

STEPPING Stones

NOVEMBER 2018

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The mission of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities, better known as MANSEF, is to be “the collective voice and essential resource for the nonpublic special education community to champion the continuum of services for students with special needs.” The often misunderstood term in both our organization’s name and mission is “nonpublic special education.” Much of the time and effort of MANSEF’s executive director, board members and school directors are spent educating legislators, families, students, public school representatives, and community members about what it means to be a nonpublic special education school and the value they serve to over 4,000 students in Maryland ages 2-21.

Here is a brief overview of MANSEF so you, too, can spread the news about our schools!

What are MANSEF schools?

MANSEF schools fulfill the legal requirement under the federal law – the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) and are a part of the continuum of options for students. Placement into a nonpublic special education school is determined to be necessary by a local school system and the parent when a child has an educational disability and the local school system is not able to provide an appropriate program to implement the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Are MANSEF schools and private schools both considered nonpublic schools?

Yes, based on Maryland regulations in COMAR, which is why it is so important to understand the differences between MANSEF and private pay schools.

What are some of the differences between MANSEF and private schools?

MANSEF schools must have tuition rates approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Private schools do not. Based on the wording in Maryland’s Budget Bill, MANSEF schools are NOT eligible for the benefits of the Maryland Nonpublic Student Textbook Program while some private schools are eligible which provides them funding for the purchase of textbooks, computer hardware and software for loan to students. MANSEF schools’ curriculum and instruction must adhere to the expectations for meeting graduation requirements of the local school systems and the state, so students may earn the diploma from their public home school. Private schools are not required to adhere to state graduation requirements to grant their own diplomas.

Who approves MANSEF schools?

MANSEF schools are approved by MSDE based on compliance with state regulations in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Some schools also provide services that are overseen by other state agencies.

Who pays for the nonpublic special education placement?

When the Local School System (LSS) and the IEP team agree that a MANSEF school is the appropriate placement to provide Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to implement the IEP, the LSS and MSDE share the cost of the tuition and there is no cost to the family.

Please join us in being a collective voice and valuable resource to others who value the education of Maryland’s special needs students! Together we make a difference in the lives of thousands of students and their families!



Tania DuBeau
MANSEF President



MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



Ben S. and a customer

Benedictine

A great first day on the job!! Ben S., a student attending The Benedictine School, recently began work at a local KMART. On his first day at work as he was working in the garden area, a customer came and wanted several bags of mulch. Ben loaded them on the cart and then into the trunk of her car. She was so impressed with his pleasant attitude, willingness to help out and great smile that she gave him a tip. She was very happy and said she would be back "just so he could help her."

Forbush School at Oakmont Upper School

Rachel has been at The Forbush School at Oakmont Upper School since September 2017. Since then, she has truly come out of her shell and is a ray of sunshine to everyone she meets at school. When she first arrived at Oakmont Upper, Rachel was hesitant to participate in many activities and had trouble expressing her feelings to staff. In the past year, her confidence has grown and she has learned and used a variety of great coping skills to handle difficult situations on her own! Rachel is always quick to pass out compliments to staff and her peers every day, and always lets you know when you're looking "fleekey!"

Forbush School at Prince George's County

The Forbush School at Prince George's County is a 12-month school. Because students don't have a traditional summer break, we try to make the summer session outings feel like a mini-vacation. This summer, we experienced record high temperatures, so our staff designed community outings that would help us beat the heat. Some classes visited Krispy Kreme to learn about how doughnuts are made and to sample a sweet treat. Other classes felt the wind in their hair as they zoomed around the go-kart track. All of our classes engaged in excursions with water, like the pool or local splash parks. We made learning fun all summer long at The Forbush School at Prince George's County!

Rockstar Rachel and friend



Students enjoying a go-kart and a visit to Krispy Kreme



The children's Guild of Prince George's County

"I love that The Children's Guild feels like a real school and makes it a point to expose students to different settings and backgrounds. They study math, music and art. They go on field trips and have awards ceremonies. I've seen such growth in Nelson. He does real school work and is challenged to work on his weaknesses and develop his strengths. The Children's Guild appreciates that children learn in different ways and gives them the opportunity to explore their potential," says Nelson's mom. "I like my school because I have a lot of friends and my favorite class is English. I also like math and to draw. We went to the Air and Space Museum and the zoo," says Nelson.





