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## OUR MISSION

**S**isters 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.

## We Are All "The Village of Sisters Academy"



With boundless enthusiasm and a heart full of hope, I extend greetings to each and every member of our beloved school community! As we embark on this exciting new chapter together, I am deeply honored to assume the role of President of Sisters Academy of Baltimore beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

As we embrace the familiar proverb rooted in African wisdom, **"It takes a village to raise a child,"** we recognize the profound impact that every individual in our community has on shaping the lives of our students. Our school is not just a place of education; it is a nurturing sanctuary where knowledge, compassion, and character intertwine to empower our students to become fearless, compassionate leaders of tomorrow.

Together, we form an unbreakable alliance dedicated to cultivating an environment where our students can dream big, explore their potential, and develop into strong, confident young women who will make a positive difference in the world. It is this collaborative spirit, this village approach, which will drive our success and create an unwavering support system for our students.

Throughout my twenty-year career as an educator, I have witnessed the extraordinary power of a united community working towards a common purpose. I firmly believe that with your support, we will propel our school to new heights of excellence and distinction. I am eager to work hand in hand with each one of you, as we foster an inclusive and dynamic environment where every girl's unique talents and aspirations are celebrated and nurtured. Together, we will embrace innovation and uphold tradition, foster creativity and promote critical thinking, and above all, instill a deep sense of self-worth and resilience in our students.

Thank you for entrusting me along with our dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators with the privilege of guiding the bright minds and faith-filled hearts of our students. I am honored to be a part of this exceptional village, and I cannot wait to see what incredible journeys lie ahead for our students.

Sincerely,

— Kaliq H. Simms, President

## Sisters Academy Recognized by Loyola University Maryland



*Terrence Sawyer, President of Loyola University Maryland, presents the Milch Award to Sr. Delia Dowling, at the Loyola graduation in May.*

Sisters Academy of Baltimore received the prestigious Milch Award from Loyola University Maryland during their Commencement Exercises on May 20. The Milch Award recognizes one community group, organization, or agency annually that has contributed significantly to the betterment of the intellectual, cultural, social, or commercial life of greater Baltimore during the past year. We are pleased to share excerpts from the citation:

*"The success of Sisters Academy is evident in the transformational stories and exemplary outcomes of the graduates and their families. With strong continued support from the four congregations, area funders, and community members who sponsor student scholarships, Sisters Academy is committed to ensuring its students thrive beyond middle school. Each student receives support services and guidance as they move through high school and college—and the outcome is nothing short of outstanding."*

*"From the school's earliest years, members of the Loyola community have collaborated with Sisters Academy, sharing their expertise and supporting efforts to create change and combat structural inequality in Baltimore City...The future is bright for Sisters Academy—and for the exceptional young women who have benefitted from its transformational education."*

*"For its work and vision, which aligns with Loyola University's mission and values; 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."*

### Spring Showcase: Curtain Call

In May, Sisters Academy students celebrated the arts with the second



*Jae'Lynn and Morgan are two trumpet members of the band ensemble.*

annual "Curtain Call." The event included student performances in the advanced bell choir, the "Pizzicatos", singing strings, beginning and advanced band, fashion design, choir, and dance. In addition, students read their own written works that spoke on the bonds of sisterhood that they experienced during the past year at Sisters Academy. Many families attended and showed their appreciation and support with enthusiastic applause and congratulations. The attendees also viewed Art and STEM projects located in a gallery walk inside the school.

### "I Was Raised by Belts and Beans"

Sisters Academy students are always encouraged to say "yes" to new opportunities. In Language Arts, several students submitted written works for the 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards which is operated by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Out of



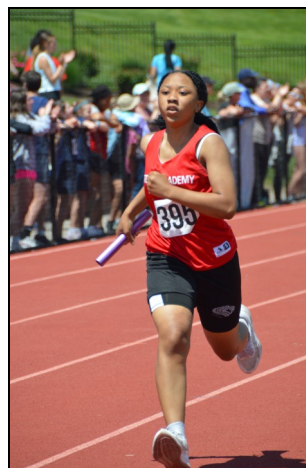
*Kimberly with her Gold Key Award*

thousands of entries, the Alliance presented one of our 7th-grade students, Kimberly, with the Gold Key in Maryland for her poem "I Was Raised by Belts and Beans."\* After receiving state-wide

recognition, Kimberly's poem was then submitted for the national competition and earned a National Medal for excellence in originality, technical skill, and the emergence of her personal voice. Kimberly, with her family, was recognized at the trimester awards breakfast.

