



Our Only
Prayer Is
Thank You

Letter from the President & Board Chair

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, that will be enough." — Meister Eckhart

Dear Friends,

Day after day for the past ten years, our prayer for you has been *Thank You*. Thank you for your gifts as scholarship sponsors, monthly donors, and annual donors. Thank you for corporate gifts and foundation grants. Thank you for the support of the sponsoring religious congregations of women: Sisters of Bon Secours, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sisters of Mercy, and School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Throughout the year, your generous gifts enabled our students to make steady academic progress, explore opportunities for leadership, and learn about the needs of others through service. Partnerships enriched their learning, and experiences with other schools broadened their horizons.

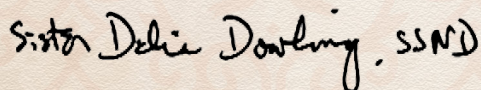
Our graduates continue to give thanks for their strong education at Sisters Academy and the continued encouragement, support, and problem-solving that they receive throughout high school. All of the members of our third class, the Class of 2010, received their high school diplomas in the spring, and all are continuing their education in colleges, universities, and technical programs.

All of our full-time teachers and most of the part-time teachers returned for the new school year. The faculty, staff, and administrators completed our institutional self-study through the Association of Independent Maryland Schools. Throughout the year, the school community reflected on our mission, vision, and all aspects of our educational program and administration. Throughout the process, we appreciated the many friends who have enriched our lives and our work.

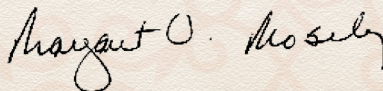
We are grateful to Tom Rice, Chair, and the Board of Directors who completed a five-year strategic plan that provides direction for the future of the Academy. Thank you for the end-of-year challenge gift and for all who contributed toward the challenge and helped us to reach our budgeted income for the year. We are grateful for our enthusiastic tenth anniversary celebration committee who are planning the "Downtown Hoedown" to be held on April 25, 2015.

Thank you for joining us as partners in fulfilling the mission of Sisters Academy to raise up young women who will heal, influence, and transform our world. For ten amazing years of generosity and commitment, we are grateful.

Sincerely,



Sister Delia Dowling, SSND
President



Margaret O. Moseley
Chair, Board of Directors

The Year 2013-2014 in Review

Student Accomplishments

- ✔ Students who graduated in June 2014 are now attending Archbishop Spalding High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Friends School of Baltimore, Institute of Notre Dame, Maryvale Preparatory School, Mount de Sales Academy, and The Seton Keough High School.
- ✔ All of our graduates in high school successfully completed the year and progressed toward graduation. Last year, 86% of these graduates attended a private or selective public high school. Bria Thomas, Class of 2013, was first in her class at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. She participated in a forensics workshop at University of Maryland College Park in the summer. Shaniya Mullin, Class of 2011, completed a college prep program at Franklin & Marshall University in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Shaniya attends Institute of Notre Dame.
- ✔ By June 2014, 100% of the students in our first three graduating classes (2008, 2009, and 2010) had received their high school diplomas. This fall, 88% of these graduates were in a two or four-year college or university.
- ✔ Students in all grades expanded their horizons through service. During Lent, the students learned about the Clean Water Project in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a world-wide initiative of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. On the local level, the students participated in Maryland's "Day to Serve" at The Samaritan Women whose mission is care of survivors and ending domestic trafficking.

Program Highlights

- ✔ Under the leadership of Sister Virginia Brune, SSND, the faculty and staff completed our institutional self-study through the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS). The self-study resulted in a comprehensive written report that assesses the school in relation to its mission and the standards set by AIMS. For the school community, the most important result of the self-study was a renewed commitment to the mission and vision of the school and growth in appreciation of the many people who make the mission come alive each day.
- ✔ Partnerships with the Christ Child Society and the Knott Scholars enhanced our program and resources. The Christ Child Society arranged monthly sessions entitled "Body Flow" with Lynne Brick of Brick Bodies and contributed books, school supplies, scarves, and service. The Knott Scholars provided a crafts activity, baskets for our Spaghetti Dinner, and a springtime day of service that refreshed our grounds and gardens.
- ✔ We partnered with Bryn Mawr Middle School for a dance activity and played our first interscholastic basketball game with their team. Sisters Academy won the exciting game in the last seconds.
- ✔ The seventh and eighth grades visited the Jewish Museum in Baltimore and later in the year hosted a Holocaust survivor at school to speak about her experiences in the context of their study of world religions.



