SISTERS ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE





New Year - New Sisterhood

The 2019–2020 student body gathers in the gymnasium.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

DEAR FRIENDS OF SISTERS ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE,

With gratitude and joy, we are pleased to present you with our annual report on a year characterized by **Resilience.**

In fall 2019, 14 eighth grade students and two teachers at Sisters Academy of Baltimore completed a Leadership Expedition on the Potomac River with Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound. Students navigated the river in canoes, prepared meals over campfires, and set up the campsite each night. They maintained their motivation despite fatigue, primitive conditions, unfamiliar circumstances, and no cell phones. Over five days, they persevered and grew in resilience.

At the end of the week, one student reflected on the meaning of her experience, "My belief in myself and those around me gets me through hard times." In October, none of us could have predicted the hard times that were coming in 2020. In March, without warning, our students and teachers left the school for the remainder of the year. The coronavirus affected all of us: students, teachers, staff, families, volunteers, donors, sponsors, foundations, businesses, board members, and our sponsoring religious congregations.

Our commitment to transformation through education and your strength as members of our extended community helped Sisters Academy grow in resilience throughout the year.

Through your generosity, we exceeded our annual financial goals during hard times. Even with the limitations caused by the coronavirus, our school community grew through faith, perseverance, and resilience.

- Motivated students completed the school year remotely.
- Creative teachers stretched themselves to ensure continuity of learning.
- Patient administrators and staff kept the practical affairs of the school in order.
- Enthusiastic new students applied for and participated in New Frontiers.
- · Committed Board members met virtually, advising and planning for the future.
- · Generous donors responded to our appeals and endowment campaign.
- · Our founding religious congregations offered financial, spiritual, and emotional support.

With deep gratitude for your generous gifts throughout the year, the community of Sisters Academy of Baltimore moved ahead together with renewed strength and resilience.

With gratitude,

Sixter Delia Dowling, SSND Sister Delia Dowling, SSND

President

andrea Stampetro Meyer

Chair, Board of Directors











YEAR IN REVIEW

A NEW TYPE OF LEARNING

Sisters Academy of Baltimore welcomed 17 new students into the fifth grade in September 2019. Whether in class, meeting with our donors, or adjusting to life in a pandemic, each and every one of them embraced the values of the school and became a part of our community.

Students began the year full of promise and excitement. However, everything changed on March 13. Due to the coronavirus, students transitioned to at-home learning. It was an adjustment for all, but students rose to the challenge. With the help of faculty and staff, the work continued, and the girls finished the school year on a strong note!

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Students had many opportunities this year for creative, hands-on learning.

In the Science Lab, eighth graders studied colloids, kinetic and potential energy, and properties of matter through experiments. They also learned about elements, compounds, and mixtures, and used LEGO® bricks to build models of each.

Our seventh graders used clay, craft sticks, and wax paper to create models and learn about joints in the human body, while students in sixth grade science made replicas of crystals using paper.

AIMING HIGH – COURT IS IN SESSION

Sisters Academy is now competing in the CYO Basketball League! The inaugural season was all about resilience and determination. Girls learned to build both skills and knowledge of the game as well as confidence and competitiveness.

"During our first game, we felt defeated and ready to quit after the third quarter. It truly felt like an impossible task," says Coach Angela Healy. "During our last game of the season, we had the lead at the end of the first quarter against the best team in the league. Although we ended up losing, we were the real winners. The girls came out strong, determined, and worked together. Our girls were elated because they finally felt their success."

"At some point, all the losses didn't matter," said Camryn Harris '20. "In the beginning I would look at it as an embarrassment, but as I kept going, I looked at it as a practice. You win some and you lose some—but you keep pushing yourself forward and don't get discouraged."

AT LAST, THE PARKING LOT

When Sisters Academy acquired the school building and property in 2006, St. Clement Parish retained ownership of a portion of the parking area. In order to make needed improvements, we requested that the parish transfer their portion to the school, and the parish agreed graciously. Since we now own the entire parking lot/play area, we plan to resurface, restripe for play, and improve the landscaping around the perimeter of the lot.

