



# STEPPING Stones

DECEMBER 2022

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NON-PUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

## POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS – PBIS



*Abby Potter, (far left) and Dorie Flynn (second from the right) congratulate the staff at The Katherine Thomas School.*

**PBIS Maryland** recognizes schools every year that implement the critical features of PBIS with fidelity. Schools that are recognized have demonstrated a culture that emphasizes the four integrated elements of PBIS: (1) data decision making, (2) measurable outcomes, (3) research based best practices, (4) and systems that efficiently and effectively support implementation of these practices. Academic and behavioral improvement are reviewed as indicators of student outcomes. This year, PBIS teams from our MANSEF schools put forth the effort and determination required for the continued implementation of PBIS for the 2021-2022 school year. They each participated in the Badges to Success process and earned varying levels of recognition from PBIS Maryland.

The Badges to Success target seven areas that align with the core features of Tiers 1 and 2 of the PBIS framework. The badge themes provide teams with the opportunity to highlight how PBIS initiatives contribute to increasing student engagement in school, improving school culture and climate, and ensuring the use of data to drive decisions at the individual, classroom and school-wide levels.

The themes included:

- Data on my Mind
- Instructional and Restorative Responses
- Community Connections
- Our Classroom, Our Community
- The Power of Teaching
- Teamwork makes the Dream Work!
- Tier Two

Congratulations to the following schools:

**Katherine Thomas Elementary/  
Middle School**  
**Kennedy Krieger High School**  
**Kennedy Krieger Powder Mill Campus**  
**Kennedy Krieger LEAP Program**  
**Sheppard Pratt School - Glyndon**  
**Sheppard Pratt School - Rockville**  
**Sheppard Pratt School - Reisterstown**  
**Sheppard Pratt School – Cumberland**  
**Sheppard Pratt School and RTC –  
Towson**

*For more information regarding PBIS,  
please contact Abby Potter, MANSEF  
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**Julie Hickey** - *Treasurer*  
**Tania DuBeau** - *Immediate Past President*  
**Dorie Flynn** - *Executive Director*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to MANSEF members, families, and partners! The 2022-2023 year is charging full-steam ahead. Our membership has been busy and thriving — not one of us has been idle. One only has to look at the MANSEF social media stories to see how our teachers and staff, despite having so much to do, find ways to make the experiences for the students we serve tremendously rich and fulfilling, connect with community partners, and create learning experiences for staff. Our board as well, has been busy. This time of year, we review and revise our priority plan, and make sure our efforts are focused on meeting MANSEF's mission. So far this school year, we have found new ways to liaison with our Local Education Agency partners, presented to the Maryland State Board of Education about nonpublic special education schools, and begun our strategy for the upcoming legislative session. We have completed a brief but vitally important salary survey, which allows us to further our conversations about salary parity — and I would be remiss if I did not thank the membership for 100% participation in that survey, which sends a clear message of our dedication to this issue.

Speaking of thanks, I am tremendously grateful for this community. We face challenges every day, big and small, but the purpose of our work is worthy and the company we keep in each other is highly valued. If anyone reading all of this is newer to our community and wondering "how do I connect?" or "how do I get involved?" please reach out to myself or Dorie — we are only as strong as our ability to engage our community, whether you have been a part of MANSEF for decades, or this is your first school year.

In closing, as we are approaching the holiday season — however you celebrate, may it be restful and joyful!

Warm regards,

*Sue McLendon*

Sue McLendon  
MANSEF President

# MSDE AND MANSEF HOSTED TRANSITION WORKSHOP

Every October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) offers us an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy. Led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, NDEAM showcases supportive and inclusive policies and practices benefiting workers and employers. To that end, MSDE Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services and MANSEF hosted a professional development workshop on October 7th at the Columbia Meeting House for secondary transition coordinators. Over 120 attendees from local education agencies and special education schools participated in this timely training titled: Unify Teaching and Transition: Educating Students with Work in Mind. The purpose continues to focus on improving post-secondary outcomes as we work with Maryland's transition age students with disabilities.

