements, compounds, and mixtures, and used LEGO® bricks to build models of each.

Our seventh graders used clay, craft sticks, and wax paper to create models and learn about joints in the human body, while students in sixth grade science made replicas of crystals using paper.

AIMING HIGH – COURT IS IN SESSION
Sisters Academy is now competing in the CYO Basketball League! The inaugural season was all about resilience and determination. Girls learned to build both skills and knowledge of the game as well as confidence and competitiveness.

“During our first game, we felt defeated and ready to quit after the third quarter. It truly felt like an impossible task,” says Coach Angela Healy. “During our last game of the season, we had the lead at the end of the first quarter against the best team in the league. Although we ended up losing, we were the real winners. The girls came out strong, determined, and worked together. Our girls were elated because they finally felt their success.”

“At some point, all the losses didn’t matter,” said Camryn Harris ’20. “In the beginning I would look at it as an embarrassment, but as I kept going, I looked at it as a practice. You win some and you lose some—but you keep pushing yourself forward and don’t get discouraged.”

AT LAST, THE PARKING LOT
When Sisters Academy acquired the school building and property in 2006, St. Clement Parish retained ownership of a portion of the parking area. In order to make needed improvements, we requested that the parish transfer their portion to the school, and the parish agreed graciously. Since we now own the entire parking lot/play area, we plan to resurface, restripe for play, and improve the landscaping around the perimeter of the lot.

STUDENTS “ON POINTE” WITH THE NUTCRACKER
Through the generosity of the Circle Works Committee of the Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle, seventh and eighth grade students had the opportunity to attend a holiday performance of the Nutcracker ballet at the Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA). After the show, the students went on a special tour of the BSA.

While the ballet tickets were compliments of the BSA, transportation and lunch were provided by the Circle Works Committee. In addition, Circle members donated supplies for the Sisters Academy Art Department and created nutcracker-themed goodie bags for the entire school.

DONOR VISIT DAY
Last fall, Sisters Academy welcomed donors and friends to campus for the first “Celebration of Shining Stars.” Held on a school day, the event was designed to provide an opportunity for donors to visit the school, meet the students and staff, and experience the mission in action. The activities included the creation of a cooperative art project and a science experiment with students and donors as lab partners. The event also featured a panel of three Sisters Academy alumnae who spoke about the impact the school has had on their lives, their education, and their aspirations. Their comments stimulated a lively “Q&A” time with the guests.
RESILIENCE

noun: 1. the ability to return to the original form; 2. recover readily from adversity; 3. the SAB 2019–2020 school year

I learned that things don’t always go as planned and we need to adapt and make the best out of what we do have. By having hope that things would eventually get better, it gave me something to look forward to. That is how I overcame the challenges of at-home learning.”

Mayah Martinez ’20

“

This pandemic has taught me how to be grateful for what I have. I had a school community that helped me through the process. They stayed in touch and were always available. I overcame the challenges by doing things that give me joy, by having hope. You have to look forward to what’s ahead of you instead of focusing on what’s wrong. I know that eventually this pandemic will be over and things will (slowly) return to normal.”

Brianna Williams ’21

“

At-home learning taught me to be responsible for my actions. Finding, printing, writing, doing my work or typing my work on the computer was all on me. If I had ten assignments due by a certain time, it was my responsibility to wake up in enough time to get them done and still turn in quality work. I learned time management skills, something I am still trying to improve.”

Madyson Garrett ’22

“

The pandemic taught me to be grateful that I could still get educated and that I had an opportunity other girls didn’t have. I made myself a goal—to study hard, focus, and by the end of June I would be better at my least favorite subject (math), and I reached that goal.”

Genesis Chicas-Rivas ’23
ABRIL MEDINA, CLASS OF 2016
In elementary school, Abril Medina was shy, timid, and nervous. Her main obstacle was language. During her middle school years, she became a better reader, and delighted in reading novels, writing poems, solving math problems, and learning music. With each year, she grew in confidence.

“Being a part of the Sisters Academy community was amazing,” says Abril. “It was a great experience to be around people who push you to do your best—and more—every day. The school shaped me to become a young woman who works hard in everything she does.”

Working hard, showing up, and persevering through obstacles became more important than ever during her senior year at the Institute of Notre Dame. For Abril and the Class of 2020, the year ended online with no senior rituals. For many, graduation was either virtual or delayed.

