

REALIZING THE VISION



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



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 a report on a year of blessing and fullness as we achieved another milestone on our journey that began in 2004. When the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Bon Secours, Sisters of Mercy, and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur came together to make the bold decision to sponsor the school, they envisioned girls, full of promise and potential, who would become well-educated, self-assured, spiritual, and committed young women, making a positive difference in the world.

The vision has its time. On June 8, 2016, members of our first graduating class returned for graduation, offering words of wisdom, encouragement, and cheers to the eighth grade graduates, who were ready and prepared for high school. At this moment, Sisters Academy realized a significant milestone seeing members of our first class now as graduates from college, and knowing that all of the graduates of our first five classes have graduated from high school. All of these young women are taking practical steps to realize a vision in their time and place and to live a life of purpose.

Thanks to you, our generous donors, the vision of Sisters Academy is alive and the mission is succeeding. We are grateful to each and every one of you who have faithfully supported our goals during this past year and for the many years since we began. Thank you for giving our students and their families the means to realize their vision.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, Sisters Academy welcomed new board members, new teachers, a new principal, and another class of new fifth grade students. We applauded our 109 alumnae as graduates from high school and now college. Together, as new and seasoned stewards of Sisters Academy, we continued on the journey of learning, guided by the goals of our strategic plan for improvement, "Moving the Mission Forward." This plan will further the academic growth of the school and provide the means for sustaining our mission in the years to come.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our students and our graduates in high school, college, and military service. We send this report with deep appreciation for your gifts as scholarship sponsors, class sponsors, annual donors, and event sponsors. We thank foundations, businesses, parishes, and other organizations for your support and service.

Thank you for sharing in the realization of our vision.

Sincerely,

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND
President



Margaret O. Moseley

Margaret O. Moseley
Chair, Board of Directors



YEAR IN REVIEW 2015-2016

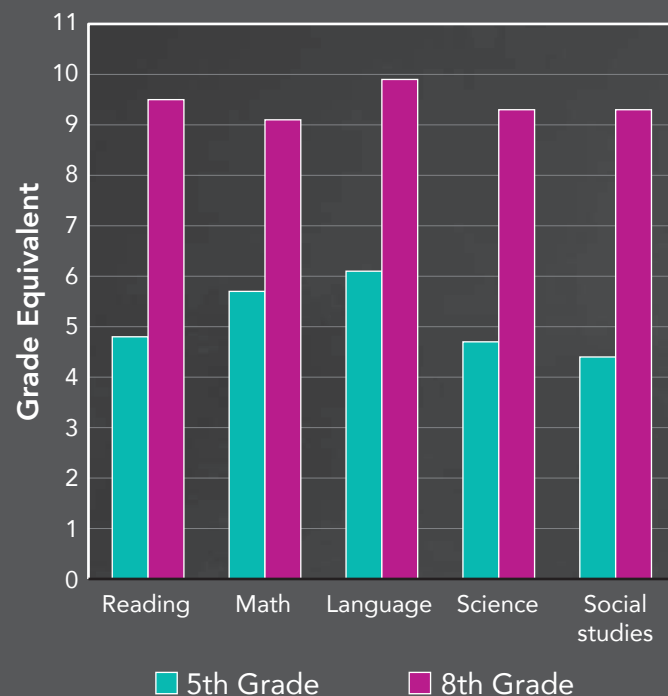
Sisters Academy of Baltimore continued to provide a strong academic program sensitive to the needs of the students along with the resources necessary to offer a well-rounded program. As an outcome of earning full accreditation from the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS), our plan "Moving the Mission Forward: Strategic Plan for Improvement," now guides the school as we move ahead in our second decade. During 2015-2016, we made progress on our goals and objectives with a focus on curriculum development, professional development, student enrollment, retention, community resources, partnerships, and sustainability. The formation of an Oversight Committee engaged parents, graduates, board members, faculty, staff, and friends of the school in moving the mission forward during the first year of the strategic plan for improvement.

Our total enrollment grew to 65 students in grades 5-8 due in part to greater outreach to schools and after-school community programs, and the involvement of our current parents spreading the word. Our year-to-year retention rate met our goal of 90%.

Sisters Academy continued to develop new partners and strengthen existing community resources to support our curriculum and enhance life skills experiences for our students. We continued our relationships with Notre Dame of Maryland University, Loyola University Maryland, Maryland Institute College of Art, Mount De Sales Academy, Northrop Grumman, Notre Dame Preparatory School, The Christ Child Society, Baltimore Dance Crews Project, Center Stage, and the Girls Scouts of Central Maryland.