James T. Cavanaugh: Faithful Friend for a Decade

One year before the doors of Sisters Academy opened, Jim Cavanaugh learned about the idea of the new middle school through Sister Mary Ann Hartnett, SSND, who insisted that he meet Sister Delia. Their first meeting was at Sip & Bite in east Baltimore. After that meeting, Jim was energized and eager to help. Jim gave good advice, was a founding member of the Board of Directors, served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, and sponsored scholarships for students. Jim has continued to be a trusted advisor to Sister Delia after he completed his service on the Board.

Recently, Jim reflected on the early decisions that helped Sisters Academy begin well and set a course for a strong future. Among them were the establishment of our financial policies and procedures and the location and financing of our building. As he remembered the challenges of those years, he said, "Sisters Academy was meant to be – a dream not to be denied."

Jim learned the importance of education early in his life. As one of five children and the only boy, Jim admitted that he did not always meet his parents' academic expectations. Jim's father taught his children that "the path to happiness and a good life is through hard work and education." Throughout his own education, his career in finance, and his family life, Jim never forgot his father's words and example.

Over the years, Jim and his wife Gerry have created a legacy of giving. They recalled a vivid memory at a Sisters Academy graduation. The father of one of the graduates whom Jim and Gerry sponsored approached them and said, "I'll never be able to thank you for what you've done for my daughter." Jim reflected, "That moment was beyond any reward or award anyone could have given me."

Jim and Gerry Cavanaugh hope that Sisters Academy continues with our great work into the next decade. "Sisters Academy provides a first-class education and is creating the leaders of tomorrow. The girls are the hope of their communities. They will become the next doctors, lawyers, and teachers. They help to make the community much stronger.

"We need these young women." He also had a special word of advice to the alumnae, "Come back and support the school. The girls need to see you as role models – if you can do it, so can they!"

Looking Back: Reflections from the Principal

How does one possibly put into words a decade of life – of birthing pains, of growth and early development of our beloved Sisters Academy of Baltimore? As I reflected, faces and places, times and events began to appear, and I remembered...

- ✔ The parent who said, after our first month of school, that her daughter didn't know how to act here. At her old school, you were either pushed down the stairs or had to become one of the pushers, and she had to do none of that here.
- ✔ The Board member coming to our meeting, coming by way of one of the 95's to get to school by 5:00 p.m. in the rain, driven with passion and excitement as we started this new place of learning for our girls. Her passion helped reignite my passion during those first few tiring months when it felt like we were going in circles.
- ✔ The staff members who have combined their love for our girls with their love of learning and have made "it" happen every day. They are women of faith, women of commitment, and women with a strong desire to give their all for the benefit of Sisters Academy of Baltimore.
- ✔ The countless number of Sisters reassuring us with their prayers, sending us greetings with words of encouragement and support, coming to our events, and opening their doors with gracious hospitality.
- ✔ Other students in the area who reached out to our girls and donated sports equipment, raised funds for musical instruments, and sent pen-pal letter after pen-pal letter.
- ✔ Donors and sponsors who generously give of their time and financial resources, monthly, quarterly, yearly, to support our school. They believe in the power of education to transform a young girl's world and transform our world too.
- ✔ And our girls, the bold and the beautiful, the bright and the confused, the bemoaning and begrudging, the grateful and the gratifying, and so much more. Each one adds so much to the fabric of our lives, perhaps much more than we could ever give to them.

Each year, I tell our new students, "In the end, it's the beginning that counts." I have been blessed to experience the beginning of Sisters Academy every day during the past decade. For me, it counts more that I could ever verbalize.

– Sr. Debbie Liesen, SSND

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We would like to thank everyone who has shared in the ministry of Sisters Academy of Baltimore by donating generously to the Annual Appeal, in volunteer hours, and with other gifts and services in support of our students' education. Donors who contributed to the Jeanne Bur Fischer Scholarship Fund have been designated by an asterisk (*) after their name. The complete list of donors can be found on our website.

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— Melodie Beattie

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— Catherine McAuley, *foundress of the Religious Sisters of Mercy*

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Sisters Academy

During the past ten years, we've counted our blessings every day.
We've counted joys, smiles, and words of encouragement.



