



# STEPPING Stones

MAY 2023

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NON-PUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

## CARDIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

In honor of their achievements, thirty-seven Maryland students with special needs will receive scholarship awards from the Michael Cardin Scholarship Committee of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF). The scholarship awards will be presented at the awards ceremony on May 31, 2023.

The students — who all attend or previously attended a Maryland special education school were nominated for the awards by their schools in recognition of their perseverance and hard work. The awards will allow the students to take part in a range of academic, training, or extracurricular activities.

"It brings great joy to our dedicated Board members to know how proud these special student scholarship winners feel, as most are being publicly recognized for the first time in their lives for receiving an award for what they have accomplished during the school year," said Alan Kanter, chair of the scholarship committee.

The scholarship fund was established in memory of Michael Cardin, son of U.S. Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland and his wife Myrna, a former MANSEF executive director. The scholarship fund has grown annually since its inception in 1999 and has awarded more than \$500,000 to over 500 special education scholars.

"These students exemplify the achievement that is possible when students receive the proper support," said Myrna Cardin. "We are proud to reward and showcase the successes of these young people, each of whom stands out in his or her own way."

Along with the scholarships, MANSEF will present two additional awards:

**Pam Kasemeyer**, Esquire, of Columbia, nominated by the Arrow Center for Education will be presented with the Distinguished Citizen Award. Pam Kasemeyer is a managing partner at Schwartz, Metz, Wise & Kauffman, P.A. in Annapolis. Pam is an amazing advocate and specifically worked on behalf of the Linwood School. Her steadfast determination to the MANSEF Teacher

Pay Parity Act was without a doubt the most important piece of legislation for MANSEF in recent years. Her guidance, dedication of time, energy and legislative expertise will serve long into the future upholding the mission of MANSEF.

**Perry Nichols**, of Washington, D.C., nominated by the Chelsea School is receiving the *Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives* Award for his commitment to working in the field of Special Education for over 29 years. Perry is known for many things: his warmth, his sense of humor, and his ability to make any child crack a smile. Besides teaching every day, Perry has also served as Chelsea School's Athletic Director and as the coach for basketball, softball, track and field, and soccer. He has spent many hours with children after school teaching the fundamentals of these sports with the goal of lifelong fitness. He has sacrificed thousands of hours of his own time to ensure that the school has a true athletic program, and that students have an opportunity to participate in team and individual sports.

*Continued on page 4*



CONGRATULATIONS



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Spring to MANSEF schools, partners, and community! We are approaching the culmination of the school year, where the hard work of our students, together with their school team and families result in these tremendous, high-level accomplishments. That may be graduating of course, or moving up to the next grade, winning a Michael Cardin scholarship, or having solid plans after post-graduation for career or college. These are special and moving moments and should be celebrated. But what I love about our work with MANSEF is that while we can celebrate as well as anyone else what the rest of the world sees as “big”, we know the secret—that there are no “small” moments. Everything that May and June brings in a school year comes from moments and choices along the way that we have the privilege to be part of—a treatment session where a new skill was learned, a student making a new friend, that moment in class where the instructional assistant just intuitively knows when and how to help, or a late in the day phone call when a parent shares what’s in their heart. I know all schools have these moments, but I believe within MANSEF, we are allowed to make these moments our mission and work in a way no one else can. And after that, the big stuff is almost a given.

It’s fitting then, that the timing of this year also brings the culmination of decades of work to bring about something we have been talking about as far as I can remember: equal, funded, pay for our teachers through House Bill 448, known as the salary parity bill. This is truly groundbreaking legislation for us, and I would be remiss if I did not mention with whole-hearted thanks to Delegate Korman, sponsor of the bill, Senator Zucker, sponsor of the senate’s companion bill, and many others such as Pam Kasemeyer, advocate extraordinaire, and of course our Executive Director, Dorie Flynn. But—like a graduation, our achievement of this bill has come from thousands of small actions. I encourage all of us to take some time to take stock of what we have accomplished, and soak in how many people have been a part of this journey.