STUDENTS "ON POINTE" WITH THE NUTCRACKER

Through the generosity of the Circle Works Committee of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle, seventh and eighth grade students had the opportunity to attend a holiday performance of the Nutcracker ballet at the Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA). After the show, the students went on a special tour of the BSA.

While the ballet tickets were compliments of the BSA, transportation and lunch were provided by the Circle Works Committee. In addition, Circle members donated supplies for the Sisters Academy Art Department and created nutcracker-themed goodie bags for the entire school.

DONOR VISIT DAY

Last fall, Sisters Academy welcomed donors and friends to campus for the first "Celebration of Shining Stars." Held on a school day, the event was designed to provide an opportunity for donors to visit the school, meet the students and staff, and experience the mission in action. The activities included the creation of a cooperative art project and a science experiment with students and donors as lab partners. The event also featured a panel of three Sisters Academy alumnae who spoke about the impact the school has had on their lives, their education, and their aspirations. Their comments stimulated a lively "Q&A" time with the guests.

RESILIENCE

noun: 1. the ability to return to the original form; 2. recover readily from adversity; 3. the SAB 2019–2020 school year









I learned that things don't always go as planned and we need to adapt and make the best out of what we do have. By having hope that things would eventually get better, it gave me something to look forward to. That is how I overcame the challenges of at-home learning."

Mayah Martinez '20



This pandemic has taught me how to be grateful for what I have. I had a school community that helped me through the process. They stayed in touch and were always available. I overcame the challenges by doing things that give me joy, by having hope. You have to look forward to what's ahead of you instead of focusing on what's wrong. I know that eventually this pandemic will be over and things will (slowly) return to normal."

Brianna Williams '21



At-home learning taught me to be responsible for my actions. Finding, printing, writing, doing my work or typing my work on the computer was all on me. If I had ten assignments due by a certain time, it was my responsibility to wake up in enough time to get them done and still turn in quality work. I learned time management skills, something I am still trying to improve."

Madyson Garrett '22



The pandemic taught me to be grateful that I could still get educated and that I had an opportunity other girls didn't have. I made myself a goal—to study hard, focus, and by the end of June I would be better at my least favorite subject (math), and I reached that goal."

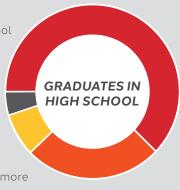
Genesis Chicas-Rivas '23

SISTERS ACADEMY

CLASSES 2016–2019

SISTERS ACADEMY GRADUATES ATTENDED THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOLS IN 2019-2020

Archbishop Spalding High School
Baltimore City College High School
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Episcopal High School (VA)
Institute of Notre Dame
Lansdowne High School
Mercy High School
Mount de Sales Academy
Notre Dame Preparatory School
Roland Park Country School
The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Western High School
Woodlawn High School







Selective Public High Schools



ABRIL MEDINA, CLASS OF 2016

In elementary school, Abril Medina was shy, timid, and nervous. Her main obstacle was language. During her middle school years, she became a better reader, and delighted in reading novels, writing poems, solving math problems, and learning music. With each year, she grew in confidence.

"Being a part of the Sisters Academy community was amazing," says Abril. "It was a great experience to be around people who push you to do your best—and more—every day. The school shaped me to become a young woman who works hard in everything she does."

Working hard, showing up, and persevering through obstacles became more important than ever during her senior year at the Institute of Notre Dame. For Abril and the Class of 2020, the year ended online with no senior rituals. For many, graduation was either virtual or delayed.

"I tried my best to stay positive. I had to remind myself that there is some light in all this darkness." This fall, Abril is a first-year student at McDaniel College in Westminster. As she anticipates the next four years, this persistent, empathetic young woman repeated a lesson she learned at Sisters Academy, "Nothing in life comes easy. If I want something, I need to work with all my effort to succeed."

