As you are receiving this newsletter, students at Sisters Academy of Baltimore have returned to school and the teachers have refreshed their lesson plans and classrooms. Our entire community is looking forward to renewing our contact with you through visits and the written word.

For all of us, summer was a time of celebration, enrichment, and preparation. On June 10, we celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2021. The returning students engaged in two weeks of enrichment programs and we renewed our partnerships with Notre Dame of Maryland University and Notre Dame Preparatory School. The applicants for the Class of 2025 participated in New Frontiers during July, and have just completed their first weeks as Sisters Academy students.

I am happy to share some good news about our instructional staff for this year. Uneeke Ferguson is the first of our graduates to return to Sisters Academy as a teacher. Ms. Ferguson was in our second class and entered in 2005. She graduated from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and then Wheeling Jesuit University. After four years teaching in Baltimore City Public Schools, she has returned and said, “I feel like I have come home.”

Gabrielle Hurley has served as the Director of Graduate Support since 2014, developing the program effectively to support the increased number of graduates. Ms. Hurley has been promoted to Assistant Principal and will be working in all aspects of student progress and program development.

As we return to total in-person learning, our priorities will be on student progress in the core subjects of reading, writing, and mathematics. We plan to refresh the music program to include classroom music, choir, and instrumental music. In addition, we will attend to the social readjustment of students, both new and returning. Throughout the year, we will renew our customs, rituals, and meaningful activities for the benefit of our school community.

Throughout the pandemic, we realized that our foundation was deep enough and our roots strong enough to adapt to the most uncertain of circumstances. All of this is due to your generosity as donors, sponsors, and friends. Thank you for being partners in our mission as we move forward in confidence and faith.

— Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, President
Catholic Alumni Clubs Support Scholarships

Carmen Wong, a former student of Sr. Delia Dowling at Notre Dame of Maryland University, and now a member of the Catholic Alumni Club (CAC) of Washington, DC, together with her friend and CAC member, Diane Schmit, recommended Sisters Academy for a scholarship award from the Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI). The DC chapter is one of 20 local chapters in three regions across the country. Each region selects a recipient (school or student) for CACI’s annual Edward T. Webb Memorial Fund scholarship. Sisters Academy applied and received a grant of $3,400 from the Fund. Thank you, Friends, for advocating on the school’s behalf!

The Kahlert Foundation Supports Technology

The Kahlert Foundation has multiple focus areas, including education and youth programs. This spring, the foundation awarded a multi-year grant to Sisters Academy to fund specific operating expenses, including technology, summer programs, marketing initiatives, and the extended day program.

Writing and Storytelling Camp

This year’s rising Grade 6 students were treated to a new camp: Writing and Storytelling. John Porcino, brother of Principal Dr. Dolamore, is a professional storyteller and musician. The camp, held from July 6 to 9, included playful, participatory stories, songs, and music performed by Mr. Porcino. This was not a “sit and watch” camp. Students participated in activities and workshops that taught basic storytelling tips and techniques. By the end of the week, each sixth grader was challenged to share her story or to introduce one of the mini performances for rising Grade 5 students and staff.

“My hope is that each child leaves their time with me with some real skills, new understanding, and valuable tools to help them continue to try and build healthy, thriving lives” said Mr. Porcino.

Centennial Park EOY Celebration

Wednesday, May 26 was a beautiful, but hot, sunny day for the 13th annual end-of-the-year field day at Centennial Park in Howard County. In 2008, volunteer Moira Monk organized this event by asking her family and friends to lend a hand. She and they have been doing so ever since.

“It has become a family affair over the years. It takes a lot of volunteers and a lot of food donations to pull this off each year. It’s so worth it to get our girls outside and to see them enjoy themselves, each other, and this beautiful park,” said Mrs. Monk.

