

SISTERHOOD



Sisters Academy
of Baltimore

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sisterhood: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow

Dear Esteemed Members of the Sisters Academy Community,

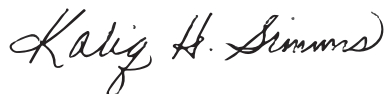
I am writing to you with immense pride and gratitude as I reflect on the achievements and generosity that have defined Sisters Academy of Baltimore for nearly two decades. As the newly appointed president, it is my honor to build on this legacy of excellence in education. Standing on the shoulders of Sr. Delia Dowling, our inimitable founding president, and the four congregations of religious sisters who started this school and continue to sponsor our efforts, I look ahead with excited anticipation to the futures of today's sisters, our students and alumnae.

Our students carry on the enduring virtue of sisterhood which always has been the bedrock of this aptly named institution. Many of you witnessed the sisterly bonds of our most recent graduates, members of the class of 2023, at their commencement ceremony. You also may have seen sisterhood exemplified at the spectacular Power of Sisters tribute program. Or, perhaps you have had the pleasure of experiencing the vibrant and collegial relationships of our students while you visited us on a typical school day or attended one of our many arts programs, athletic contests, or annual traditions. Sisterhood in the air we breathe here!

The past year truly has been a testament to the strength and unity of our community. During the presidential search and throughout the subsequent transition period, Sisters Academy saw an unprecedented outpouring of support, breaking records for giving and having this community blaze a bold, new path forward together. Your generosity has enabled us to further enhance our curricular offerings, acquire essential resources (i.e. technology, books, learning tools), hire and retain talented faculty and staff members, and most importantly, to support 100% of our students with full, four-year scholarships as they progress from 5th through 8th grade. Sisters Academy and our students received numerous honors this year, including the prestigious Milch Award from Loyola University Maryland.

In 2023, thanks to a generous donor, we launched a new scholarship fund, which will enable the school to partially support high school tuition for select graduates. This fund fortifies our long-term relationship with our alumnae, moving with them each step of the way beyond Sisters Academy to high school, college, and to their careers of choice. Spearheaded by our Graduate Support team, the journey after Sisters Academy is just as significant as the pivotal middle school years they spend in our care. Our alumnae from the classes of 2008-2018 have earned bachelor's and master's degrees, completed professional programs, and have served active duty in the armed services. You will read in the following pages about one student who won a national poetry prize that took her all the way to Carnegie Hall and a graduate who will begin medical school this year. Indeed, your gifts go a long way, as they support our promising current students as well as our brilliant alumnae.

We thank you for your unwavering commitment to Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Your prayers, your time, and your contributions have helped to transform lives and to empower our students to go forth into their next phase, armed with education, character, resilience, and faith. May the vision of sisters past and the love of our community of supporters continue to sustain our mission today, tomorrow, and always.



Kaliq Simms, President
Sisters Academy of Baltimore



YEAR IN REVIEW

In July 2022, the Board of Directors initiated the search process for the second president of Sisters Academy. With generous funding from the Knott Foundation, the school conducted an extensive search involving the community. The Search Committee recommended the appointment of Kaliq Hunter Simms to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors accepted the recommendation and the Board of Members affirmed the choice. Just before the Winter break, Dale McArdle, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Andrea Giampetro-Meyer, Chair of the Search Committee, introduced Mrs. Simms to the students, teachers, and staff. During the spring, Mrs. Simms met leaders of the four sponsoring religious congregations and attended special school activities and events in the Baltimore community as part of her orientation to her new role. Mrs. Simms began her appointment as President on July 1, 2023.

MILCH AWARD

Sisters Academy received the prestigious Milch Award from Loyola University Maryland during their Commencement Exercises on May 20. The Milch Award recognizes one organization annually that has contributed significantly to the betterment of the intellectual, cultural, or social life of greater Baltimore during the past year. From the Citation: "... for its dedication to provide an equitable education devoted to academic excellence, service, the whole person, and leadership; and for helping prepare and inspire the next generation of engaged citizens in Baltimore, Loyola University Maryland is proud to present Sisters Academy of Baltimore with the Milch Award."