I’ll say in closing two things. First, a thank you to the community to being able to work with you all, as my term as president comes to a close. When work is worthy, and who you do it with is as passionate as you, it’s no longer work, and that has been the case for the past three years. But more importantly than that, is I wonder about the choices and moments we are in now, that will make a culminating achievement years from now. We don’t know what we are laying the groundwork for, always, or how things unfold, but with a continued focus and passion for the students we serve, I don’t doubt that years from now we will see more and better for MANSEF, because of us today.

Warm regards,

*Sue McLendon*

Sue McLendon  
MANSEF President



Citation — Executive Office of the Governor  
(Photographers Patrick Siebert and Joe Andrucyk)

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MANSEF extends our gratitude to our departing Board members:

Angela Chambers from Youth in Transition, Tania DuBeau from the Pathway Schools and Julie Hickey from the Benedictine School. These dedicated leaders have invested countless hours to the betterment of our Association. Their service to the MANSEF mission leaves a strong legacy.

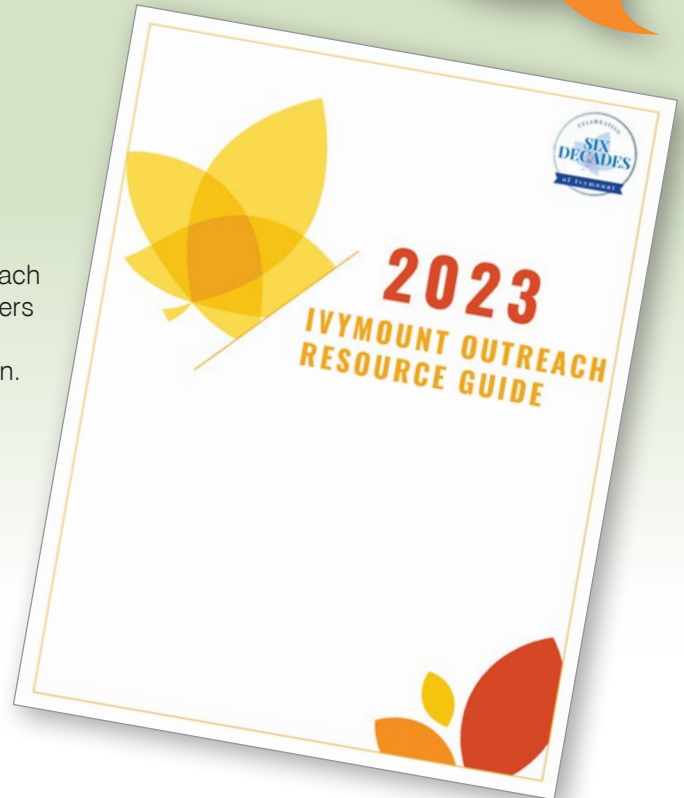
We welcome incoming Board members Rae Meneses from the Children's Guild and James Young from the High Road Schools.

## IVYMOUNT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ivymount Community Outreach partners with service providers to bring families a helpful one-stop spot for information. The Outreach Resource Guide 2023 is an online tool with information on 70 plus diverse organizations that provide specialized services. The Guide includes provider descriptions and links that help you easily navigate to meaningful supports.

### VISIT:

[ivymount.org/category/endeavors-outreach-programs](https://ivymount.org/category/endeavors-outreach-programs)



MANSEF extends our condolences to the family of Susan Buswell, who served as the first Executive Director of MANSEF for eight years. In addition to raising her two children, Sue's career included serving in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982 until 1989, representing portions of Howard and Prince George's counties and as the Executive Director of MABE. An active volunteer in numerous community organizations, Susan also worked for the CIA and enjoyed worldwide travel throughout her life.



# MANSEF 2023 CARDIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

(Continued from page 1)

**Edward Altwater**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools who attends the Transformation Academy, will use his scholarship to attend The League for People with Disabilities.

**Koby Ampoma-Mensah**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend The Y Teen Adventure Camp.

**Daniel Arter**, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend The Y Teen Adventure Camp.

**Abdel-Malik Abiodun Adebo Bileomon**, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools, attending the Foundation Learning Center, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Inclusion in Howard County.

**Morgan Butler**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Charles County Public Schools, attending the Kennedy Krieger LEAP Program will use her scholarship for Camp Co-op and Kids First Swim School.