Elijah hard at work

Pathways

Work Life and Learning at Pathways

Last year Pathways launched a new Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program supported by a grant from the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS). The Pre-ETS program helped students develop skills through workshops, training, and field trips to businesses and organizations. Through

Pre-ETS, Elijah discovered Arts on the Block, an organization dedicated to empowering young artists to find ways to use their talent and creativity for long term careers. Elijah worked with Arts on the Block all through the summer as a pre-apprentice and this school year began as a full apprentice. Other students who completed Pre-ETS include Iris, who worked as a Camp Junior Counselor with Prince George's Parks and Recreation; Vernon, who landed a job at Six Flags that continues throughout the fall and who is eligible to return when the park re-opens in the spring; and Cindy, who is a swim instructor at the Kids First Swim School in Rockville.

Pre-ETS is one facet of a comprehensive transition program that has been a part of Pathways since the beginning. Another initiative is our Young Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), which familiarizes students with the steps to business ownership, self-employment, and business careers. Students are encouraged throughout their education at Pathways to pursue financial self-responsibility and stable employment. This is accomplished through individualized instruction in work readiness, career exploration, job support, and education in all aspects of what it takes to succeed in life. Daniela is in a position of responsibility at Sky Zone, where she works as a cashier and monitor. She said recently that Pathways enabled her in her work life by helping her develop life skills and practice money management. We are proud of our students who are learning to succeed at work and in life.

Katherine Thomas School

Several students from the Katherine Thomas School's high school program have been participating in a weekly after-school club in partnership with Great and Small Farm's therapeutic horseback riding program. The students are learning how to groom the horse, how to approach a horse, and how to identify the horses by their color. All students are encouraged to get on the horse and learn how to sit on a horse, walk on the horse and trot should they desire to. Safety is very important and all riders have volunteer staff beside the horse. Some of the students were very hesitant to get on the horse at first, but now eagerly anticipate their turn on the horse. Just last week the students rode outside on a trail and they can't wait to go again!



Happy student on horseback!



The Harbour School

Caroline, a student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, prepares to-go boxes as

part of her job at Sandy Pony Donuts. Caroline attended a summer internship to learn baking skills and has done a great job applying those skills during her Work-Based Learning courses.

Eddie, a student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, has learned many new skills in his job at Maryland Auto Care.

Eddie plans to become an auto mechanic after graduation and has the opportunity to hone his skills weekly as part of his Work-Based Learning course.



Alex, a student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, paints a mural at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary.

Students who are interested in art had the opportunity to work on this unique project as a part of their Work-Based Learning courses.



Andy Moscoso is a senior at The Harbour School at Baltimore. In his free time he is a sports assistant at Stevenson University. He shows up for every home game for the Mustangs football team and for every twice-a-week practice. He participates in team discussions after practice and assists with sports equipment during the games and at practice. Andy has been with the team for five years and hopes to continue after his graduation from Harbour.



More!

STUDENT SUCCESS

St. Elizabeth School

St. Elizabeth School student Logan Thomas came in first place in his age group (16-19) at the Baltimore Running Festival's full marathon! Students and staff in the SES Running Club trained tirelessly for weeks prior to the event on October 20. Last year, Logan came in first in his age group in the half marathon. His success led to a news feature on WBAL-TV, which caught the attention of Corrigan Sports; the host of the annual Baltimore Running Festival. Corrigan offered Logan free entry in this year's full marathon, and he ended up placing first in his age group once again...in his first full marathon ever!



Logan



Tracey Millings' G.R.O.W. by Networking orders 80 lunches

Phillips School

Snip, Snap, Sauté

Laurel's career and technical education (CTE) program Growing Futures expands to include a food delivery service. Additionally, Growing Futures is approved for a 4-week summer Pre-ETS program through the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Growing Futures provides targeted career training in culinary arts paired with urban agriculture. The farm to table CTE program offers students a hands-on experiential program encompassing both culinary arts training in commercial kitchen and training in an indoor hydroponic vertical farm growing and harvesting fresh ingredients such as herbs, vegetables and microgreens all year long.

