



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,

Each day at Sisters Academy of Baltimore, we rejoice in our blessings and draw strength through grace. Together, we empower our students to become agents of transformation. In the past year we were blessed and graced through the kindness of so many. As scholarship sponsors, class sponsors, monthly donors, annual donors, sisters of the sponsoring congregations, businesses, event sponsors, event participants, volunteers, and friends, you are our blessing personified and grace embodied. You are the face of blessing and grace.

Completing our thirteenth year, we clearly moved into our "teenage years," a time of growth and change. We were blessed to enroll our highest number of students and celebrated our tenth graduation in June. We were delighted as our alumnae, the Class of 2013, graduated from high school last spring. Over six years of high school graduations, our completion rate is 100%. In addition, several members of our second class graduated from college and have returned to Baltimore.

With more students came the need for more scholarship sponsors. Your generosity as sponsors met our budgeted objectives, resulting in a 9% increase in student scholarships. We are grateful to all scholarship sponsors for being a blessing to our students, day after day.

We were graced by strong support of foundations that enabled Sisters Academy to initiate new projects and strengthen particular programs. The Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation funded a study of our readiness to increase the endowment to sustain the school into the future. The Charles Crane Family Foundation funded our life skills and school counseling programs. The Eddie and Sylvia Brown Foundation funded our partnership with Baltimore Dance Crews Project to provide weekly classes in hip hop dance. We named just a few; additional foundations and corporations granted us support. All blessed Sisters Academy by their generous belief in our mission.

Through the commitment of our faculty and staff, both seasoned and new, we embraced with deepened vigor the mission and traditions of Sisters Academy. We are particularly grateful to Eileen Copple who graced us with her "yes" to serve as principal during the year.

May you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our students and graduates. We send this report as a reflection of our gratitude for the blessing and grace you are to the community of Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sixton Delie Dowling, SSND

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND President Mayout O. hosely

Margaret O. Moseley Chair, Board of Directors















YEAR IN REVIEW 2016-2017

Sisters Academy of Baltimore began its thirteenth year with the school's largest enrollment of 71 students in grades 5-8. New students entered from 15 elementary schools and the total enrollment represented students from 16 zip codes. Students and their families learned about Sisters Academy through parents of current and past students, their fourth grade teachers, churches, and other child-centered programs.

Along with the rise in current enrollment, Sisters Academy graduates also grew in numbers. Alumnae from nine classes continued their education as high school and college students. Some made progress in earning a certificate, while others served in the military. No matter their age, Sisters Academy graduates are now young women prepared to realize their dreams and live a life of purpose.

Sisters Academy moved ahead in implementing our school improvement plan, "Moving the Mission Forward." Under the leadership of Sister Virginia Brune, SSND, we completed the second year of our five-year plan, focusing on cross-curricular initiatives, instructional technology, student services, partnerships, and sustainability. The Oversight Committee engaged parents, graduates, board members, faculty, staff, and community partners in moving the mission forward.

The faculty attended the Conference of the National Association of Independent Schools which was held in Baltimore in March. Breakout sessions with professional speakers and education experts focused on a variety of topics that included teaching through the discipline of mindfulness, new uses of technology in the classroom, and integrating literature across academic disciplines.

Students enhanced their academic classes through field trips, guest speakers, and community service. Faithful friends from St. Louis Parish in Clarksville presented the tenth annual Field Day at Centennial Park. Women volunteers shared their career choices and paths with the students during the revival of Career Day. Students provided service at Beans & Bread in Fells Point, Paul's Place in Pigtown, and Coursey Station in Lansdowne.

Planned in coordination with our major fundraising event, "Jazzin' It Up at The Park," the Baltimore Jazz Alliance gave the students their own celebration and a brief history lesson on Baltimore's musical jazz era. On April 22, with many sponsors, donors, and friends coming together to benefit Sisters Academy, we celebrated Baltimore's First Lady of Song, Ethel Ennis, during the event's festive evening.