To expand our communications and marketing efforts, in the spring of 2016 Sisters Academy produced the school's first promotional video, "A Journey To Success." The professional production was created by Talking Tree Creative and developed through the generosity of Marty Ostendorf and Absolute Services.

RESULTS MATTER



Students in the Class of 2016 made significant academic progress over four years as measured on the Stanford Achievement Test. On average, students made the greatest gains in reading, science, and social studies. In all three areas, they entered Sisters Academy below grade level and made gains of 4.6 grades or more. Translated to percentile rankings, their gains were 19 percentile points in reading; 18 percentile points in science; and 16 percentile points in social studies.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Class of 2016 graduated on June 8, 2016 and enrolled in the following high schools: Archbishop Spalding High School, City College High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Institute of Notre Dame, Mercy High School, The Seton Keough High School, and Notre Dame Preparatory School.
- For the fifth year, the seventh grade participated in the Young Playwright Festival at Center Stage. Lamontia Crawford received the festival's highest honor when her one-act play was selected from 600 competing student entries and performed by professional actors at the Festival in May.
- Tamauri Beasley was awarded a Samuel Ready Scholarship to the Institute of Notre Dame. The prestigious Samuel Ready Scholarships, Inc. provides full tuition scholarships to designated Baltimore-area independent schools "for the education of girls who show academic promise and who might otherwise be unable to afford tuition." Tamauri is the tenth graduate from Sisters Academy to receive one of the scholarships.
- Four seventh grade students were selected to participate in Engineering Camp at Bucknell University, a one-week residential science-technology-engineering-math summer enrichment program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The students, faculty, staff, and administration welcomed Patricia L. Ruppert as the second Principal of Sisters Academy in July 2015.
- Sisters Academy hosted 60 participants for a professional development conference for schools in the NativityMiguel Coalition in October, 2015. Sisters Academy is a member of the Coalition that consists of 44 member schools with similar missions located throughout the United States and Canada. The conference offered teachers and administrators the opportunity to gain insights and share ideas for best practices in the schools.
- The Girls Scouts of Central Maryland enhanced the Life Skills curriculum by leading a six-week course during winter-spring months for all students in each of the four grades. The topics studied were Evolution of the Girl (Grade 5), Going Green (grade 6), Free to Be Me (grade 7), and Financially Fit (grade 8).
- For the third year, Sisters Academy benefitted by receiving state funding for capital projects through the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program of the Maryland State Department of Education. Through funding at \$36,700, the school replaced two air conditioning units, installed a new kitchen floor, and transformed chalk boards into white boards in ten classrooms.
- Sisters Academy was selected as the 2015 beneficiary of The Christmas Project Inc., a Northrop Grumman employee-funded charity. The Charity's employee volunteers fulfilled our wish list for instructional equipment in science and physical education. The gifts included microscopes, beakers, Wii hardware and software, a flat screen HD television with portable cart, and 65 Christmas stockings, one for each student.



SAB GRADUATES IN HIGH SCHOOL



Tyteyona is a senior at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and wrote about Sisters Academy for her college application essay. She chose to write about Sisters Academy as a special time in her life that helped her transform from childhood innocence to adult maturity.

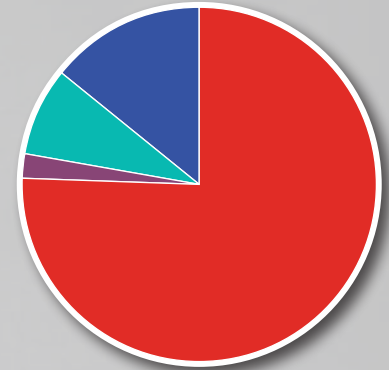
"Throughout my years at SAB, I developed and grew socially, emotionally, physically, academically, and spiritually. So many opportunities that were offered to me through SAB have helped me flourish into the young adult I am today. SAB was a wake-up call and a blessing for me. When I graduated from SAB, I left as a leader with a head start on my service life, a stronger relationship with Christ, and a connection with my place in the world. From being leaders of clubs and service projects to preparing lunch, I was a well-experienced leader, ready for my next step.

I went to high school ready. I received advanced credit in math courses, thanks for Sister Virginia, and took honors and advanced classes. I joined the Student Government Association, and was inducted into the National Honor Society, along with other SAB alumnae. I lead the liturgical dance team and the cheerleading team. I was one of the first students to participate in Cura Urbe (care for the city).

Through all my experiences, I have learned that real leadership comes from what you put into your experiences and what you allow yourself to take away from them. From SAB to CRJ, it was definitely a long journey, but I would do it all over again."