“I tried my best to stay positive. I had to remind myself that there is some light in all this darkness.” This fall, Abril is a first-year student at McDaniel College in Westminster. As she anticipates the next four years, this persistent, empathetic young woman repeated a lesson she learned at Sisters Academy, “Nothing in life comes easy. If I want something, I need to work with all my effort to succeed.”

KOURTNEY TILLMAN, CLASS OF 2016
When asked about the biggest challenge with learning during the pandemic, Kourtney Tillman responded, “It was difficult. I struggled with being motivated and feeling defeated because I wasn’t able to experience all the normal senior traditions and stuff. However, through those feelings, I also learned to appreciate my experience. It has helped shape me into being more patient as I await the new experiences ahead.”

Kourtney graduated from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in June 2020 and now attends Morgan State University, studying psychology. While she treasures high school, Kourtney credits Sisters Academy for helping her become focused and motivated.

“Sisters Academy was life-changing. I think about who I was and who I wanted to become. Sisters Academy developed my character and values, and helped me become who I am as a woman.”
**SISTERS ACADEMY**

**CLASSES 2008–2015**

**ALUMNAE ATTENDED THESE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES DURING 2019-2020**

- Baltimore City Community College (MD)
- Bowie State University (MD)
- Community College of Baltimore County (MD)
- Coppin State University (MD)
- Frostburg State University (MD)
- Harford Community College (MD)
- Harrisburg University (PA)
- Howard University (DC)
- Liberty University (PA)
- Lincoln University (PA)
- Loyola University Maryland (MD)
- Marymount University (VA)
- Morgan State University (MD)
- Mount St. Mary’s University (MD)
- Norfolk State University (VA)
- North Carolina A&T State University (NC)
- Pratt Institute (NY)
- Rider University (NJ)
- Salisbury University (MD)
- Stevenson University (MD)
- Towson University (MD)
- University of Baltimore (MD)
- University of Maryland College Park (MD)
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore (MD)
- University of Tampa (FL)

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**Baccalaureate Degrees**

- 21

**Master’s Degrees**

- 2

**Completed Professional Programs**

- 5

**Active Military**

- 3

**Alumnae in Graduate School**

- 5

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**BRITTANY BIGGERS, CLASS OF 2009**

“Growing up in Baltimore is hard and trying to change the cycle of poverty and hardship in my family was one of my biggest goals even as a child,” Brittany Biggers remembers. She achieved that goal because of Sisters Academy. “We started prepping for high school in fifth grade. Teachers were encouraging and let you know that middle school really mattered.”

Brittany went on to attend the Institute of Notre Dame on a full scholarship and graduated in 2013. Today, she serves in the United States Navy as an Electronics Technician Second Class. She works in communications, and acts as a mentor to sailors serving under her.

For Brittany, the pandemic has required sacrifice, but she is staying positive. She is stationed in Virginia and is unable to travel to Baltimore to visit her family, including her son. “I know this will end at some point. In the meantime, we must all stick together.”

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**BRIANA KNOX, CLASS OF 2010**

In middle school, Briana Knox didn’t recognize the importance of life skills, such as chores and recycling. “At the time, I used to wonder, ‘Why am I cleaning my own school? Why don’t we have janitors?’ Now I realize this was teaching all of us responsibility, motor skills, accountability, and so much more.”

Quarantine provided Briana with the opportunity to develop life skills on her own. “I have learned to be more patient with myself and with others. I also got my first pet ever, a cat. She is a handful, but I love her.”

In May, Briana graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) with a bachelor’s degree in Human Ecology and a concentration in Fashion Merchandising. She works for Next One Up, a Baltimore nonprofit, and she is in the process of building her own clothing brand, named Ariane Royale.
STRENGTHENING OUR ENDOWMENT

NOW MORE THAN EVER

Sisters Academy is now close to raising the school’s endowment to $5 million. After launching our first-ever campaign, Now More Than Ever, we anticipate reaching our target goal to raise $3.5 million for the endowment fund established in 2004.

Our success in raising more than $3 million to date is due to the generous and thoughtful commitments of many donors. Thank you to all who have contributed and pledged a gift that will fulfill our major objective – to build and strengthen our endowment to reach $5 million.