Marie Parker Harvey, with MPower to MPact LLC, shared her experience and knowledge infusing explicit instruction around self-determination and student discovery. The training provided problem-solving activities and group discussions allowing attendees to learn how to:

- Implement self-advocacy in everyday teaching across content goals.
- Engage and energize students about work starting at age 14.
- Gather information and assess student interests, present level skills and abilities.
- Translate academic individualized education program (IEP) language into applicable "real-world" disclosure.
- Engage with employers on behalf of students with business-first language.
- Develop innovative and creative strategies to initiate and sustain local education agency/work partnerships.

MANSEF would like to thank

**Marcella Franczkowski,**

Assistant State Superintendent at MSDE for her dedicated support to this endeavor. MANSEF's partnership with MSDE demonstrates the accountability and assurance that we are student-centered and put the unique needs of our students in the forefront. This workshop would not have been held were it not for her steadfast and enthusiastic devotion to ensure all staff have the necessary tools to provide students with the most appropriate educational services.

*For more information regarding MANSEF Transition resources, please contact Laura McKenzie, MANSEF Transition Consultant at [Laura.McKenzie@benschool.org](mailto:Laura.McKenzie@benschool.org).*



## National Disability Employment Awareness Month





# SCHOOL News



## *The Children's Guild Schools*

### **The Children's Guild Schools of Prince George's County and The Baltimore Campus Receive Generous Donation of New Computers**

The Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF) of Towson, MD donated twenty-five PC desktop and laptop computers to The Children's Guild for use at the Prince George's County and Baltimore Campuses. The donation was made possible through DP Solutions, a managed IT services provider (MSP), which services both The Children's Guild and the IDF.

"We are extremely grateful that DP Solutions connected us to the IDF for this incredibly generous donation. What a wonderful way for three local organizations to come together and support an underserved community," said Agnes Kibirige, Chief Information Officer at The Children's Guild. "The computers we were using in our computer labs were outdated and it will be amazing for our students to have access to the latest technology so we can teach them life skills. In the classroom, our faculty use technology to empower our students, increase their engagement in hands-on technology activities, improve independent skills, engineering identity, and self-confidence."

"When we learned that IDF was planning to move their headquarters and had two dozen computers they were looking to donate, our first thought was The Children's Guild and we are so happy to have made

the connection," said Karyn Schell, President of DP Solutions. "The saying one man's trash is another man's treasure is so true in this situation – it warms my heart to think of the students having access to these power machines and the learning opportunities they represent."



## *Cedar Ridge*

Jackson Mollo, a former student who graduated in June 2022, came back to visit and talk to the Careers class and other high school students about life post-graduation. Jackson was excited to visit with the kitchen ladies, who prepare our delicious meals. Students and staff asked lots of questions and Jackson was able to talk about the process of starting college, working part time and getting his driver's permit. It was a positive experience for both Jackson and our current students.



## The Children's Guild Schools

### The Children's Guild — Transformation Academy Hosts Prom

In August, 36 students from The Children's Guild Transformation Academy in Baltimore got dressed up and went to the prom to celebrate the start of their new year in this special education school that has become a thriving environment for dozens of students ages 5-21 whose primary diagnosis is autism. Many of the students also have co-existing diagnoses of sensory processing disorder, a specific learning disability, health impairment or multiple disabilities.

According to Ariel Long, One-to-One Administrator and Teacher Katie Boyle, "All students should have the opportunity to go to the prom, and we were thrilled to give our students the chance to Be A Star at Prom 2022. Instead of crowning a prom king and queen, we recognized each student for their individual accomplishments and what makes them so special."

**The Children's Guild School of Baltimore** held the grand opening of their new library on September 21, 2022. Once located in a hard-to-reach area of the school campus, it was the vision of leadership to create a space that was not only accessible but vibrant and alive. Staff, students, parents, and other stakeholders were welcomed into the Barnes and Nobles themed space with stylish seating areas and modern workspaces. Libraries still matter! All students should be surrounded by rich print material and exposed to places, people, and experiences they have never seen before. Reading is an escape and an introduction to new ways of thinking. Students will be able to conduct research, read for leisure, borrow books, take classes and workshops, use as a meeting space, and for participation in D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read). This year we kicked off our school-wide "Literacy Experience" on October 26, 2022, and our library is at the heart of so much we have in store!