**Samuel Byrne**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend Verbal Beginnings social skills training.

**Tristen Canada**, a student attending the Chelsea School, will use his scholarship to attend the Chelsea School ESY program.

**Jacob Carranza**, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools, attending the Foundation Learning Center will use his scholarship to attend Sunny Smiles Summer Camp.

**Eric Corbin**, a student from Howard County Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School will use his scholarship to take art lessons at the Zoll Studio School of Fine Art.

**Nyah Coston**, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending the Chelsea School will use her scholarship to attend Camp Letts.

**Elijah Cotton**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Prince George's County Public Schools who attended The Pathways School – Re-Entry at DuVal, will use his scholarship to attend Towson University to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design.

**Angel Crowder**, a previous Cardin Scholar and a student from Baltimore County Public Schools who attends the St. Elizabeth School, will use her scholarship to attend Summit Camp.

**Alphe Dede**, a previous Cardin Scholar and a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County, will use his scholarship for Kids After Hours adventure summer camp.

**Christopher Dingle**, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending the Chelsea School, will use his scholarship for drum lessons.

**Jocelyn Dorrycott**, a student from Carroll County Public Schools attending the Villa Maria School will use her scholarship to take art lessons at the Zoll Studio School of Fine Art.

**Olivia Dyer**, a previous Cardin Scholar, and a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending the Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship to attend Howard Community College's Project Access program.

**Gabriela England**, a student from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, attending Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship for sailing lessons at Brendan Sailing School.

**Julius Foster**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend the Merritt Lego Camp.

**Ethan Gebreyes**, a previous Cardin Scholar attending the Chelsea School, will use his scholarship to attend the Landmark College Reading Boot Camp.



*The following 37 students were selected for exemplifying perseverance in the face of adversity and embodying the spirit that everyone can succeed.*

**Zoey Hamilton**, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School will use her scholarship to take art lessons at the Zoll Studio School of Fine Art.

**Lucas Khelawan**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Prince George's County Public Schools attending The Chelsea School, will use his scholarship for tennis lessons at Sport Fit Tennis Camp.

**Christopher Lewis**, a student from Carroll County Public Schools who attends the Benedictine School, will use his scholarship to attend the River Valley Ranch Summer Camp.

**Nathan Matheson**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Montgomery County Public Schools who attended The Frost School, will continue to use his scholarship to pursue an associate of arts degree in automotive technology from Montgomery College.

**Elijah Parker**, student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend the County-wide All-Star Basketball Camp.

**Da'Lyiah Reese**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to attend The Painting Workshop.

**Savannah Robinson**, a previous Cardin Scholar from the District of Columbia Public Schools, attending the Chelsea School, will use her scholarship to attend the Bulldogs Scholars Academy.

**Vincenzo Sardo**, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools who attends the Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend iD Tech Camps University of Maryland.

**Derrick Smith**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Pathways School – Catonsville will use his scholarship for driving lessons at the Friendly's Driving Academy.

**Erick True**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Pathways School – Anne Arundel, will use his scholarship to attend Muay Thai Kickboxing.

**Ramon Velazquez**, a student from Howard County Public Schools, attending the Sheppard Pratt School – Glyndon, will use his scholarship for music lessons at Bach to Rock America's Music School.

**Keyona Washington**, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools, attending the Chelsea School, will use her scholarship for driving lessons at the Best Driving Academy.

**Nafiz Watkins**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship for camp through the Lutherville Timonium Recreation Council.

**Sabur Williams**, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Children's Guild, will use his scholarship to attend the League for People with Disabilities.

**Thomas Williams**, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship for art lessons at the Zoll Studio School of Fine Art.

**Eli Windt**, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend Merritt Lego Camp.

**Isaac Wudu**, a student from Howard County Public Schools, attending the Kennedy Krieger – Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Rodney Scout Troop 361.

**Ganya Yemariamfere**, a previous Cardin Scholar from Baltimore City Public Schools attending the Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship for art classes at the Zoll Studio School of Fine Art.