36,846
Lunches Served

Revolution Foods provides nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack every day. 90% of our students receive free and reduced lunch.



16,910 Hours of Learning

Our extended day starts every morning at 7:30am and ends at 5:00pm.

89

GRADUATES

100% of Sisters Academy's first three graduating classes (2008, 2009, and 2010) have received their high school diplomas.



FIVE SISTERS

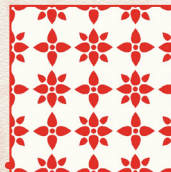
*with 10 years of service
with the school*



20 Quilts

made by Ms. Kathy

Ms. Kathy's quilts represent the spirit of Sisters Academy as each student's story is woven in the tapestry of Sisterhood.



By the Numbers

We've counted on you, our generous donors.
Enjoy a few other items that we've counted.



207 STOLES

Given to 5th graders at Investiture

As a symbol of empowerment, each new student receives a stole unique to her class to wear for special occasions and graduation.

25,552



BOOKS

checked out from our library
From day one, our librarian, Sr. Dorothy, has helped to build an extensive school library.



2,838 Unique Donors

Our faithful supporters have consistently made gifts of their time, talent, and treasures for the last decade.

26,400

Pieces of Chalk
Used

13 Siblings



Spaghetti Dinners

1,526

 served at Taste & See

Prepared by one dedicated parent, Latrice Mason, and served with love by our students.

(1 Set of Twins)

4,968

Class Composition
Books



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— Catherine McAuley, *foundress of the Religious Sisters of Mercy*

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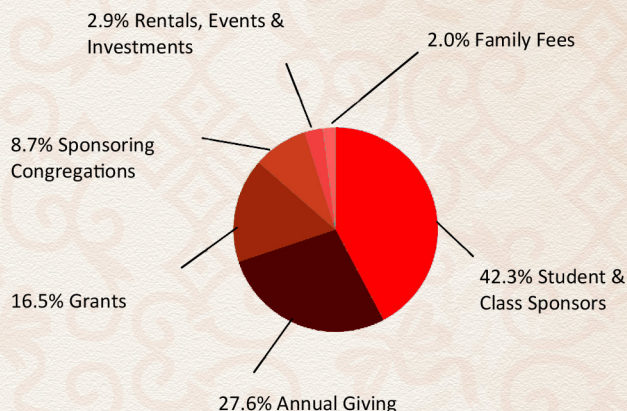


Financial Summary 2013-2014

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2013-2014, 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 "Taste & See" dinner.

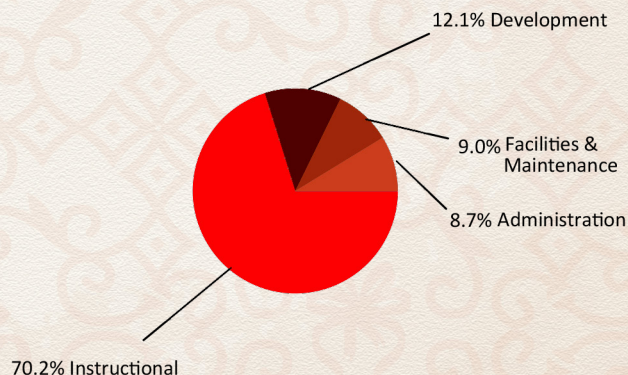
Operating Income 2013-2014

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Students & Class Sponsors | \$437,628 |
| Annual Giving | \$286,084 |
| Grants | \$171,266 |
| Sponsoring Congregations | \$90,000 |
| Rentals, Events & Investments | \$29,792 |
| Family Fees | \$20,839 |
| Total Income | \$1,035,609 |



Operating Expenses 2013-2014

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Instructional | \$714,636 |
| Development | \$122,748 |
| Facilities & Maintenance | \$91,913 |
| Administration | \$88,822 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,018,119 |



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 Publications.

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SISTERS ACADEMY
2014

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.

“We thank you, not only for your support of the young women entrusted to our care. We thank you especially because you enable us, the sponsors of Sisters Academy, to fulfill our respective missions to raise up women who will heal, transform and influence our world to make it a better place – women whose lives will truly reflect the goodness of God. And for this gift, we are very grateful.”

—Patricia Smith, RSM
Chair, Board of Members of Sisters Academy
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