The 2016-2017 year created and celebrated another set of accomplishments with accolades for all who teach, administer, volunteer, support, and learn at Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Our tenth class, the Class of 2017, graduated on June 7 with plans to enroll in following high schools: Archbishop Spalding High School, Baltimore City College, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Institute of Notre Dame, The Catholic High School of Baltimore, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, and Mount de Sales Academy.
- Six members of the Class of 2017 received significant scholarship awards for high school. Daphnie Hain received the full-tuition Saint Faustina Divine Mercy Scholarship to attend Mount de Sales Academy; Jaleah Jupiter received a Samuel Ready Scholarship that provides full tuition for the Institute of Notre Dame; Germayony Alcaraz received a full scholarship to attend Archbishop Spalding High School.
- The Flaherty Family Foundation, a new partner, awarded high school scholarships to three of our eighth grade graduates: Blanca Medina, Christina Joyner, and Taylor Wright. The foundation provides partial scholarships to designated high schools for students with high potential and high economic need.
- In May, professional actors from Center Stage came to Sisters Academy to perform a reading of a one- act play, "Back To Reality" written by seventh grade student Gabriela Rivera. The play was awarded an honorable mention among 300 entries from across the State of Maryland.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Through the generosity of a group of donors, all students and teachers enjoyed a special field trip to view *Hidden Figures*. The film provided a powerful opportunity to learn about the true story of three African American women mathematicians who became agents of transformation at NASA in the 1960's. The trip was not only fun, but also stimulated thoughtful discussion.
- Career Day in March offered students the opportunity to learn about a variety of professions while being inspired by women pursuing their career and life goals. Volunteers generously provided "role model" presentations for the students to learn about careers as a doctor in emergency medicine, an environmental engineer, a financial analyst, an investment manager, a paramedic, and a digital transformation specialist. They also learned about becoming a teacher of teachers and what it takes to join the United States Air Force.
- Through a partnership with Baltimore Outward Bound, members of the eighth grade class took part in a week-long leadership and wilderness camping experience. The five-day overnight excursion took place in early August as part of their summer program. Working together, they mastered new leadership skills and developed a deeper level of friendship while canoeing the Potomac River, hiking paths in West Virginia, and confronting fears about sleeping in tents. It was the ultimate exercise in team-building, solidifying their class sisterhood.







SAB GRADUATES IN HIGH SCHOOL



Graduating from Sisters Academy in 2013, Daria Paschall attended City College High School, a competitive and selective International Baccalaureate World School. "It was a big adjustment. I was coming from 65 girls in middle school to 1,300 students in high school, and there were boys!"

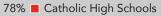
Daria knew that the best way to succeed was to rely on skills she learned in middle school, "Adapt, get involved and find my own way." She joined the cheerleading team, played softball, and served as sophomore class president. In her senior year, she was elected President of the Student Government Association.

"My Sisters Academy teachers prepared me academically and socially." Daria recalls that learning time management skills at Sisters Academy was important in her high school success. "I learned that if you're involved in a lot of extracurricular activities, you still have to make time for homework and time to relax and recuperate."

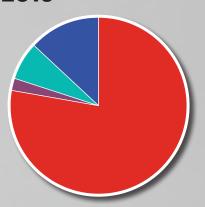
Daria credits Sisters Academy for her academic success and preparation for high school. She found her first year "a breeze" because of her strong foundation. In her sophomore year, classes became more challenging as she began taking advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and accelerated courses.

In May 2017 Daria graduated from City College. She is now attending Howard University in Washington, DC and is pursuing a major in broadcast communications. Her goal is to become an entertainment news reporter. And, she is not shy about her ambitious plan. "I am confident that I will fulfill my dream because Sisters Academy taught me to work hard and dream big."

SISTERS ACADEMY CLASSES 2013-2016



- 2% Private High Schools
- 7% Public Selective Enrollment High Schools
- 13% Public Neighborhood High Schools



100%

100% of all Sisters Academy graduates in the Classes of 2008 to 2013 have obtained a high school diploma.