Building our endowment will increase the number of students funded through endowed scholarships, support the latest innovative teaching and learning technologies, expand support services for our graduates as they move through high school, and boost the school’s visibility as an excellent education option for girls in Baltimore. The support received for our endowment will help foster our mission to provide transformative education for students, both today and for many years to come.

We offer our sincere gratitude to the individuals, foundations, and organizations who contributed to our endowment fund. Thank you for confirming our belief and supporting this important milestone to sustain the mission of Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>$3,268,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$3,930,905</td>
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The following individuals, foundations, and corporations have pledged or contributed gifts to the **Now More Than Ever** Endowment Campaign since its inception in December 2017.

### NAMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Pledgers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Catherine Bunting Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>Mary Catherine Bunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim &amp; Gerry Cavanaugh Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Dorothy Day Fund</td>
<td>The Thomas More Project</td>
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<td>Marilyn Duker &amp; Dale Mc Ardle Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Pompelia Girardi Esposito Fund</td>
<td>The Thomas More Project</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dorothea Jordan</td>
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<td>Keith &amp; Kathleen Kasper</td>
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<td>John &amp; Nancy Klaske</td>
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<td>Julia K. Maher</td>
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<td>David &amp; Noreen Manzo</td>
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<td>Joanne Manzo &amp; Bernard Kenyon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Louis J. Manzo</td>
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<td>Eileen B. Martin</td>
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<td>Catherine M. Nolan</td>
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<td>Martha &amp; Robert Oare</td>
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<td>Vincent &amp; Patricia Quayle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dana A. Reed</td>
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<td>Joan M. Ryan</td>
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<td>Mary Sommerfeldt</td>
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<td>Loretta T. Whalen</td>
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<td>Harry &amp; Eileen Workman</td>
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<td>France-Merrick Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Eibhlin Henggeler Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Eibhlin Henggeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesuit Community of Loyola University Maryland in honor of Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Eibhlin Henggeler</td>
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<td>Middendorf Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Joseph &amp; Clare Mosmiller Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Sheila &amp; James Vidmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne &amp; Tim Regan Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>Joanne &amp; Tim Regan</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Sisters of Notre Dame Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province</td>
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<td>Michael &amp; Jean Sullivan Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Jean Sullivan</td>
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<td>General Endowment Gifts and Pledges</td>
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<td>Peter &amp; Millicent Bain</td>
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<td>Larry Beyer &amp; Linda Blackart</td>
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<td>Anita Feeley &amp; George Goodhues</td>
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<td>M. Reginald Gerdes, OSP†</td>
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<td>Andrea Giampetro-Meyer &amp; Barry Meyer</td>
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<td>Margaret Hayes</td>
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<td>Pam &amp; Sam Himmelrich</td>
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<td>Mairead E. Holly</td>
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<td>Laurie A. Jones</td>
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<td>E. Tonas &amp; Maureen Kalil</td>
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<td>Margaret &amp; Jack Keane</td>
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<td>Martha &amp; Charles† Kendall</td>
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<td>Peter Leffman</td>
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<td>Mark &amp; Kimberly McCarty</td>
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<td>Karen &amp; Emmett McGee</td>
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<td>Augusta Reilley, RSM</td>
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<td>Thomas &amp; Margaret Rice</td>
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<td>John &amp; Susan Riehl</td>
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<td>Margaret K. Riehl†</td>
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<td>Chancey &amp; William Schmick</td>
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<td>Janet &amp; John Schmick</td>
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<td>Sisters of Bon Secours USA</td>
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<td>Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community</td>
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<td>Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur East-West Province Ohio Province</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Louise Snyder†</td>
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<td>Jacqueline &amp; James Stradtner</td>
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<td>Josette Towles</td>
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<td>Martina &amp; Arthur Varnado</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clare E. Wherley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Deceased
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS 2019–2020

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.