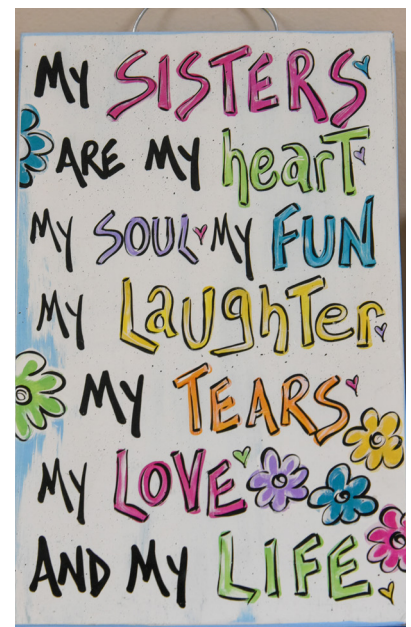
GROWTH OF THE ENDOWMENT

The endowment grew significantly during FY2023. Donors who were completing or honoring their campaign pledges contributed \$383,983 to the endowment. In addition, donors contributed a total of \$213,305 to the newly-established Sister Delia Dowling Endowed Scholarship. As FY2023 came to a close on June 30, the value of the endowment was \$6,750,793.



MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We received grants from the Ed DeGrange Nonpublic Aging Schools Program, the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Safety and Security Grant Program designated to replace our aging fire alarm system. The project was completed in May. In June, we received a grant of \$60,000 from the Middendorf Foundation. Combined with funds from the Aging Schools Program, we completed the plan to replace the ancient boiler in the school before the cold weather comes.





STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our 16th class graduated on June 14 in St. Clement Church, with families, staff, board members, and sponsors in attendance. Six graduates will attend Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. The other students will attend the following high schools: Archbishop Spalding High School; City College High School; Friends School of Baltimore; Mercy High School; Our Lady of Mount Carmel; St. Paul's School for Girls; The SEED School of Maryland; Western High School; and Western School of Technology.

One of the graduates attending Cristo Rey received a full-tuition Healy scholarship. The graduate attending Friends School received a full scholarship from the Samuel Ready Foundation. Other

students received scholarships from external organizations that totaled \$27,000. The class was offered a total of \$209,000 in scholarships and financial aid. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2023.

Seventh grade student Kimberly Silva Jimenez achieved national recognition in writing. Her poem, "I Was Raised by Belts and Beans," won a medal in both the local and national Scholastic Achievement competition. She traveled with her teacher and her father to receive the medal at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Several weeks later, Kimberly received word that her essay, *God, Grace & Gratitude*, won first place in the contest sponsored by the national NativityMiguel Coalition of Schools. Cheers to Kimberly and Ms. Ruzzi, her teacher!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We initiated the innovative 11-month school year during 2022-2023. The new calendar extended the school year to July 21 and included planned breaks for teachers and students at the end of marking periods. Classes are in session for an equivalent number of days as in prior years. The new calendar provides more "rest time" throughout the school year and keeps the students engaged for 11 months to limit summer learning loss.

Under the leadership of Principal Dr. Jeanne Dolamore and Music Teacher Alison Johnson, and our partnership with the Elville Center for the Creative Arts, the music program continued to flourish. More than half of the students chose instrumental lessons in string, brass, or woodwinds. Others participated in beginning or advanced bell choir and beginning

and advanced choir. Students performed at "Winterfest" in December and "Curtain Call" in May. They performed at Sponsor Appreciation Day, "The Power of Sisters," and for many visitors to the school throughout the year.

The interscholastic athletic program grew to include two CYO basketball teams, a volleyball team, and track and field. Students increased their skills in teamwork, responsibility, and perseverance through the athletic program.

Science teacher Amy Williams and students planned and implemented Earth Day activities. These included solving problems with reusable materials and creating messages about care of the earth using chalk art on the sidewalks around the school. As a culminating project, students, teachers, and staff created an "Earth Day" mural on the brick wall in the courtyard.

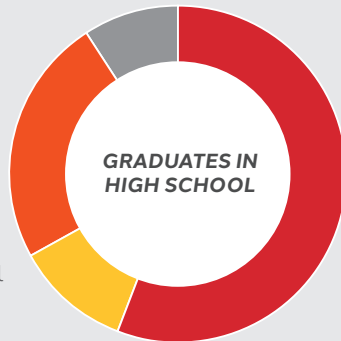


SISTERS ACADEMY

CLASSES 2019–2022

SISTERS ACADEMY GRADUATES ATTENDED THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOLS IN 2022-2023

Archbishop Spalding High School
Baltimore City College High School
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Bard High School Early College Baltimore
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Episcopal High School (VA)
Friends School of Baltimore
Lansdowne High School
Mercy High School
Mount de Sales Academy
New Town High School
Notre Dame Preparatory School
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
Roland Park Country School
St. Vincent Pallotti High School
The Bryn Mawr School
The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Western High School