Sisters Academy graduates were attending the following high schools in 2016-2017:

Archbishop Spalding High School
Baltimore City College High School
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Digital Harbor High School
Frederick Douglass High School
Friends School of Baltimore
Institute of Notre Dame
Marriott Ridge High School
Maryvale Preparatory School
Mercy High School
Notre Dame Preparatory School
Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts
Sharon High School (PA)

The Seton Keough High School Western High School

SAB GRADUATES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

SISTERS ACADEMY CLASSES 2008–2012

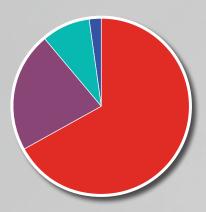
Education and Military Services Profile

67% ■ College or University

22% ■ Community College

9% Military Services

2% ■ Post-Secondary Certificate Program



Alumnae were attending the following colleges and universities during 2016-2017:

Anne Arundel Community College (MD)

Bowie State University (MD)

Community College of Baltimore County (MD)

Coppin State University (MD)

Frostburg State University (MD)

Hood College (MD)

Loyola University Maryland (MD)

Marymount University (VA)

Mount Saint Mary University (MD)

Rider University (NJ)

Salem College (NC)

St. John's University (NY)

St. Lawrence University (NY)

Stevenson University (MD)

University of Baltimore (MD)

University of Maryland College Park (MD)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (MD)

University of New Haven (CT)

Wheeling Jesuit University (WV)





Uneeke Ferguson graduated from Sisters Academy in 2009 and attended Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, graduating in the Class of 2013. After a visit during her junior year, Uneeke set her sights on Wheeling Jesuit University, and in May 2017, earned her BA in Communications.

In college, Uneeke was a member of the Pedro Arrupe Service Scholarship Program. Students selected for this program develop leadership and provide service while maintaining academic excellence.

Uneeke attributes much of her success to the educational foundation she received at Sisters Academy. "The long school day taught me to be focused in academics, in service, and even when doing daily chores. The planner that every Sisters Academy girl is required to use taught me self-organization and how to juggle multiple things."

She also expresses appreciation for how each school gave her a deeper understanding of religion and personal faith. "At Sisters Academy, my teachers taught me about world religions. I began to learn about the culture of religions, and from there, I developed my faith."

Now back home, Uneeke has plans to further her life of service and leadership. She is working as a teaching assistant in a city elementary school. She sees this as a stepping stone toward her goal to work for a non-profit that serves the city's disadvantaged communities. Being back in Baltimore is a priority for Uneeke. "Our city's problems will never change if every one of us, who goes away to college, does not return to live here. My education is not only for me; it allows me to give back in helping to change the city of Baltimore."

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS 2016-2017

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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FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2016-2017

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2016-2017, 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 "Jazzin' It Up at The Park" fundraiser.

Operating Income 2016-2017 Students & Class Sponsors \$527,380 (42.9%) Annual Giving \$273,298 (22.2%) \$188,331 (15.31%) Grants **Fundraiser** \$105,004 (8.54%) Sponsoring Congregations \$104,764 (8.52%) Family Fees \$24,095 (1.96%) Rentals & Investments \$7,334 (0.60%) **Total Income** \$1,230,206 **Operating Expenses 2016-2017** \$793,636 (65.37%) Instructional

\$235,253 (19.38%)

\$95,993 (7.91%)

\$89,159 (7.34%)

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.

\$1,214,041

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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.

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Event Committee

Although the jazz age may have written musical history helping to put Baltimore on the map, on Saturday April 22 it was the Jazzin' It Up volunteer committee that once again broadened awareness for the benefit of Sisters Academy. A pos-i-lutely, supermurgotoid group of volunteers worked tirelessly in pulling out all the stops to produce a smoking, jammin' party for all who attended. Many, many thanks to all who created the "paint the town red" night benefitting Sisters Academy. It was the bee's knees!

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On Saturday April 22 the joint was jumpin' at Montgomery Park as more than 300 guests were "Jazzin' It Up" in celebration to support Sisters Academy!