SISTERS ACADEMY CLASSES OF 2012-2015

- 76% ■ Catholic High Schools
- 2% ■ Private High Schools
- 8% ■ Public Selective Enrollment High Schools
- 14% ■ Public Neighborhood High Schools



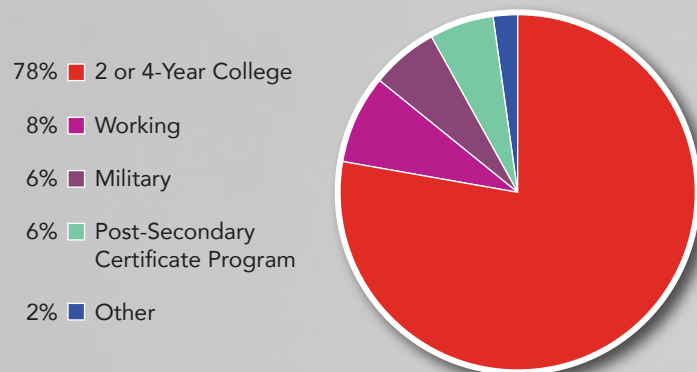
100%

100% of all Sisters Academy graduates in the Classes of 2008 to 2012 have obtained a high school diploma.

Archbishop Spalding High School
Baltimore City College High School
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Friends School of Baltimore
George Washington Carver Center
for Arts and Technology
Institute of Notre Dame
Maryvale Preparatory School
Mount de Sales Academy
New Era Academy
Patapsco High School
The Seton Keough High School
Western High School

SAB GRADUATES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

SISTERS ACADEMY CLASSES OF 2008–2011



Anne Arundel Community College (MD)
 Bowie State University (MD)
 Community College of Baltimore County (MD)
 Coppin State University (MD)
 Frostburg State University (MD)
 Morgan State University (MD)
 Rider University (NJ)
 Russell Sage College (NY)
 Salem College (NC)
 Saint Joseph's University (PA)
 St. John's University (NY)
 St. Lawrence University (NY)
 Stevenson University (MD)
 The College of Wooster (OH)
 University of Baltimore (MD)
 University of Maryland College Park (MD)
 University of Maryland Eastern Shore (MD)
 Wheeling Jesuit University (WV)



When Tracy Brown heard from a co-worker that a new middle school for girls was opening in southwest Baltimore, she knew that her nine-year-old daughter would be a perfect candidate. Both Jazzmen and her mother shared the vision that she would go to college one day.

Jazzmen was selected to be in the first class of Sisters Academy and graduated in 2008. She entered Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, took honors courses, and was a member of the National Honor Society. She was valedictorian of the Class of 2012 and was awarded a full tuition scholarship to Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

While at Saint Joseph's University, she was vice-president of the Black Student Union and worked in the Office of Multicultural Life. She became interested in autism, majored in Autism Behavioral Studies, and worked in research and advocacy. Jazzmen realized the next step of her vision when she graduated from Saint Joseph's University in May 2016. Today, Jazzmen is back home in Baltimore working at Comcast while she sets her sights on earning a master's degree in Speech Pathology.

Jazzmen will tell you that she values her middle school education at Sisters Academy, particularly the small classes and advanced work. She remembers that she became a disciplined student at an early age and that her life has been influenced by the core values of Sisters Academy and of the two Jesuit institutions she attended for high school and college.

Knowing the success of Jazzmen's experience, Tracy Brown expects to apply for admission for Jazzmen's younger sister who now has her sights set on attending Sisters Academy in 2018.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

2015-2016

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

France-Merrick Foundation
Jeanne Bur Fischer Scholarship Fund
Jesuit Community of Loyola University Maryland in honor of Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.
Middendorf Foundation

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
Ohio Province

Class Sponsors

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Susan K. Gauvey
Faith & Jim Gilroy
Harriet & Herbert Goldman
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2015-2016

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2015-2016, 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, annual giving, and our "Block Party At the Park" fundraiser.