### Athletics: Youth Bowl

Sisters Academy students left it all on the track during Archbishop Curley's Youth Bowl. Going against local Catholic and



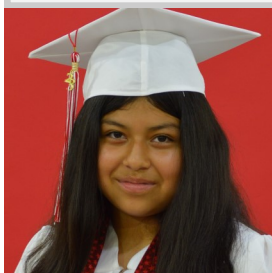
*Daniya runs her relay lap.*

never gave up and walked away with several gold medals.

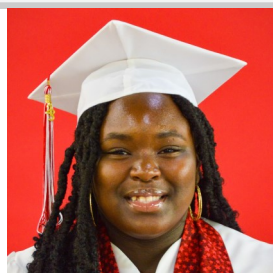
private schools, our student-athletes competed in events such as the high jump, long jump, softball throw, relays, and metered races. Despite being against over 100 student-athletes, our students

\*A copy of Kimberly's poem, "I Was Raised by Belts and Beans." can be found at <https://sistersofmercy.org/award-winning-student-poets-seek-mercy-and-justice/>.

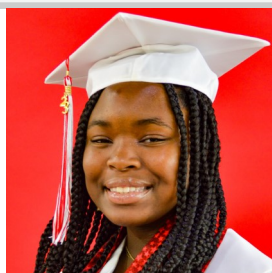
## Newest Graduates: Class of 2023



**Genesis Chicas-Rivas**  
Cristo Rey Jesuit



**Madison Diggs**  
Cristo Rey Jesuit



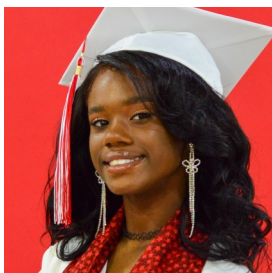
**Morgan Diggs**  
Cristo Rey Jesuit



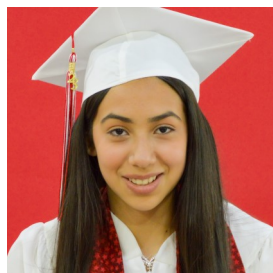
**Dezure Edwards**  
Cristo Rey Jesuit



**Dalon Hanks**  
Cristo Rey Jesuit



**Amira-Jaden Harris**  
The SEED School of Maryland



**Candy Henriquez**  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



**Imani Lee**  
Western High School



**Noelia Leiva**  
Western School of Technology



**Aaliyah Matthews**  
Friends School of Baltimore



**Michelle Melgar Hoyes**  
Cristo Rey Jesuit



**Jae'Lynn Newby-Goode**  
Mercy High School



**Olivia Rowley**  
Archbishop Spalding



**Daniya Singletary**  
City College



**Sémon Williams**  
St. Paul's School for Girls

## Summer at Sisters Academy


For the first time, students, families, teachers, and staff adjusted to the new summer schedule. The extended school year ended on June 23 and the four-week summer session began on June 26. Students engaged in project-based learning, including language arts, science, and mathematics with a team of two teachers. In the course of the program, each class visited the local Lansdowne Library where they received a tour and registered for a library card. During the last week of the summer session, all of the returning students enjoyed the five-day Sports and Arts Camp at Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP) in Towson. Students are pictured with their Notre Dame counselors below. We are grateful for our partners at NDP.



## SISTERS ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE

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 SistersAcademyofBaltimore

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### Transitions

Since beginning as President on July 1, Mrs. Kaliq Simms has had a full schedule. She has met with teachers and staff, introduced friends to the school, met with Board members, attended an



Institute for New Heads of Schools by the National Association of Independent Schools, engaged in planning for the year, and hired teachers and staff. Among all of her activities, she treasured registration meetings with each new student and her family after they had been accepted to be a member of the Class of 2027.

As a symbol of her entrance into community of Sisters Academy of Baltimore, each student concluded her visit by sitting in "The Sisters' Chair." The large curves of the chair represent the love and care of the student's family, the teachers and staff who will be with her, and the scholarship sponsors and donors who support her. In the picture above, Mrs. Simms pauses during registration to rest in the "Sisters' Chair" herself and remembers the love and care of her family, friends, teachers, and donors who have made her first days as President possible.

 Sisters Academy  
of Baltimore

*Blessed is She*

Please join us for our back-to-school mass as we pray for our students, honor Mary on her birthday, and install our new president of Sisters Academy of Baltimore,

*Kaliq Hunter Simms*

FRIDAY

9 • 8 • 23

At 10:00 AM

St. Clement Catholic Church  
144 Second Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21227  
RSVP: Anita Hampson  
(410)242-1212 or Tori Murrill  
[TMurrill@sistersacademy.org](mailto:TMurrill@sistersacademy.org)

\*Meet and Greet Reception and School Tours Immediately  
Following Mass