*A student volunteer joined Principal Katina Webster cut the ribbon for the brand-new library at The Children's Guild School of Baltimore*





MORE!

# SCHOOL News

## Baltimore Lab School

Baltimore Lab School hosted Founder & Friends Day 2022 the week of October 25th. Students invited a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, a family friend, and/or a mentor! Each day, there were student performances, a presentation of learning in classrooms, refreshments, and photographs before saying farewell. Our school-wide theme this year is "Food for Thought" and our students' extended families learned how teachers weave the school-wide theme throughout their lessons. Thank you to our students' guests for joining us and learning what makes BLS innovative & unique!



## Foundation School

### Fostering Growth

We are so excited to announce and celebrate the opening of The Foundation School at Blair G. Ewing. The Foundation School at Blair G. Ewing is a Type II program, non-public day school, within a public school setting, for students with emotional disabilities in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools. The program will provide IEP-tailored services, positive behavior interventions and supports, social skills training, specialized counseling, and other related services. This is a small program limited to a middle school classroom and a high school classroom that will hold a maximum of nine students in each class. We are so thankful for the hard work of our staff at The Foundation School at Blair G. Ewing Center and our partners at MCPS as we continue to expand and meet the demand for special education in Montgomery County.



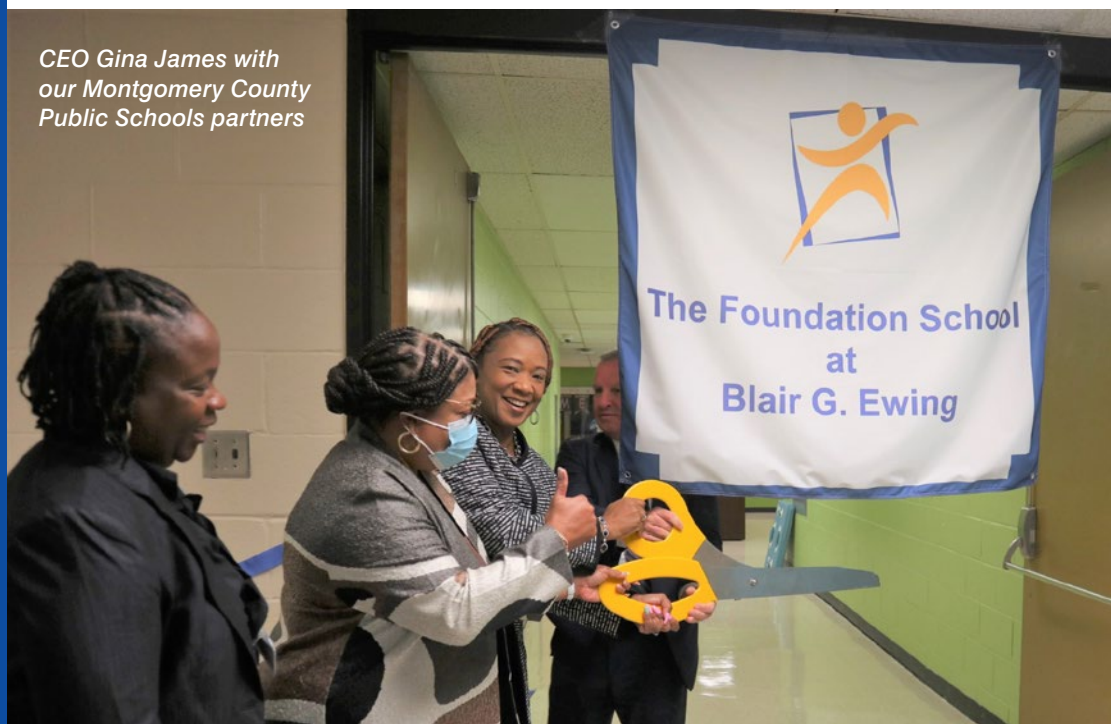
High Road Academy  
of Howard County

**High Road Academy  
& Food on the 15th**

**Food Drive: November 28,  
2022 – January 9, 2023.**

Food on the 15th is a program that collects non-perishable food donated from local organizations. People volunteer their time to collect, sort, and deliver the food to low-income older adults in Howard County around the 15th of each month.