The evening welcomed guests, many dressed in costume, to step back into the "jazz age" while donning their pearls, feathers, and fedoras! The Jazzin' It Up committee outdid themselves in transforming every inch of space into a glittering Jazz Club. Guests enjoyed moving throughout the room while listening to the live syncopated, smooth sounds of the Craig Alston ensemble. And beyond the Jazz Club scene, partygoers gladly whispered their "secret password" in hopes of gaining entry into the "Back Room." There, they reveled in winning at games of chance and strolling along "Whiskey Row!"

The evening's highlight was welcoming and honoring Baltimore's First Lady of song, Ms. Ethel Ennis. Upon being presented the Sisters Academy 2017 Shining Star Award, Ethel Ennis expressed extreme gratitude for the education Sisters Academy gives to young girls from Baltimore City. With their rousing applause for her remarks, the guests confirmed that Sisters Academy is transforming the lives of students through the power of education. Of course following the accolades, Ethel Ennis took another moment on stage, charming the audience with her very own spirited song – a hi-di, hi-do, sing-a-long!

Honoring Ms. Ethel Ennis for her international contributions to jazz, and her community roles as a minority entrepreneur and cultural ambassador for our city, was a very special moment for Sisters Academy.













Photos by Rich Riggins

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Jazzin' It Up at The Park was generously supported by many corporate and business sponsors, as well as through in-kind services and products, such as Baltimore's own Sagamore Rye Whiskey! "Sisters Academy is a school with a meaningful purpose," commented Kate Edwards, Sisters Academy Board member, representing Whiting-Turner as the "Ragtime Band" lead sponsor. "All of these contributions are endorsements that recognize the successful achievements of Sisters Academy students and graduates."

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Joseph Hickey & Rita Costello Montgomery Park Old Line Spirits PCA Sagamore Spirit

Jocelyn Anderson Soly



INTERVIEW WITH MICKEY FENZEL

Leo "Mickey" Fenzel, Professor and Chair of Pastoral Counseling at Loyola University Maryland, is the author of "Improving Urban Middle Schools: Lessons from the Nativity Schools" published in 2009. Dr. Fenzel is a Baltimore native and attended Catholic elementary and high school. He has served as a member of the Sisters Academy Board of Directors, and along with his wife, Janet, has contributed as a student scholarship sponsor in honor of their parents who were strong supporters of Catholic education.

What attracted you to focus your research on the NativityMiguel school model?

Being a former middle school teacher, I have long had an interest in children's social and emotional development, especially at the middle school level. At Loyola, I was given the opportunity to conduct local and national studies on the effectiveness of the NativityMiguel model.

What did you find to be the most significant factors in the successful urban faith-based middle schools designed to educate students from low income families?

The critical factors in each school's success were based on a similar set of principles: small classes, an extended school day and year, engaged learning that students need to accelerate academic skill development, an environment of care and concern for each individual student's learning and success.

What sets this model apart from other urban independent middle schools?

The Graduate Support programs in NativityMiguel schools are distinctive parts of the model. Graduate support provides guidance and support during the students' high school years and beyond. This specific practice can also make a difference in whether the middle school graduate succeeds in remaining on a beneficial life path.



Since 2004, you have supported Sisters Academy by serving as a resource for faculty professional development. What is your view on how SAB fulfills its mission of transformation through education?

The holistic program helps girls to become more spiritually grounded, internalize a strong moral code, develop strong and supportive friendships, and become a part of something bigger than they could have imagined. The testimonies of graduates demonstrate just how transformative their SAB education was for them.

You and your wife, Janet, have generously supported a student as scholarship sponsors. Would you like to offer any personal reflections on this experience?

Sponsoring Kayla was something that we wanted and were able to do to honor our parents. It was wonderful to have a chance to get to know Kayla, meet her family members, and to see her mature during her years at SAB and earn a scholarship to Friends School. Janet and I would love to see more promising young people like Kayla have the benefit of a SAB education.

Have you also looked at the best practices for financial sustainability of the NativityMiguel schools?

Administering a tuition-free school requires a high-level development program that concentrates on attracting support from corporations and foundations, while at the same time asking many individuals to give at all levels. If you are realistic about producing quality education to benefit students who cannot afford to pay tuition, financial sustainability must be the highest priority. Schools that have focused efforts to create an endowment will likely have the greatest longevity.

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

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