53% Catholic High Schools

11% Public High Schools

25% Selective Public High Schools

11% Independent High Schools

GRADUATES RETURNING TO CAMPUS

The Graduate Support staff assist the 8th grade students in applying for high schools and keep in touch with the graduates throughout high school and into college or postsecondary programs. They encourage graduates to continue their education, keep in touch, and return to campus to inspire the current students. This year, many graduates returned for visits and programs.



Makayla McDonald '12 and Destiny Logan '10 were presenters at the annual Career Day held in March. Makayla spoke about her position in graphic arts and Destiny shared her experiences as a counselor.

Destiny Shepard '19 was the speaker for the Blessing and Investiture of New Students. Destiny graduated from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in June of 2023 and currently attends Stevenson University.



Four graduates returned to serve on a panel about adjusting to high school during the 8th grade Leadership Workshop this summer. Kyra Allen '22, Andrea Estrada '22, Aubrey Montgomery '21, and KaeCee McLaughlin '21 shared their experiences and tips from their respective high schools (Cristo Rey Jesuit, Archbishop Spalding, Mercy, and Roland Park Country School).

Ashae Singletary '14, Tamauri Beasley-Foster '16, and Shamerra McCoy '14 returned as panelists in the College Jumpstart Week, designed for our graduates in high school as they prepare for application to college.

Five members of the first graduating class in 2008 enjoyed the festivities as they celebrated "The Power of Sisters" in May. Caira Lee, Kierra McCollum, Autumn Walker, Deara Parker, and Danielle Hipkins represented the Class of 2008 and presented Sister Delia Dowling with a memorable photo from the school's first graduation.

SISTERS ACADEMY

CLASSES 2008–2018

ALUMNAE ATTENDED THESE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES DURING 2022-2023

Bowie State University (MD)
Charles R. Drew University of
Medicine and Science (CA)
Chicago School of Professional
Psychology (Online)
Community College of
Baltimore County (MD)
Coppin State University (MD)
Frostburg State University (MD)
Geisinger Commonwealth
School of Medicine (PA)
George Mason University (VA)
Harrisburg University of Science
and Technology (PA)
Howard Community College
(MD)
Howard University (DC)

Loyola University Maryland (MD)
Marymount University (VA)
McDaniel College (MD)
Morgan State University (MD)
Norfolk State University (VA)
Notre Dame of Maryland
University (MD)
Salisbury University (MD)
Stevenson University (MD)
Towson University (MD)
University of Baltimore (MD)
University of Maryland
Baltimore County (MD)
University of Maryland College
Park (MD)
University of Maryland Eastern
Shore (MD)

36

**Baccalaureate
Degrees**

10

**Completed
Professional
Programs**

7

**Master's
Degrees**

1

Active Military



BRIA THOMAS, CLASS OF 2013

Bria Thomas is no stranger to hard work and dedication. A graduate of Sisters Academy, Class of 2013, she had been a student at Beechfield Elementary, where her mom was given a brochure about what seemed to be an amazing opportunity. It was no easy beginning. Bria remembers making some mistakes and an 8th grader pulling her aside and reminding her that she had great opportunities, but also that all her actions have consequences. Bria began to blossom and she

fondly remembers experiences, such as Sister Debbie's public speaking class and Sister Virginia's nomination of her into the National Honor Society at her high school. After graduating from Sisters Academy, Bria attended Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, where she continued to excel. She described high school as being so much easier due to her experiences at Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

After graduating from Cristo Rey Jesuit, she attended Loyola University Maryland on a full scholarship and it was another seamless transition due to her familiarity with Catholic and Jesuit institutions. During her time at Loyola, Bria realized that she wanted to be in the field of medicine. She graduated from Loyola with a degree in Bio-Psychology in 2021.

Bria became interested in the study of Podiatry. She completed a Master's degree in Biomedical Science at Geissemer Commonwealth School of Medicine in 2022. At the Geissemer graduation, Bria received the Service to Class Award, which recognizes a student who has worked hard to plan events for the class, served as a mentor to peers, and created new initiatives to share with the community and future classes. The exciting, one-year, accelerated program prepared Bria for medical school.