CEO Gina James with  
our Montgomery County  
Public Schools partners







## Ivymount

This fall, the Ivymount Organization kicked off a year-long celebration of Six Decades of Ivymount, starting with a new look that includes an updated logo and bright colors. Next, came brand new websites for the school and organization. Ivymount school also announced an update to its school programs and model names to reflect its growth and diverse student body. The updated names are the Endeavors School Program (formerly known as the Autism Program) and the Aspire School Program. The Aspire Program includes a Social & Academic Learning Model (formerly MAP) and an Applied & Academic Learning Model (formerly MLN).

In October, Ivymount School celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by recognizing the jobsites and community partners who help prepare students for a successful transition from school to adult life.

In November, Ivymount held a month of IvyCares activities to practice gratitude, value relationships, embrace diversity, and make positive changes to the community. The many activities included a "Be the I in KIND" photo/message backdrop; food, clothing, and book drives; cooperative games focusing on sportsmanship in physical education; and a Wall of Strengths activity to identify and name strengths in themselves and others. Ivymount School staff also led 15-minute self-care sessions for colleagues to practice mindfulness, breathing, and positive thinking.







MORE!

# SCHOOL News

## Kennedy Krieger - Powder Mill Campus

The Kennedy Krieger School: Powder Mill Campus (PMC) Spaghetti Dinner returned to 'normal' on October 19, 2022. We had our first in-person spaghetti dinner since COVID at the new PMC campus with 130 RSVPs — 30 Alumni students & families, 50 staff & families, and 50 students & families. We enjoyed food from Squisito's and dessert made by our staff and student families.

PMC celebrated Fall Harvest on October 31, 2022. Students and staff dressed up, and PMC parents hosted a Trunk-Or-Treat. Other activities were mummy-making, pumpkin bowling, snack-making, and a haunted hallway.

## Kennedy Krieger - Fairmount Campus

Kennedy Krieger School: Fairmount Campus (FMT) raised money through Kennedy Krieger Institute's ROAR campaign. This event raised money for the purchase of fourteen new walkie-talkies.

October was festive at FMT. The school held its annual character parade. Students marched around campus in costumes while families and staff cheered them along. The school followed the parade with an on-campus pumpkin patch. Students could pick a pumpkin to take home with their family.

FMT continued the fun in November. The school held its annual Block Kids event. Students participated in trade-related stations and a Lego building contest. The school was also able to hold the annual Thanksgiving lunch. Parent volunteers, Kennedy Krieger High School Students, and staff served the lunches to the students, who came together in the gymnasium to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal, with decorations and music. Classrooms 2, 16, and 20 won the Turkey in Disguise Contest.





## Sheppard Pratt - Glyndon

### Sheppard Pratt School in Glyndon students participate in Fall Fest

In October, students at the Sheppard Pratt School in Glyndon participated in Fall Fest! Fall Fest encouraged students to engage in responsible, collaborative behavior by rewarding them with tickets for completing their coursework, participating in discussions, waiting their turn, cleaning up after themselves, holding the door for one other, and, most importantly, trying their best!

On October 21, 2022, all students were able to cash in their tickets during a school-wide celebration that included arts and crafts like pumpkin painting, mask decorating, and stenciling leaves. During the festivities, students were also able to participate in a donut eating contest, parachute activity, scavenger hunt, karaoke, football toss, and more!

All Fall Fest activities were planned by the Sheppard Pratt School in Glyndon's PBIS Student Committee.

## Sheppard Pratt School - Reisterstown

Spirit Week, which took place from 10/31–11/4, was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff featured a different theme each day. The week started with Costume Day (Halloween), followed by Comfy Day, Dress to Impress Day (also picture day), Retro Day and ended with Wolfpack/Ravens Day. Aside from the themes, students who met certain criteria through PBIS had the opportunity to attend a special leader lunch and an exciting flag football game which ended the week's festivities. In attendance were two special guests from the Ravens cheerleading team who cheered both sides and were privy to an impromptu dance off amongst students.





MORE!