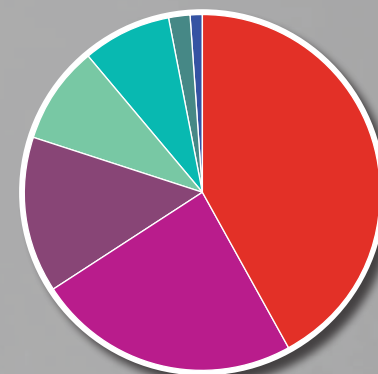
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Anne & John Wisniewski
Ellen Yankellow & William Chapman

Operating Income 2015-2016

Students & Class Sponsors	\$466,529	(42%)
Annual Giving	\$263,126	(24%)
Grants	\$161,277	(14%)
Fundraiser	\$105,908	(9%)
Sponsoring Congregations	\$95,000	(8%)
Family Fees	\$24,240	(2%)
Rentals & Investments	\$9,479	(1%)

Total Income

\$1,125,559

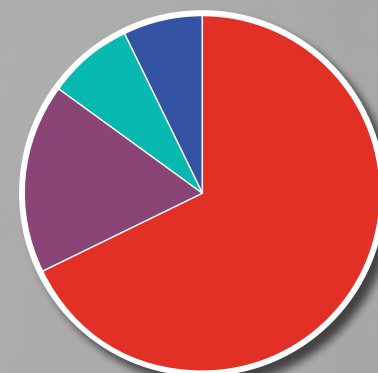


Operating Expenses 2015-2016

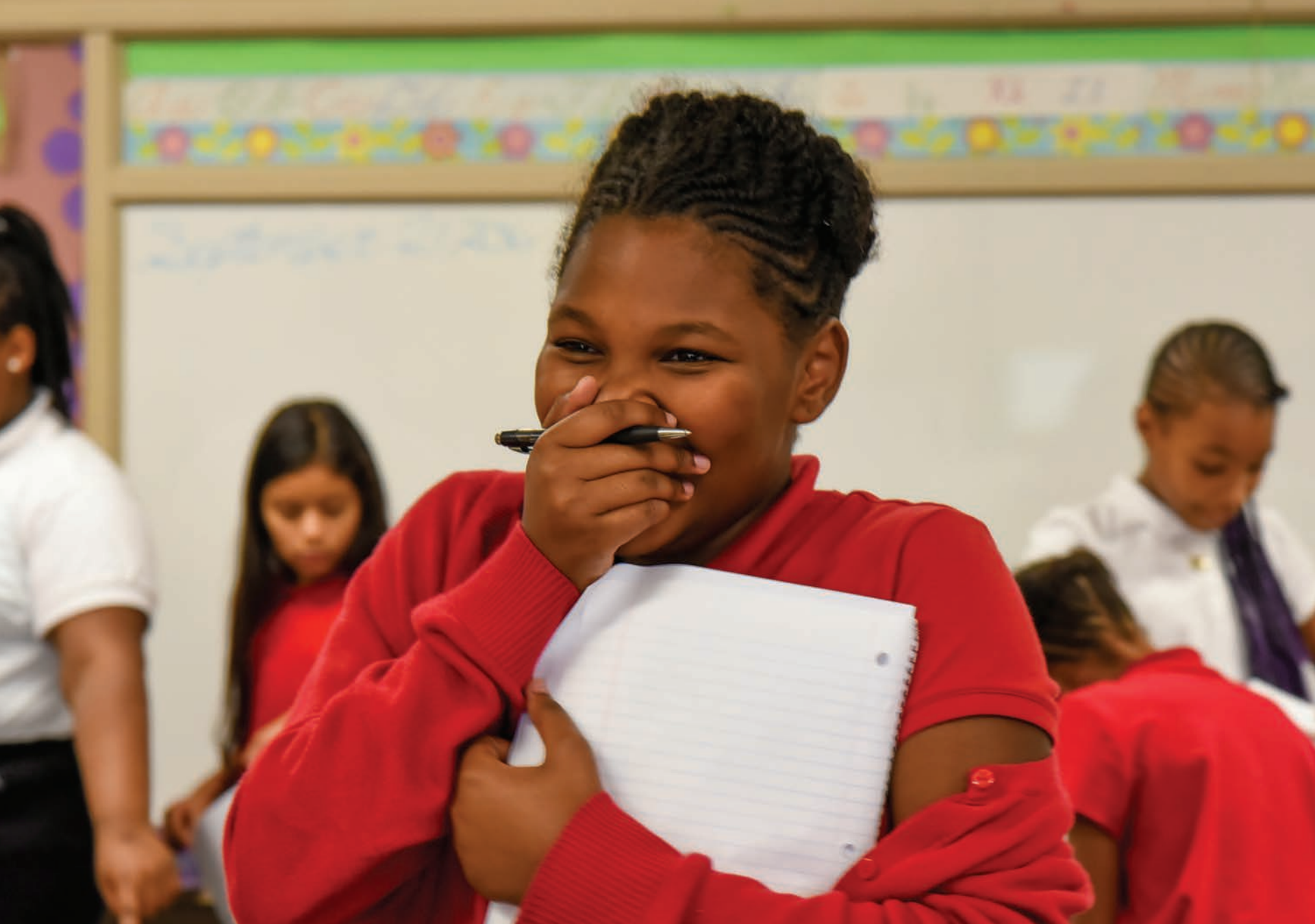
Instructional	\$774,983	(68%)
Development	\$185,427	(17%)
Facilities & Maintenance	\$93,153	(8%)
Administration	\$81,362	(7%)

Total Expenses

\$1,134,925



These figures do not include capital income/expenses, donated goods/services, depreciation, or endowment revenue, 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.