# SCHOOL News



## Baltimore Lab

BLS U.S. History students have completed a semester-long project that culminated in a Five Minute Histories video with Johns Hopkins, Executive Director of Baltimore Heritage. 11th Grade students gathered information and archival photographs of Old Goucher Hall, one of the buildings that sat on the Goucher College campus beginning in 1879, to help provide the context for the video. In addition to their research in Mr. Burns'

history class, 11th Graders wrote a script in Ms. Beck's

English class about the history of Goucher prior its move to Towson in 1954. Special shoutout to Grant L. (Grade 11) for sharing his great-great-aunt's story, who attended Goucher College in the same building where BLS is housed today! To watch the Five Minute History about Old Goucher Hall, visit the Baltimore Heritage website. ([baltimoreheritage.org/five-minute-histories-explore-baltimore-virtually](https://baltimoreheritage.org/five-minute-histories-explore-baltimore-virtually))

## Cedar Ridge

On April 28, 2023, a group of high schoolers and staff went to the Hagerstown REACH Cold Weather Shelter to help prepare for the close of their season. Students sorted through canned goods to sort out foods nearing expiration dates, assembled shelving and did general cleaning of the shelter. This was a positive Student Service Learning trip for our students!



## The children's Guild Schools

Ms. Vesna Grujicic joined TCG, Inc. Transformation Academy as the new principal.

## Arrow Center for Education

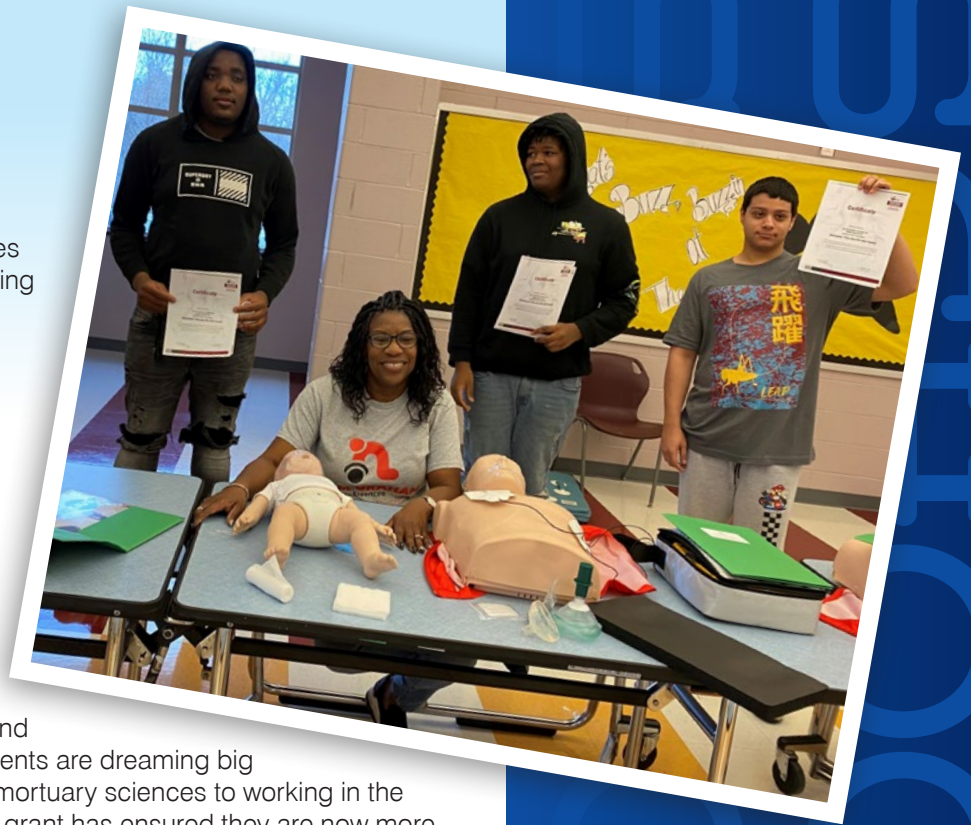
We are so excited to announce, out of hundreds of candidates throughout the state of Maryland, Samra Nazar, teacher at Arrow Center for Education Ascension Place, was one of seven recipients of the 2023 Teacher of Promise Award! Way to go Samra!