# SCHOOL News

## Sheppard Pratt School - Rockville

Sheppard Pratt School in Rockville's Transition Coordinator, Conchita King, hosted a College and Resource Fair on November 17th with 27 representatives from local colleges and service agencies. Sheppard Pratt School's 11th and 12th graders joined along with the parents of transition-aged students and seven other nonpublic schools. Students and families gained valuable information and resources from agencies and schools such as DC-DDA, Thrive, JobCorb, ABLE, Cornerstone, Universities at Shady Grove, and Frostburg University. It was wonderful watching students exhibit independence during the fair and ask thoughtful questions to the representatives. Countless parents expressed their gratitude to Ms. Conchita for organizing this event, and one parent commented on feeling more equipped to tackle post-secondary with their child.

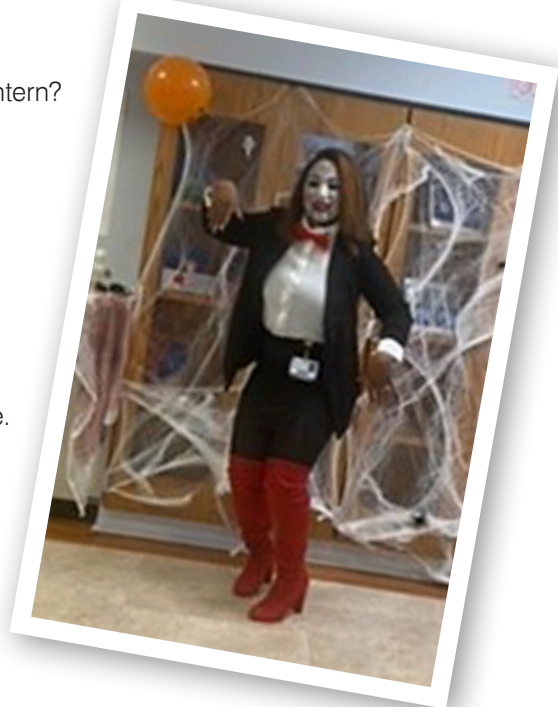
## Sheppard Pratt School - Towson

### Trick or Treat!

Here at Sheppard Pratt School in Towson, we put a little twist on our Halloween festivities. This year the teachers dressed up and the students were the judges! Students trick or treated from classroom to classroom but before gathering all the goodies, they had to first answer a Halloween riddle. While that seems like a piece of cake, it is not always as easy as one might think. Why not try a few and see how you do:

1. What is a witch's favorite subject?
2. How do you fix a damaged jack-o-lantern?
3. Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party?
4. What did the skeleton order at the restaurant?

While trick or treating, the students critiqued the teacher's costumes to determine who wore the most creative, the scariest, the funniest or downright ridiculous, and the best overall costume. Ms. Jalisa, the school's Administrative Assistant, was voted the best costume overall. It was certainly the most authentic! We all had a very fun and relaxing afternoon with lots of goodies and lots of laughs. Until next year!



### HALLOWEEN RIDDLE ANSWERS:

1. Spelling
2. You use a pumpkin patch.
3. He had no body to dance with.
4. A glass of coke and a mop



# MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



## Baltimore Lab School

Aba B. is a 12th grade student at Baltimore Lab School, who is also dually enrolled at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD, earning credits for college after he graduates with his High School diploma in June 2023. Over the summer, Aba attended Camp Spartan at the Aurora University campus in Illinois. "The program at Camp Spartan allowed me to truly see independent work and independent responsibility before I go to college after my senior year," remarked Aba. "It helped me to prepare for my dual enrollment at Carroll CC and BLS." When reflecting on how BLS prepared him for Camp Spartan, as well as his post-secondary goals, Aba commented, "BLS has helped me develop skills like cooperation and tolerance when working with others. There is a diverse set of people at BLS, and I have learned that I must be able to accept others and learn to work with them to accomplish a task." All BLS students have access to a counselor for direct or integrated services.