This school year the students enrolled are preparing and delivering food to community clients. The students named their food delivery service Snip, Snap, Sauté. They use the fresh ingredients they have grown in the farm to augment the taste and nutrition of the food they cook and deliver to their clients. Snip, Snap, Sauté gives students authentic opportunities to reinforce classroom skills by applying them to real world situations. The combination of classroom and client based learning gives PHILLIPS' students a unique way to apply their hospitality knowledge, improve on essential work place soft skills, and gain confidence as they become the next generation of entrepreneurial workers trained in urban agriculture and culinary arts.

SCHOOL News

MANSEF extend our deepest sympathies on the passing of Sue Murray – MANSEF Transition Consultant

It is with profound sadness that we mourn the passing of our dear colleague Sue Murray. The outpouring of love and affection for Sue has been overwhelming and justifiably so. Though her loss brings tears; the memories of her life and work bring joy and will be cherished. Sue worked for MANSEF for 14 years while also working at the Hannah More School and the St. Elizabeth School. She was always kind, gentle and exceptionally helpful. She worked with a wonderful smile. Her kindness has extended to thousands of children and their families. Simply put, Sue was a treasure. Her spirit was tangible, and each of her MANSEF colleagues has vowed to pay-it forward to continue her legacy. From the bottom of our hearts and with deepest sympathies, we thank Sue for her incredible service and dedication. We will remain forever in her debt.



Ivymount

The Ivymount Gala at The Washington National Cathedral took place on Saturday, November 3rd. The event was emceed by Susan Holt, Ivymount School & Programs CEO. The speeches from the event were powerful, creating so many wonderful memories and resulting in a significant amount of money raised. Just over 500 guests attended the event, which included a silent and live auction, Fund-A-Cause and seated dinner. Congratulations to our amazing former CEO and longtime school director Jan Wintrol who was honored at the Gala. It was also wonderful to honor our student artists who had items in the silent and live auctions, as well as our PHS Soapery for contributing to this amazing event.

Ivymount Director Jan Wintrol



Ivymount's Education Director Amy Alvord, Ivymount's CEO/Executive Director Susan Holt, and Carol Beatty, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities

Governor Larry Hogan and the State of Maryland awarded Ivymount School & Programs a citation at the Montgomery County Cabinet Meeting at the end of October.

Ivymount School & Programs received a Governor's Citation for more than 55 years as a nationally recognized school creating programs and partnerships for people with autism and special needs as well as their families; and as our citizens join in celebrating your success as a premiere educational organization focused on positive outcomes by helping students achieve their highest level of development and independence - through innovative services, dynamic new programs, community partnerships and comprehensive teacher training. We're extremely proud of this award and are grateful for our amazing students and dedicated staff!



Amy Alvord, David Brinkley, Secretary of Budget and Management; Susan Holt, Dorie Flynn, Executive Director of MANSEF, and Edward Clarke, Director, Maryland Center for School Safety

The Benedictine School

Benedictine was recently selected to receive a grant through the Maryland Department of Disabilities Technology Assistance Program. The grant will help us start a loan program for technology in our school Library. It will allow for students to access iPads, Kindle Fires, and Oculus Go VR headsets for leisure and learning. The grant request was written by one of our teachers, Nick Fox, and is a great example of the innovative thought and the initiative and passion of our staff!!