## Foundation School

High school students with emotional disabilities at The Foundation School in Largo are preparing for life after graduation through personal development and skills programs funded by the HSC Pediatric Center Life Enrichment Awards Program (LEAP) grant. Training in CPR, first aid, and AED, students learned life-saving skills and are now certified, giving them access to more job opportunities. 11th grader Marquail was excited to earn his certification and has maintained passing grades in all classes, working hard to make it to graduation next year. Meanwhile, students spent eight weeks in a youth development program learning how to build healthy habits, practice accountability, and effectively communicate with others. Our students are dreaming big for their futures- from building a career in the mortuary sciences to working in the field of education and child studies, the LEAP grant has ensured they are now more qualified and equipped to work toward their dreams.



## High Road Schools

### High Road Schools Welcome University of Maryland Basketball Team

Several Members of the University of Maryland basketball team paid a visit to the High Road Upper and Lower Schools of PG County. During the visit the team ran drills with High Road School students and discussed their experiences as college students. Several of the team members also discussed challenges they overcame in order to become University of Maryland Basketball players and students.

The High Road students had a great time asking questions and learning from the team. Students like Jeremiah (pictured) were given an opportunity to receive personal guidance and have a great time playing basketball during the event. It was a successful visit, and the students are all looking forward to the next opportunity to meet with the team!



MORE!

# SCHOOL News

## Ivymount

Ivymount School students and staff continue to be industrious and creative. Post High School students launched a shaved ice business, expanded a very successful Crafty Classroom hand-made greeting card business, and resumed production of dog biscuits in the IvyBarkery. Students in multiple programs received real-world feedback through mock interviews with community members from our Business Advisory Council and practiced off-site employment training with a range of community jobsite partners. The SLP department started a cross-model middle school girls' social group to encourage peers to practice pragmatic language skills and foster friendships.

Students of all ages and their families stayed busy with many events, including the annual IvyMoves fitness day, the Outreach Resource Fair, Sibling Night, a PTA family fun day, and field day events. To celebrate the end of the school year, Ivymount School was excited to host a Prom, Moving Up ceremonies, and High School and Post High School graduations. This year, Ivymount School proudly honored 11 students graduating with high school Diplomas and 15 with Certificates. Congratulations to all these very hard-working students!

As part of the year-long Six Decades of Ivymount celebration, the Ivymount School campus has been brightened with colorful new signage and has begun hosting events such as a well-attended Ivymount School alumni party. Parents are also helping with planning for the Memories and Momentum gala at the Washington National Cathedral on October 14.








The Katherine Thomas School held another successful Artist in Residence Week. Ssuuna, “A dancer, drummer, singer, songwriter, storyteller, and recording artist” educated and enlightened the school with their positive energy and creativity. Ssuuna is an energetic performer from Uganda. As stated by a teacher from another school (I couldn’t say it any better), ““Ssuuna’s presentation enriched the lives of our students by teaching them a different language along with dance and music native to his country. He also taught the students about self-respect, discipline, and valuing different perspectives...”

- Storytelling
- Making terrariums and soil research,
- Making galimotos (from a book called, “Galimoto” – galimoto means “car” in the national language of Malawi) from wire and other materials
- Immersion in the math/music connection by making Kalimbas and performing songs
- Making batik flags (traditional method of dyeing cloths) and researching and cooking East African breakfast food



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MORE!

# SCHOOL News

## Kennedy Krieger - Southern Maryland Campus

Photograph below taken at the Board of Regents Meeting, featuring

back row: George Thomas, VP Facilities, KKI; Dr. Bradley Schlagger, President and CEO, KKI; Dr. Aaron Parsons, VP Special Education, KKI; Dr. Eileen Abel, Executive Director of USMSM;

middle row: Dr. Linda Myers, VP Special Education, KKI; Linda R. Gooden, Chair, Board of Regents, USM; Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor, USM; Gary L. Attman, Vice Chair, Board of Regents, USM;

front row: Senator Jack Bailey; Amy Myers, Director of Education, KKI; Dr. Nancy Grasmick; Jim Anders, Executive VP, KKI

Kennedy Krieger Institute will expand its special education services across the state this fall by opening a new school in St. Mary's County that will serve up to 45 students with autism spectrum disorder, ages 5 to 21. The Southern Maryland Campus (SMC) will be in California at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). In November 2022, the University of Maryland Board of Regents voted to approve a 15-year lease with Kennedy Krieger. SMC will offer small class sizes, a high staff member-to-student ratio, comprehensive and integrated related services, and individualized behavior management, while providing instruction using evidence-based practices.