KOURTNEY TILLMAN, CLASS OF 2016

When asked about the biggest challenge with learning during the pandemic, Kourtney Tillman responded, "It was difficult. I struggled with being motivated and feeling defeated because I wasn't able to experience all the normal senior traditions and stuff. However, through those feelings, I also learned to appreciate my experience. It has helped



shape me into being more patient as I await the new experiences ahead."

Kourtney graduated from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in June 2020 and now attends Morgan State University, studying psychology. While she treasures high school, Kourtney credits Sisters Academy for helping her become focused and motivated.

"Sisters Academy was life-changing. I think about who I was and who I wanted to become. Sisters Academy developed my character and values, and helped me become who I am as a woman."

SISTERS ACADEMY

CLASSES 2008–2015

ALUMNAE ATTENDED THESE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES DURING 2019-2020

Baltimore City Community College (MD)

Bowie State University (MD)

Community College of Baltimore County (MD)

Coppin State University (MD)

Frostburg State University (MD)

Harford Community College (MD)

Harrisburg University (PA)

Howard University (DC)

Liberty University (PA)

Lincoln University (PA)

Loyola University Maryland (MD)

Marymount University (VA)

Morgan State University (MD)

Mount St. Mary's University (MD)

Norfolk State University (VA)

North Carolina A&T State

University (NC)

Pratt Institute (NY)

Rider University (NJ)

Salisbury University (MD)

Stevenson University (MD)

Towson University (MD)

University of Baltimore (MD)

University of Maryland College

Park (MD)

University of Maryland Eastern

Shore (MD)

University of Tampa (FL)

- Baccalaureate
 Degrees
- Master's Degrees
- Completed
 Professional
 Programs
- 3 Active Military
- Alumnae in Graduate School

BRITTANY BIGGERS, CLASS OF 2009

"Growing up in Baltimore is hard and trying to change the cycle of poverty and hardship in my family was one of my biggest goals even as a child." Brittany Biggers remembers.

She achieved that goal because of Sisters Academy. "We started prepping for high school in fifth grade. Teachers were encouraging and let you know that middle school really mattered."

Brittany went on to attend the Institute of Notre Dame on a full scholarship and graduated in 2013. Today, she serves in the United States Navy as an Electronics Technician Second Class. She works in communications, and acts as a mentor to sailors serving under her.

For Brittany, the pandemic has required sacrifice, but she is staying positive. She is stationed in Virginia and is unable to travel to Baltimore to visit her family, including her son. "I know this will end at some point. In the meantime, we must all stick together."

BRIANA KNOX, CLASS OF 2010

In middle school, Briana Knox didn't recognize the importance of life skills, such as chores and recycling. "At the time, I used to wonder, 'Why am I cleaning my own school? Why don't we have janitors?' Now I realize this was teaching all of us responsibility, motor skills, accountability, and so much more."



Quarantine provided Briana with the opportunity to develop life skills on her own. "I have learned to be more patient with myself and with others. I also got my first pet ever, a cat. She is a handful, but I love her."

In May, Briana graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) with a bachelor's degree in Human Ecology and a concentration in Fashion Merchandising. She works for Next One Up, a Baltimore nonprofit, and she is in the process of building her own clothing brand, named Ariane Royale.

STRENGTHENING OUR

ENDOWMENT

NOW MORE THAN EVER

Sisters Academy is now close to raising the school's endowment to \$5 million. After launching our first-ever campaign, **Now More Than Ever**, we anticipate reaching our target goal to raise \$3.5 million for the endowment fund established in 2004.

Our success in raising more than \$3 million to date is due to the generous and thoughtful commitments of many donors. Thank you to all who have contributed and pledged a gift that will fulfill our major objective – to build and strengthen our endowment to reach \$5 million.

Building our endowment will increase the number of students funded through endowed scholarships, support the latest innovative teaching and learning technologies, expand support services for our graduates as they move through high school, and boost the school's visibility as an excellent education option for girls in Baltimore. The support received for our endowment will help foster our mission to provide transformative education for students, both today and for many vears to come.