Joy and Chris

Pathways

In Memoriam

We are immensely gratified when Pathways alumni stop by to see us after many years. Chris McClain, Pathways 1994 graduate, made such a visit in early October, to show us his new motorcycle and share about his happiness, family, and life. He told us during his visit that everything he knew about his work ethic he learned when he was at Pathways. His passion for helping others was inspired by a service trip he took in 1993 with Pathways staff and other students to assist flood victims in Missouri. After graduation, Chris joined the Colmar Manor Volunteer Fire Department where he served with distinction from 1994-2000. Here he is pictured with Pathways Academic Coordinator Joy Spain during his visit to the Pathways Administrative Office. Sadly, shortly after this photo was taken, Chris was hit by a car while riding his motorcycle. He was taking an 8-year-old neighbor friend for a quick ride around the block. He wrapped himself around the child and saved the boy's life. Chris died immediately following the accident. Many of his family, friends and community members at the memorial service commented that he was a young man dedicated to helping others, caring for family and friends, and working hard, as well as the profound impact Pathways had on his life. He will be remembered always by the Pathways community.

More! SCHOOL News

The Forbush School at Frederick County

Responsive Interventions for Student Excellence (RISE) program, a nonpublic Type II program located at Hillcrest Elementary School proudly opened its doors on September 4, 2018. The program has a capacity for ten Frederick County School System students and is designed to meet the needs of students with high functioning autism spectrum disorders and emotional - behavioral disabilities who can benefit from the structure of self-contained content based classes while integrating with their peers in the less restrictive general education setting for all electives, lunch, and recess. Students are taught in two self-contained classrooms by Sheppard Pratt Health System employees including special educators, related service providers, behavior specialists, and education assistants, and mainstream with SPHS staff support to all specials classes including music, art, PE, and media; students also participate in social opportunities such as lunch and recess with their peers at Hillcrest Elementary School. The FCPS administration and staff have been extremely collaborative and welcoming, and our students are already benefitting from the plentiful resources resulting from this partnership between Sheppard Pratt Health System and Frederick County School System.

Learning at it's best!





Harbour

Two members of the Harbour staff are battling pancreatic cancer. Staff and students participated in a fund-raising walk to earn money to find a cure for the disease. Staff and students have also organized a weekly chain of homerooms to send get well cards and small gifts every week to help staff keep up their spirits during this fight.



*Linda Jacobs and
Marcella Franczkowski*

Marcella Franczkowski was the keynote speaker at The Harbour School SPARK conference held in August at the Annapolis campus. Two hundred staff members attended the conference choosing from over 25 individual sessions ranging from “making the best blueberry tart” presented by our Annapolis chef to “what it feels like to be a parent of a Harbour student” presented by staff members whose children attend Harbour. Participants at the conference received goodie bags full of office supplies and conference logoed materials. Ms. Franczkowski spoke about the great data from the THS grad study and how well Harbour compares to other school’s data. She individualized her remarks for Harbour. Staff were very impressed with her attention to Harbour’s results and her compliments.

The Baltimore Beacons flag football team had the best record in the league at 6 wins and 1 loss.

Unfortunately that loss came in the championship game. Students and staff alike came out to cheer the Beacons as they lost to the Hannah More Wolfpack. This was the first time in 14 years that the Beacons made it to a championship game in flag football.

*Cheering section
for the Baltimore
Beacons*



Kennedy Krieger Fairmount



Kennedy Krieger receives donation

“Fairmount News Station” provides interactive vehicle for students with disabilities to master new skills and gain proficiencies in news broadcasting

Voya Financial, Inc. (VOYA), a leading provider of retirement plans for educators, announced that Deidre Rabuck, an assistant principal at the Kennedy Krieger School: Fairmount Campus in Baltimore, won the second-place grant award in the company’s annual Voya Unsung Heroes program.

Through this effort, Voya awards \$2,000 grants to 100 K–12 educators across the country each year to support their innovative and creative teaching ideas. Voya also selects three top winners to receive additional funds. In its 20-plus years, the program has awarded over \$5 million in grants to roughly 2,000 educators across the U.S.

As the second-place winner, Rabuck will receive \$10,000 in addition to the \$2,000 grant — bringing her total financial award to \$12,000. This money will be used to help bring “Fairmount News Station” to life at the Kennedy Krieger School: Fairmount Campus.



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MANSEF is committed to creating optimum educational opportunities in the least restrictive environment for all Maryland children with disabilities through: **ADVOCACY, NETWORKING, COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION/RESOURCES.**



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