Through this partnership, students learn how to relate to others, manage their feelings, and work towards independence. Focusing on college and career readiness, BLS also helped Aba connect to pre-employment transition services (pre-ETS), specifically work-based learning experiences, through DORS. Aba completed Humanim's Start on Success (SOS) paid internship program at St. Joseph's Hospital in Towson, MD during Spring 2022. Aba has been accepted to both Aurora University and York College of Pennsylvania. While he enjoyed living on the Aurora campus over the summer, Aba plans to stay close to home after graduation and most likely will attend York College in the fall of 2023.

## Cedar Ridge

Ethan Davis earned a special lunch reward for being the student who was nominated the most for exhibiting Respect during the month of September 2022. He always has a pleasant answer when spoken to, uses manners when addressing staff and gets along well with his peers. Ethan just enrolled at Cedar Ridge School this fall and has adjusted well and is making great progress.





From Left to Right:  
Joshua Edwards, Ariana Walker,  
Richard Kniseley, Layla Anderson,  
Karen Gallo, Savannah Robinson  
(attended virtually), Tristan Martin,  
Lucas Khelawan.

MORE!

# STUDENT SUCCESS



chelsea

## Chelsea School Inducts Seven New Members in the National Honor Society

On Friday, November 18, 2022, Chelsea School students, staff, and families gathered for the induction of seven new members into the National Honor Society. This marked the first time since the pandemic that an induction ceremony was held. To qualify for the NHS, students must demonstrate academic achievement with a minimum grade-point average of 3.50, outstanding character, and a commitment to service and leadership in their school community.

This year's inductees are Layla Anderson, Joshua Edwards, Lucas Khelawan, Richard Kniseley, Tristan Martin, Savannah Robinson, and Ariana Walker. NHS Faculty Advisor and Chelsea School Literacy Coordinator Karen Gallo presided over the event. "We are incredibly proud of our students and their accomplishments," said Gallo, "And we are excited to celebrate their achievement through induction in this organization."

High Road Academy  
of Howard County

Currently in the 11th grade, Matthew first enrolled at HRA in July 2015 as a 4th grader. Staff members frequently compliment Matthew's academic efforts and excellent work ethic. In addition, his positive attitude and willingness to assist and support peers are highly commendable. As recipient of the Student of the Month award, Matthew will receive a gift card, certificate, and bumper sticker. We are especially proud of Matthew's accomplishments and look forward to his continued success!

Foundation School

## Five Weeks of Positive Behavior

Students at The Foundation Schools have experienced extensive trauma and failure, and it is therefore common for them to express their frustration, anger, and psychiatric response through inappropriate communication and negative physical and social-emotional behaviors. To encourage our students to strive for greatness, staff implement our positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) levels program. Target behaviors include academic success, attendance, and school-ready behaviors. The five levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond) provide students with various incentives for each level including trips to the school store, field trip eligibility, and work-study internships eligibility. We congratulate Davey for being our first Diamond-level student this year, maintaining this highest PBIS level for over five weeks! We are proud to witness Davey learning the tools he needs to appropriately communicate and manage his social-emotional challenges, even on his most difficult days.







## High Road Upper School of Prince George's County Spreading Awareness

Throughout the month of October, students and staff at the High Road Upper School of Prince Georges County participated in activities to promote Breast Cancer Awareness. Aniya Chisley is a 12th grader at the High Road Upper School of Prince Georges County that went above and beyond spreading breast cancer awareness. Aniya helped decorate bulletin boards, completed writing assignments, and wore pink at our "Wear Pink Wednesday" event and throughout the month.

Academically, Aniya has worked hard since coming to our school in the fall of 2020. Aniya is on the path to graduate this June. We look forward to seeing your continued efforts to serve the community and promote Breast Cancer Awareness, Aniya. We are very proud of everything you have accomplished.

## Ivymount

Ivymount School student Katie M was recently interviewed for a video being created by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which has been a longtime Ivymount jobsite partner. Katie works with PAHO's Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Department, practicing job skills such as data entry, renaming and organizing files, and creating PowerPoint presentations. Her PAHO supervisors were so impressed with a presentation she created about different countries that they interviewed her for a video, which will be posted on PAHO's intranet for all staff along with her presentation. The PAHO communications team praised Katie's interview preparation and her clear and direct answers.