The SMC team is excited to make our footprint in Southern Maryland and grateful to have the support of the local school systems, State Senator Jack Bailey, Congressman Steny Hoyer, and the leaders of University System of Maryland.





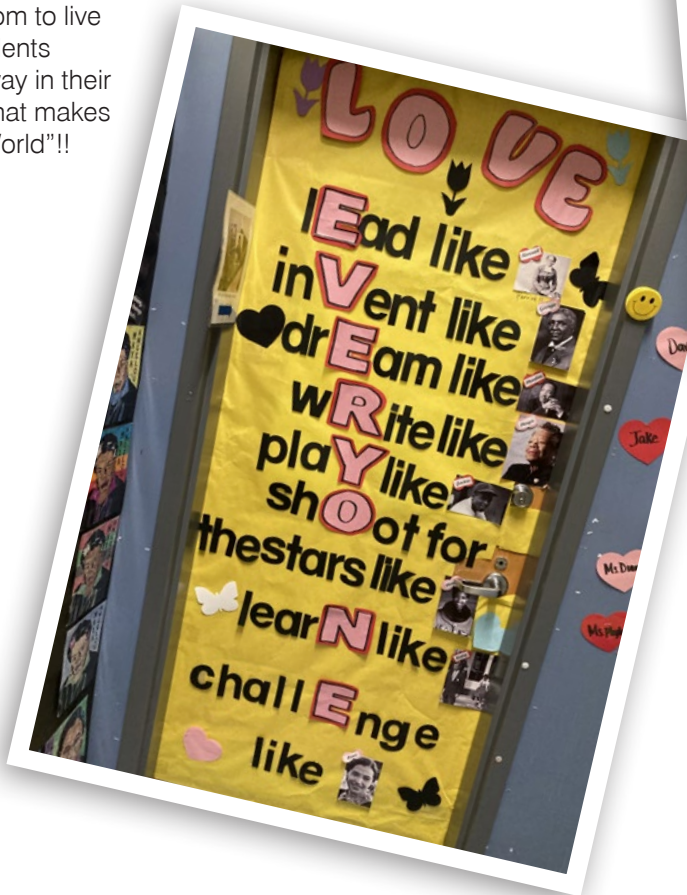
## Sheppard Pratt School - Rockville

With the help and leadership of their transition coordinator, Conchita King, Sheppard Pratt School in Rockville held its annual career day which provided a wonderful opportunity for students to gain insights into various professions and explore their interests. The career day presenters talked about their experiences, education, and day-to-day job duties. Career day is held each year to inspire and motivate the students to pursue their passions and plan their academic paths accordingly. During career day, students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about different industries. They learned about the qualifications required for each profession, as well as the potential salaries, work-life balance, and career advancement opportunities. The event exposed students to a wide range of professions that they may not have considered before, providing them with a better understanding of the job market and available opportunities.



## Sheppard Pratt School - Lanham

The Sheppard Pratt School in Lanham had many opportunities to celebrate! In February, staff and students all attended a Valentine's Jamboree to celebrate our first official month without masks! We were all very excited to SEE each other in person! Students walked and danced through the halls to view the classroom decorations they had made in honor of Black History Month. April's Annual Autism Celebrations were highlighted by our "Out of this World" fashion show where over 25 parents logged in via zoom to live stream their students walking the runway in their AU-some gear that makes us "Out of this World"!!





# MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT

## Baltimore Lab School

Brett S. is a 12th Grade student at Baltimore Lab School, who first enrolled at BLS in 2017 as a 7th Grader. During his senior year, Brett completed three internship opportunities through the BLS senior internship program. In the fall of 2022, Brett interned at Rawlings Conservatory. He organized a Lower School field trip to the conservatory and led a tour for his 12th Grade peers of the conservatory's winter display. Over the winter 2022 internship session, Brett worked at the Village Learning Place. This experience provided Brett the ability to practice advocating for himself when he needed support in an employment setting. In spring 2023, Brett wanted to learn more about the clerical side of business and worked at Autumn Lake Supported Living. He would sub for the front desk receptionist when they took their lunch break, and then spent the majority of his internship working with the residents at Autumn Lake. Because of his internship experiences, Brett became interested in finding ways to reduce plant-based solid waste. This led to Brett

writing and submitting a grant with the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE).