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

Class Partners
Bon Secours Mercy Health Mission Fund
Frank Family Fund for Sisters
Academy of the Baltimore Community Foundation
The Leroy M. Merritt Charitable Trust

Student Sponsors
Anonymous (Multiple Donors)
Karen & Lee Arnold
ATAPCO Group
American Trading & Production Corporation
Paul & Jennifer Huston
Jeffrey & Karen McCormack
Anne & John Patterson
Millicent & Peter Bain
Bon Secours Mercy Health Circle #1
Laura & Bob Buczkowski
Janice & Jeffrey Burnett
Marcia A. Cort
Christine A. Lay
Susan C. Vosloh
John F. Wallenhorst
Bon Secours Mercy Health Circle #2
Laura & Bob Buczkowski
Donna & Demetrius Fortson
General Accounting Dept.
Anthony Mangine
Karen Mason
Mark & Kimberly McCarty
Kim & Geoff Moody
Lillian & Frank Nevers
Debra Petitus
Pamela & Walter Schmidt
Joel & Beth Stafford
Laishy Williams-Carlson & James Carlson
Robert & Anne Bradshaw
David & Susan Brune
Deborah Cerski (The Manger Family Foundation)
Catholic Community of Relay
Jennie Boyer
Patricia Butner
Noreen & Thomas Christian
Frank Dingle
Theresa Donnelly & John Irwin
Kerry & John Foy
Anna Maria Gamble
Beth & Jim Guest
Mary Hambleton
Kathleen & Burch Harmon
Maura & Gregory Hill
Marjean Irwin
Maureen & Robert Keck
Mary Jane & Joseph LeVasseur
Kathleen Liparini
Jaymie Litsey & C. William Michaels
Geralyn & Alan Magan
Rossana & Bill Marsh
Susan Middaugh
Hope & Ray Miller
Patricia & Alexander Petrlik
Ann & Bret Pollack
Mary Beth & Gary Ribar
Patricia Rubacky & William Merritt
Patricia Silva
Todd & Anne Sweeney Chairs
Brenda Sue Chilman
Conveyor Handling Company
DECO Recovery Management
Sharon Dobson
(The Dobson Foundation)
Alice Dorshow
James & Linda Dugan
Marilyn Duker & Dale McArdle
Janice & Ronald Ford
Frank Family Foundation Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation
Driven by its mission of education for transformation, Sisters Academy of Baltimore is a well-established institution that is both visionary and practical with notable accomplishments.

**SISTERS ACADEMY STUDENTS RECEIVE DONOR-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS**

100%

**SISTERS ACADEMY GRADUATES FROM 2008-2016 HAVE OBTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

100%

**ANNUAL BUDGET FUNDED BY DONORS**

97%

**OPERATING DEBT**

$0
FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019–2020

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2019-2020, 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 2019–2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (in $)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Student &amp; Class Sponsors</td>
<td>$534,884</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Giving</td>
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<td>29.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsoring Congregations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Family Fees</td>
<td>$18,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rentals &amp; Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$4,323</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,288,403</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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OPERATING EXPENSES 2019–2020

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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></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, sistersacademy.org, under News & Media.

MEMBERS & DIRECTORS

SPONSORING CONGREGATIONS
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of Bon Secours
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

BOARD OF MEMBERS
Kimberly Baxter
Sisters of Mercy
Deborah Cerullo, SSND
Schools Sisters of Notre Dame
Mary Donovan, SNDdeN
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Alice Talone, CBS
Sisters of Bon Secours

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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†Deceased
VISION

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.

CLASS OF 2020 WRAP

19

GRADUATES—LARGEST CLASS IN HISTORY

20

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

10

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS CHOSEN BY THE CLASS OF 2020

$319k

$319,862 SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED

SCHOOLS CHOSEN BY THE CLASS OF 2020

Archbishop Spalding High School
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Bard High School Early College
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Friends School of Baltimore
Lansdowne High School
Notre Dame Preparatory School
St. Vincent Pallotti High School
The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Western High School
CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!
Graduation for the Class of 2020 was held in-person on June 24, at St. Clement I Roman Catholic Church.

FACULTY & STAFF
2019–2020
Delia Dowling, SSND, President
Laura Minakowski, Principal
Sayra O. Barrera
Corina Bentum
Joseph Bogucki
Mary Campbell
Anne Maura English
Barbara Gailunas
Stacy Gunnip, SSND
Anita Hampson
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Bria McCormick
Elizabeth Nash
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Jannis Rhodes
Michele Rodriguez-Smith
TraceyAnn Smith
Barbara Tipton
Pauline Tobias
Elizabeth Amy Williams
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 those in southwest Baltimore. The Academy empowers its students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society.

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland and DC schools (AIMS)

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