“To be a Sisters Academy girl means to be open, intelligent, and to know that you are a part of a great family.”

— Student, Grade 8

DONORS 2015-2016

Thank you to everyone who has supported Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Your generous gifts to our Annual Appeal, in-kind services, and many volunteer hours benefit our students' education, inspiring our vision for success.

Circle of Excellence (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

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The Sheridan Foundation
Kathy & Jerry Wood Foundation

Circle of Leadership (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

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"WE ARE SISTERS ACADEMY!"



BLOCK PARTY

@ THE PARK

EVENT COMMITTEE

The festive "Block Party" theme was directed by a generous, talented, outstanding volunteer committee that truly inspired partygoers to enjoy a fun evening with old and new friends alike, and all to benefit our students.

- Delia Dowling, SSND
- Kate C. M. Edwards
- Martha Kendall
- Julie McQuilkin
- Moira Monk
- Peggy Moseley
- Sallie Mullen
- Augusta Reilly, RSM
- Angela Rodriguez
- Susan Solberg
- Maris St. Cyr
- Barbara Tipton

Hula hooping, dancing, spinning the money wheel, and bidding on auction prizes, were just a few of the many amusing and entertaining things to experience while attending the "Block Party At The Park" on Thursday April 14, 2016. The Committee's creative talents with the partygoers' genuine exuberance once again lit up the night at Montgomery Park to benefit the students of Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

The best moment of the evening was when the "street" lights dimmed and all eyes focused on the big screen for the premier of "A Journey to Success," the new Sisters Academy video.

Thanks to all the "Block Party" guests, whose smiles, laughter, applause, and big-hearted contributions made for a successful evening. Our journey to success continues on for the students of Sisters Academy.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Tremendous team work by the Block Party Committee produced generous support from many Sponsors and Supporters who provided contributions and in-kind donations to help "shine a spotlight" on Sisters Academy of Baltimore!

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A MOTHER'S REFLECTIONS

On June 8, 2016 Tamauri Beasley graduated from Sisters Academy of Baltimore. In attendance applauding Tamauri's achievements were the women in the picture: her very proud mother, Tia Beasley, her two grandmothers, great grandmother, and friend, a Sisters Academy graduate of 2014. In a short interview, Tia Beasley reflects on the Sisters Academy experience.

Why did you choose to send Tamauri to Sisters Academy of Baltimore?

We learned about Sisters Academy through another family whose daughter was also attending the school. When I came to the school and learned more about how it was funded through student scholarships, and I witnessed the positive, friendly, clean environment, I could see why it would be a great place for Tamauri to get a better education.

By the time Tamauri was in fourth grade, I knew she was advanced for her age. She became a target of the bullying among both the boys and the girls. Our low point came when she began to withdraw, telling me that she didn't want to go to school anymore.

What was your vision for your daughter before she attended Sisters Academy?

When Tamauri came to Sisters Academy, she wanted to go to school again. She flourished with smaller classes, personal attention, and the all-girl environment. She grew academically, but also in self-esteem, leadership, and service. I wanted her to be able to graduate from high school without any burdens of life, and go on to college.

What is your vision for her now?

My vision now is easy. Tamauri will graduate from college. She may even go on to graduate school one day. When she was younger, she wanted to be a veterinarian, but through her Sisters Academy education, I think she now sees herself in a career helping others.

How has Sisters Academy made an impact on your life, your daughter, and your family?

Sisters Academy was a big part of our family support system. I was a single mother, going to nursing school, and battling breast cancer over the four years. The school was like a vacation from home for my daughter. It offered her so many positive experiences, such as field trips, clubs, and cheerleading. The dance program became her "safe space" and made her a strong, positive young woman.

How would you describe Sisters Academy to a new parent coming into the school?

Sisters Academy is like a close knit family. Everyone pays attention to your daughter, and they are there for you as a parent. It is a good opportunity that really makes the dreams you have for your daughter come true.

Tamauri Beasley received a Samuel Ready Scholarship upon graduating from Sisters Academy and is in her first year at Institute of Notre Dame. In addition to her academics, she is playing volleyball and couldn't be happier about going to school every day!



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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.



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