We offer our sincere gratitude to the individuals, foundations, and organizations who contributed to our endowment fund. Thank you for confirming our belief and supporting this important milestone to sustain the mission of Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

2012 **\$745,408**

2013 \$1,177,936

2014 \$1,382,251

2015 **\$1,470,324**

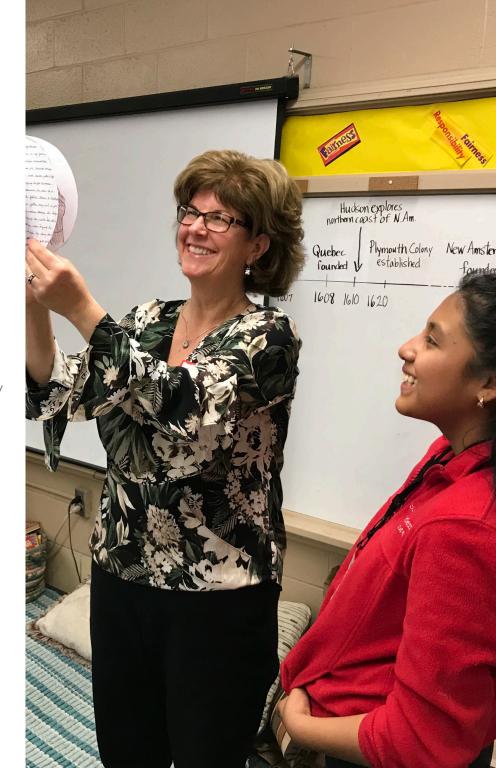
2016 \$1,621,151

2017 **\$1,827,109**

2018 \$2,396,918

2019 **\$3,268,733**

2020 \$3,930,905





ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

The following individuals, foundations, and corporations have pledged or contributed gifts to the **Now More Than Ever** Endowment Campaign since its inception in December 2017.

NAMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Mary Catherine Bunting Endowed Scholarship

Mary Catherine Bunting

Jim & Gerry Cavanaugh Endowed Scholarship

Jim & Gerry Cavanaugh

Dorothy Day Fund

The Thomas More Project

Marilyn Duker & Dale McArdle Endowed Scholarship

Marilyn Duker & Dale McArdle

Pompelia Girardi Esposito Fund

The Thomas More Project

Jeanne Bur Fischer Scholarship Fund

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Estate of Frank Fischer Dorothea Jordan Keith & Kathleen Kasper John & Nancy Klaske Julia K. Maher David & Noreen Manzo Joanne Manzo & Bernard Kenvon Louis J. Manzo Fileen B Martin Catherine M Nolan Martha & Robert Oare Vincent & Patricia Quayle Dana A Reed Joan M. Ryan Mary Sommerfeldt Loretta T. Whalen Harry & Eileen Workman

France-Merrick Endowed Scholarship

France-Merrick Foundation. Inc.

Rose Gordon Memorial Scholarship

Susan Chouinard

Richard & Eibhlin Henggeler Endowed Scholarship

Richard & Eibhlin Henggeler

Jesuit Community of Loyola University Maryland in honor of Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.

Joseph A. Karibo Endowed Scholarship

Estate of Joseph A. Karibo

Middendorf Endowed Scholarship

Middendorf Foundation, Inc.

Joseph & Clare Mosmiller Endowed Scholarship

Joseph Mosmiller†
Sheila & James Vidmar

Joanne & Tim Regan Endowed Scholarship

Joanne & Tim Regan

School Sisters of Notre Dame Endowed Scholarship

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province

Michael & Jean Sullivan Endowed Scholarship

Michael & Jean Sullivan

General Endowment Gifts and Pledges

Anonymous
Peter & Millicent Bain
Larry Beyer & Linda Blackart
Faye Alston Cook
Marcia Cort
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† Deceased

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS 2019-2020

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.