Notre Dame Prep (NDP) Art and Athletic Camp

This year’s camp for rising grades 6, 7, and 8 was different from previous years. Only three days of camp were at NDP due to construction on its campus; on Monday and Tuesday camp days were at SAB. While on the SAB campus, our girls and a dozen NDP high school counselors played basketball, kickball, capture the flag, trivia, and enjoyed dance and arts and crafts. On Wednesday and Friday, the girls worked on their dance routines, played basketball in the beautiful NDP gym, enjoyed science, math, and engineering activities, more arts and crafts, and swimming in the NDP indoor pool. Thursday was a morning of service at First Fruits Farm in Freeland, MD. The girls, with the teachers and the NDP students, picked tomatoes, harvested 32,000 pounds of cabbage, and boxed 10,000 pounds of string beans!
On the rainy afternoon of June 10, the resilient Class of 2021 graduated in a beautiful ceremony at St. Clement I Church. Dressed in their white caps and gowns and red stoles, the class made a dramatic entrance as parents and staff members escorted the seventeen graduates under umbrellas across Second Avenue and into the church. Families, friends, Board members, sponsors, faculty, and staff also braved the torrential downpour to attend the ceremony.

The heavy rain and the alumna speaker will surely be lasting memories of the 2021 graduation. Daria Paschall, Class of 2013, was the keynote speaker. After graduating from Sisters Academy, Ms. Paschall matriculated at Baltimore City College. In May, she received her bachelor’s degree from Howard University. Ms. Paschall addressed the graduates in an impassioned speech, saying “Education makes us powerful.” She also shared her middle school memories and offered advice to the graduates, urging them to focus with the future in mind, remain confident in who one is, and learn to accept criticism.

Ms. Paschall said, “You all have built a sisterhood here that will last a lifetime. You may not see and talk to these girls every day, and you may never see some again, but you should always cherish the moments you had and the lessons you learned here together.”

A representative from each of the sponsoring communities presented its Star for Success award. The Sisters of Mercy recognized Gabriela Suazo for Respect and Compassion for Others. The Sisters of Bon Secours recognized A’Leeyah Johnson for Good Help to Those in Need. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur recognized Morgan Jackson and Kae Cee McLaughlin for Effort and Academic Motivation. The School Sisters of Notre Dame recognized Brianna Williams for Leadership and Unity.

Together, the Class of 2021 earned the greatest amount of high school funding in scholarships and financial aid. Three graduates will attend Cristo Rey Jesuit High School on full scholarships; two will be fully funded at Notre Dame Preparatory School; and three graduates received full Samuel Ready Scholarships.

Graduation 2021: She Believed She Could, So She Did

---Graduation photos courtesy of Glenwood Jackson
Improving the Parking Lot

Last summer, St. Clement Parish deeded their portion of the dual-role parking lot and playground to Sisters Academy. The school immediately began to execute plans to resurface and improve the lot, partially financed by a $30K grant from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Nonpublic Aging Schools Grant Program.

Chamberlain Contractors began by leveling existing potholes and grading the lot so rainwater would flow toward Second Avenue. The company then resurfaced the 18K square foot parking lot with asphalt. This included a handicap ramp at the gym entrance and new curbing around the lot perimeter. Chamberlain completed its work by striping the lot for kickball and soccer, two four-square courts, and two hopscotch games.

The landscaping work was completed by Natural Concerns, Inc. Thick weeds, nasty vines, and brush were removed and evergreens planted inside the freshly-laid asphalt curbs. Finally, the workers prepared a 12-foot hole with layers of stone and soil, and then planted grasses and shrubs. The long-awaited parking lot and bio-retention garden not only look attractive but will help retain storm water run-off.

Charitable Giving

Fall 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.
- **Maryland Charity Campaign**—#341975939
- **Combined Charity Campaign for Baltimore City**—#2746
- **Giant Food** is continuing its A+ School Rewards program. **New supporters** need to register your GIANT card and designate Sisters Academy of Baltimore (School ID #04638). Register online at [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) or call 1-877-275-2758.
- **Harris Teeter** offers a similar program “Together in Education.” To enroll, simply tell the cashier at checkout that you want your VIC card linked to Sisters Academy of Baltimore’s account number (1837).
- Don’t forget to save, scan, and/or send in your “Box Tops for Education.”
- **Amazon Smile**—Start your holiday shopping at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com) and designate Sisters Academy as your beneficiary at no cost to you.