The Ivymount School job coach, SLP and employment coordinator helped Katie by practicing interview questions, creating an interview cheat sheet, and teaching self-advocacy skills for her to request accommodations so she can be successful in the workplace. Katie's goal is to find paid employment after leaving Ivymount School, so her experience at PAHO allows her to gain valuable work experience, expand on her resume, learn useful computer skills, and practice general employability skills.





MORE!

# STUDENT SUCCESS

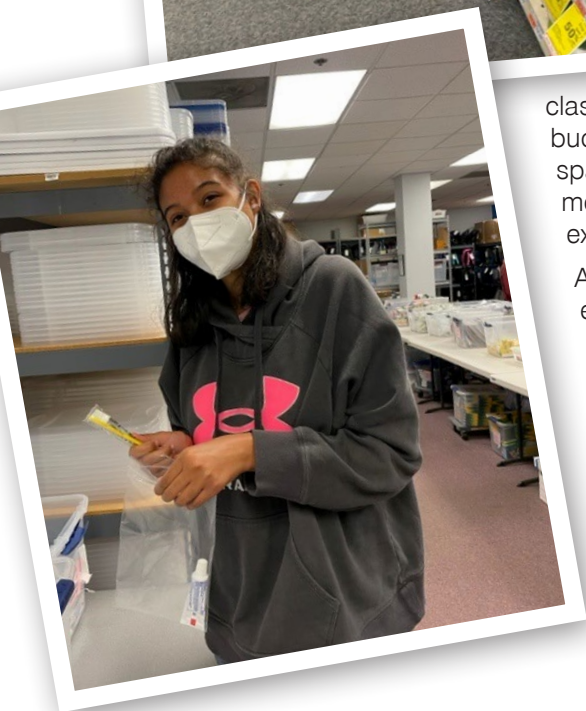
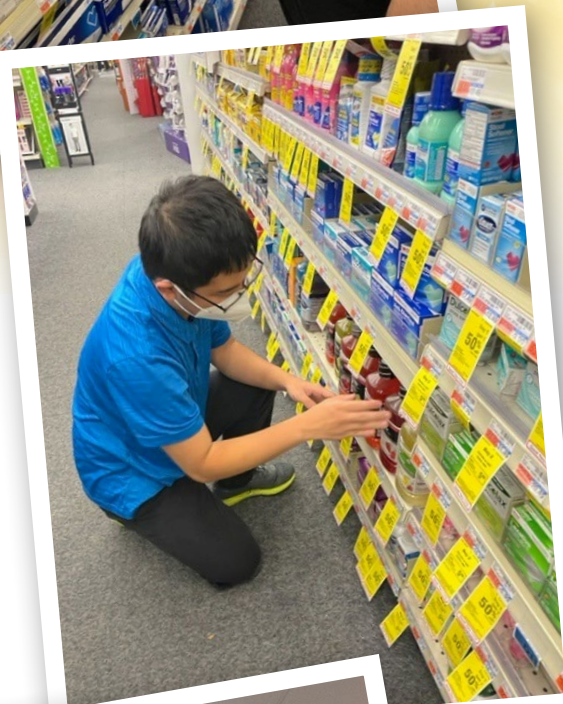
## Katherine Thomas School

The Katherine Thomas School's (KTS) internship program is a unique aspect of our school curriculum that integrates study with career-related work experience. Students receive academic credit for their work experiences, but more importantly, they can see how their strengths and skills translate to the working world. The purpose of the program is to develop and strengthen the student's educational and career preparation, as well as teach them transferable work skills — skills they can use in any job. Students also walk away with a better understanding of the pragmatics of a workplace, as they practice the communication skills necessary to working with a boss and co-workers.

We are fortunate at KTS to have developed wonderful partnerships with many businesses in our community. CVS, Academy Preschools, DuFief Elementary School, Kentlands Veterinary Hospital and Ledo Pizza are just a few of the sites that have worked with our students for many years and continue to do so. This school year, we added Shady Grove Hospital, Kentlands Manor Senior Apartments, Charm City Run, Victor Wear and Comfort Cases to our list of internship partners. Our students are given meaningful tasks at every site. Some of their jobs include assisting students with math and writing, supervising dogs on the underwater treadmill, helping customers with shoe purchases, stocking shelves and medical supply closets, preparing and delivering flyers to senior residents, and even helping with social media marketing for a new business.