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 Partners

Bon Secours Mercy Health Mission Fund Frank Family Fund for Sisters Academy of the Baltimore Community Foundation The Leroy M. Merritt Charitable

Student Sponsors

Anonymous (Multiple Donors)
Karen & Lee Arnold
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Foundation



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NOTABLE FACTS

Driven by its mission of education for transformation, Sisters Academy of Baltimore is a well-established institution that is both visionary and practical with notable accomplishments.

100%

SISTERS ACADEMY STUDENTS RECEIVE DONOR-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

SISTERS ACADEMY
GRADUATES FROM
2008-2016 HAVE
OBTAINED A HIGH

97% ANNUAL BUDGET FUNDED BY DONORS

SCHOOL DIPLOMA

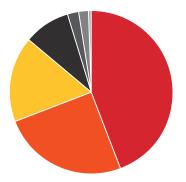
OPERATING DEBT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019–2020

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2019-2020, 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, and annual giving.

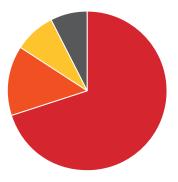
OPERATING INCOME 2019–2020

Student & Class Sponsors	\$534,884 41.5%	
Annual Giving	\$376,872 29.3%	
Grants	\$376,872 29.3% \$376,872 16.4% \$376,872 \$376,8	
Sponsoring Congregations	\$122 700 9 5%	- 1
Investment Income	\$19,845 1.6%	
Family Fees	\$18,032 1.4%	
Rentals & Miscellaneous	\$4,323 0.3%	,



OPERATING EXPENSES 2019–2020

Instructional	\$917,739 72.8%	0,007
Development	\$154,873 12.3%	Expenses \$1,260,007
Administration	\$100,533 8.0%	l Expens
Facilities & Maintenance	\$86,862 6.9%	Total]



These figures do not include capital income/expenses, donated goods/services, or depreciation, which are included in our audited financial report. For a copy of our most recent audit, please refer to our website, sistersacademy.org, under News & Media.

MEMBERS &

DIRECTORS

SPONSORING CONGREGATIONS

School Sisters of Notre Dame Sisters of Bon Secours Sisters of Mercy Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

BOARD OF MEMBERS

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DONORS 2019–2020

We appreciate your generous gifts as scholarship sponsors, donors to our Annual Appeal and Endowment Campaign, contributions of in-kind services, and many volunteer hours to benefit our students' education, inspiring our vision for success. Thank you to all who support Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

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

The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott
Foundation
James & Melanie Milner
Joseph Mosmiller†
MSDE BOOST Scholarship
Program
MSDE School Construction
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South Central Community
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
East-West Province
Sheila & James Vidmar

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Ohio Province
Small Business Administration
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Circle of Stars

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Anonymous Michael & Kim Arnold Peter & Millicent Bain The Benevity Community Impact Fund Robert & Anne Bradshaw David & Susan Brune Franca Capizzi (Judi and Steven B. Fader Family Foundation, Inc. at The Associated: Jewish Community Federation) Catholic Nearo-American Mission Board Jim & Gerry Cavanaugh Deborah Chaney Brenda Sue Chilman Molly Coffay & Jeffrey Reilly Cole Roofina Conveyor Handling Company, Inc. Sharon Dobson (The Dobson Foundation, Inc.) Stephen Fruin & Susan Griisser Golfers' Charitable Association Doualas & Joan Groves

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Roland Harvey (Arbor Dog

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Foundation

Natural Concerns Inc

Paul & Trevina Nesbitt

Christmas Project

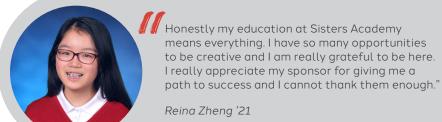
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Our vision is that graduates of Sisters Academy will be well-educated, self-assured, spiritual, and committed young women who are so needed in our community, our nation, and indeed our world. They will be leaders who make a positive difference.

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- NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES
- 10 NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS CHOSEN BY THE CLASS OF 2020
- \$319k \$319,862 SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED

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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.

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

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