She applied to podiatry schools for surgeons, where she would study oncology, neuro for the feet, ankle and foot. Bria's quest is to become a medical doctor and completely learn everything about the ankle and foot. She wants to help the community and loves the population that she serves. Currently, Bria is attending the School of Podiatric Medicine at Temple University, where she has just started in the Fall of 2023. Day by day, her dreams are becoming reality.



ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS

The following individuals, foundations, and corporations have contributed to the Scholarship Funds established at Sisters Academy of Baltimore during July 2022 through June 2023.

NAMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

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Mary Catherine Bunting

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Dorothy Day Fund
The Thomas More Project

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East-West Province
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Monica & John Spain

† Deceased



The **POWER** *of* **SISTERS**

The **POWER** of **SISTERS** was a celebration of Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, and the women of vision and perseverance who created and sustain Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Almost 300 braved the elements to honor the religious communities who sponsor the school and the four religious who opened the school: Sister Virginia Brune, SSND (First Teacher); Sister Debbie Liesen, SSND (First Principal); Sister Suzanne Hall, SNDdeN (Co-founder); and Sister Delia Dowling, SSND (Co-founder and First President). The evening was filled with videos, testimonials, and presentations to thank Sisters Delia for her long-term vision, deep commitment, and loving service. As Sister Delia passes on her role as President to Mrs. Kaliq Hunter Simms, her legacy will live on in the students educated at Sisters Academy of Baltimore.



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 Rebecca Brower
 Andrea Giampetro-Meyer
 Julie McQuilkin
 Moira Monk
 Barbara Tipton
 Autumn Walker

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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.

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Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
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Joan Worthington & John
Bartkowiak
Dorothy & Donald Wright
Ellen Yankellow & William
Chapman



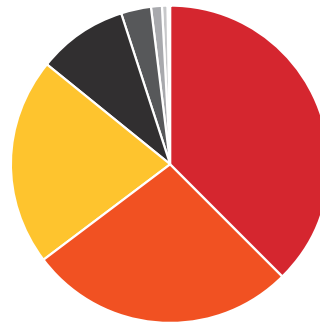


FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022–2023

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2022-2023, our financial requirements continued to increase as we expanded our instructional program and introduced a varied extended day program. Our benefactors responded generously through the student scholarship program, the class partners program, and annual giving.

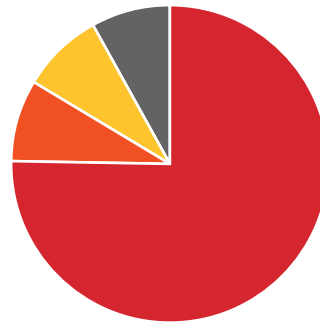
OPERATING INCOME 2022–2023

Student & Class Sponsors	\$595,190 37.7%	Total Income \$1,578,589
Annual Giving	\$427,061 27.1%	
Grants	\$334,352 21.2%	
Sponsoring Congregations	\$145,500 9.2%	
The Power of Sisters	\$46,658 3.0%	
Family Fees	\$17,385 1.1%	
Rentals & Miscellaneous	\$12,444 0.8%	



OPERATING EXPENSES 2022–2023

Instructional	\$1,273,047 75.3%	Total Expenses \$1,690,325
Development	\$142,331 8.4%	
Administration	\$141,035 8.3%	
Facilities & Maintenance	\$133,912 7.9%	



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.

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The Murphy Siblings

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Eileen O’Dea, SSND

Joan Develin Coley

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Andra Eksteins-Tuffy

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Lawrence Colabucci

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Lawrence Colabucci

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STAFF & FACULTY 2022–2023

The 2022–2023 academic year represented the continuation of a trimester system and the introduction of an 11-month school calendar. Classes continued to be divided into small cohorts and masks remained part of the daily attire for everyone for most of the school year. The faculty and staff maintained their commitment to the education of the students. The staff maintained an extraordinary steadfastness in supporting the students and families, ensuring the fiscal strength of the school, and maintaining the school facility.

Delia Dowling, SSND

President

Jeanne P. Dolamore

Principal

Gabrielle Hurley

Assistant Principal

Joseph Bogucki

Business Manager

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School Nurse

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Faculty

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Faculty

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Graduate Support Assistant

Elizabeth Amy Williams

Faculty

Jeanne Windsor

Faculty





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Sisters Academy of Baltimore



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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 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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