Students explore careers of interest and examine how their learning style, personality and strengths match these goals. All interns craft a working resume, write a cover letter, and complete a practice job application. Interviewing skills are a major focus for our students during the first and third quarters and their work culminates in mock interviews with KTS staff and employment specialists. Developing stronger communication skills is one of the main goals of our internship program. Through class discussions, role play and interactive games, students practice perspective taking, teamwork and decision making. The internship class also focuses on skills for independent living. Learning about gross/net pay, budgeting and how to find an apartment and get along with a roommate always spark interesting discussions! We want our students to leave the internship class as more self-determined individuals and the classroom time coupled with the job site experience helps us to accomplish this goal.

All our internship students feel a sense of pride and success through these job experiences. Some of our students have even been hired by these businesses after graduation! Without a doubt, our KTS internship students emerged from our program with a greater sense of self-awareness and increased level of confidence. We are always looking for new internship partners and are inspired by the businesses who take the time to provide such an amazing learning opportunity for our students.







## Pathways

June 2022 graduate, Jackson Merriken, is building on the gains he made while at The Pathways School – Catonsville to create a career. He is enrolled in a professional welding program that he began in his senior year with the support of Pathways' Hamlin Scholarship. These excerpts from a letter he wrote to his classmates reveal the magic that can happen when students are supported in their dreams.

Jackson writes, "I think life, at least mine, is like a chapter book, with each chapter bringing a new beginning.

*Elementary school was a horror story for me. I was bullied and shunned not just by students but by teachers too. I hated going to school. I would hide and try to miss the bus. I would go to the nurse many times complaining of a stomachache just to get away from the kids. I thought middle school would be a fresh start — a new beginning — but the writer got it wrong, the horror story continued. It got so bad my mom pulled me from school and started homeschooling me. After about a year of homeschooling my next new beginning arrived. My educational consultant and attorney were able to get me placed with Pathways. [The staff] were so kind. They actually listened to what I was saying. They helped me to learn to trust teachers again. They never made me feel bad for being afraid. My Community Support Specialist (CSS) would come to my mom's work, and we would do my lessons in an empty classroom. He would meet me at the library because I was afraid to get in his car ... The staff worked every day to help my confidence grow ... I am nervous about the future but know I have learned coping skills at Pathways that will help me throughout the rest of my life. My experience at Pathways has made me believe that I will be OK. I can learn and succeed, and when things get tough, I can keep going ... Even though the past is hard, you can always begin again."*

## St. Elizabeth School

SES Student John Weekley combined his love of Legos with his love of St. Elizabeth School by constructing a "Lego Table for all Abilities." John came up with this idea and decided to make it his Eagle Scout capstone project, which included designing the table, recruiting volunteers to help construct it, and coordinating donation drives to receive the materials and Legos. Along with the help of his parents and volunteers, John has become quite a successful project manager! The table includes multiple extensions that adapt to any student's height, and it allows for multiple people of varying abilities to play with the Legos simultaneously. The best part? John donated his beautiful new creation (complete with lots of Legos) to SES so that students of all abilities can enjoy it for years to come.



## Sheppard Pratt School Reisterstown

Congratulations to Lily S., a tenth-grade student from The Sheppard Pratt School – Reisterstown, who, with perseverance, determination, self-advocacy, and hard work, has successfully transitioned to Franklin High School in Baltimore County. Lily entered high school with the goal of transitioning to the public school setting. She recognized her academic and social-emotional progress and self-advocated for her team to consider her desires for public school. Lily listened to the recommendations made by her team, challenged herself, and sought the support necessary to continue to flourish and reach her goal. At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Lily began a hybrid program at the Franklin and Reisterstown campuses. The academic rigor, especially in math, thrilled Lily. At the start of the second quarter, she was discharged from Special Education Services and became a full-time student at Franklin. Lily plans to eventually enroll in law school and become a prosecutor.





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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.**



## WANT TO CHANGE A STUDENT'S LIFE?

Your unique skills and passion can help personalize education, inspire students with special needs, and change lives.

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