He received funding to purchase 100 plants to use as decorations for the BLS High School Prom, and then rehome the plants in classrooms and offices to promote a healthy school environment. Brett planned and executed the entire grant project from start to finish, with the support of BLS Outdoor Education Coordinator, Patti Child. Brett noted that he felt prepared to implement this project because of the executive functioning skills that he learned through the Middle School Innovator's Workshop program, the High School Advisory Compass program, and the time he spent with Related Service providers.

After Brett graduates in June 2023, he will enroll as a freshman at Stevenson University. Congratulations, Brett, on your many accomplishments!





# SUCCESS



## chelsea

### Chelsea School Holds First Annual College Signing Day

On Monday, May 1st, Chelsea School held its first annual College Signing Day to celebrate the achievements of its seniors as they announced which college they are planning on attending in the fall. All eleven of Chelsea's soon-to-be graduates plan on attending college after graduation.

Three of the seniors plan on attending Bowie State University, while others committed to Beacon College, East Carolina University, the University of Kentucky, Stevenson University, the University of the District of Columbia, Anne Arundel Community College, Montgomery College, and Prince George's Community College. "I'm so proud to see these students following in the great tradition of so many other Chelsea School graduates," said Chris Casey, Chelsea School Board member. "This is a great achievement, and one for which you and your families should be very proud."

Chelsea School has a long tradition of making college a realistic possibility for its graduates. Over the last 10 years, over 80% of Chelsea School graduates have attended two and four-year colleges or universities.



*Senior Ethan Gebreyes will be attending the University of Kentucky this fall.*



MORE!

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## *The children's Guild Schools*

### **The Children's Guild of Baltimore**

**Full STEAM ahead at the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Fair at TCG Baltimore.**

On March 15th The Children's Guild of Baltimore hosted a STEAM Fair where students presented their elaborate projects demonstrating the construction process of a house, solar and wind power, and much more. This was a great way to integrate all the subjects together, giving the students the ability to use their innovative and critical thinking skills. In today's world STEAM careers are all around us, and students were able to show off their skills in several hands-on activities providing a fun way for students to understand what STEAM careers are about.

Shout out to TCG's Transition Coordinator, Ms. Shawn Fletcher, for her commitment to skill-building and real-world application! The ultra-cool projects the students created for TCG's Baltimore First Annual STEAM Experience were terrific.

### **The Children's Guild – Transformation Academy**

The Transformation Academy accepted a young student who had been out of programming for three years due to COVID. Parents and the in-home care team worked very hard to establish a home program and were apprehensive about the transition back into the school

environment. The school team met with parents and the home care team to create a thoughtful and supportive transition back into academic programming by providing a social story, participating in modified share days, and by incrementally increasing the student's time in program with frequent check ins. With the approval of the LEA, Transformation Academy and the student's home team successfully increased the student's time to a full day. They are thriving and the family is thrilled!

### **The Children's Guild Schools of Prince George's County**

A student at the Children's Guild School of Prince George's County has created a project to bring the students and staff together while fulfilling a lifelong dream. Miguel, a senior in the High School Diploma program, is an aspiring movie director who wrote a full screen play for a movie that he is also directing. Students from the school and staff members have participated to help with making his dream a reality. The collective effort has inspired a boost to the school's community morale as everyone is working hard to help finish the movie. Miguel's full-length movie will premiere at the school's Prom which will have a Hollywood Premiere theme to help Miguel and his classmates experience what it is like to walk the red carpet.





## Foundation School

Earning a high school diploma is an important milestone for students with emotional disabilities, who are more likely than their general education peers to drop out of school. After years of addressing her truancy, helping navigate her housing displacement, and keeping her connected to her education through rides to school, our staff celebrated high school senior Aaliyah's graduation in February. Aaliyah enrolled at The Foundation Schools in the ninth grade following a history of struggling in the classroom at her home school and not receiving a compassionate approach to the struggles in her home life. Graduating early, Aaliyah embraced the individualized programming our school offers and worked incredibly hard to redirect the trajectory of her life and build a brighter future for herself.



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

### Student Thrives at High Road Upper School of Prince George's County

Johnathan P. has become more independent and confident since enrolling at the High Road Upper School of Prince George's County this school year. "He has a whole new level of confidence," said his mother, Ms. P. "He's come a long way." Ms. P said she doesn't know where she would be without High Road, especially his teacher Miss Smith. She credits staff with taking a lot of time to build a curriculum and going out of their way to make students happy.

Since he joined High Road, Johnathan is happy to go to school and has started making friends outside of the classroom. "He has a new lightness in his eyes," said Ms. P. "I can see it now that he can do bigger and better things, he can achieve his dreams, he can be somebody. He's a different person, I am so happy I found this school."





MORE!

# STUDENT SUCCESS



## Ivymount

Congratulations to Ivymount School student, Brady C, on a huge achievement. Brady and a teammate competed at the Skills USA State Championship in late March in the category of cybersecurity. Brady won the gold medal and the opportunity to represent the state of Maryland at the national competition to be held in Atlanta from June 19-23.

Brady is a student in Ivymount's Aspire School Program – Applied & Academic Learning Model. He also attends school part-time at Thomas Edison High School, where he takes classes in cybersecurity. Brady shared that he was “astonished” to receive gold. “I think this opportunity will help me practice my skills and help me with my goal to attend Montgomery college and later transfer to a state college or university to major in computer science.” Ivymount prioritizes partial inclusion for all diploma students' final year so they can receive the educational support they need while also experiencing less restrictive environments that align with their future goals.

## Kennedy Krieger - Fairmount Campus

The Kennedy Krieger School: Fairmount Campus rallies to support ROAR for Kids, a 5K and low mileage walk hosted by the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The event is created so departments and schools can raise money to enhance their program. This year the Fairmount Campus raised money for portable, high-tech, audio-visual equipment. Students will be provided with clear sound and visual support at indoor and outdoor events.

The administration held a contest when the school sought a graphic design for its 2023 ROAR t-shirt sales. Entries flooded in from throughout the school. When staff voted on the design, it was apparent which design would win. The image captured the enthusiasm needed for the project with a splash of humor.

The popular design helped to raise over \$400.00. Sixth grader Landon Passerini created the winning graphic. It was the first time

that a student had won the contest. Landon shared that a chameleon is notoriously difficult to draw, so he used an image as a reference. He frequently draws in his free time and created an animation for the school's talent show. Landon hopes to use this talent in his future career.





## Pathways

Laila Turner came to The Pathways School - Horizons in September of 2019 after experiencing adjustment difficulties and severe anxiety in school. She came focused on a desire to return to her local public high school for graduation. Even through the challenges of the pandemic, she reached that goal in June of 2022 when she received her Prince George's County high school diploma along with her public high school peers. While at Pathways Laila was concurrently enrolled at Prince George's Community College, and is now enrolled there post-graduation. Laila works part time at a local craft store, and she is very proud that she voted for the first time in the last election. She says, "Pathways provided me with support, exposure, and opportunities." The experience with the Pathways transition program at Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) led to her current paid computer animation internship there, turning her passion into a potential career. She will be assisting with GATe's upcoming film festival as well as working on her own independent project. Laila believes that *"Where you are now is not your final destination. You are the main character in your story. You can create whatever you want for yourself."*





MORE!

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## St. Elizabeth School

Last year, SES Student Ryan Mills expressed an interest in learning more about woodworking and maintenance procedures. The school's transition department asked SES Facilities Supervisor Nate Ludwig if Ryan could help him with projects around the school through the Work-Based Learning Program. Within just a few months Ryan has excelled at woodworking and completed multiple projects, including the construction of three new picnic tables for the school. In addition, Ryan has helped with multiple maintenance projects throughout the school. He changed the filters in all of the HVAC vents in classrooms and offices, helped replace ceiling tiles, regularly checked the oil in school vehicles throughout the year, and even replaced the rotted wood bed of the school's hauling trailer. SES is so proud of Ryan for his willingness to help out and to learn new skills!

## Sheppard Pratt School Gaithersburg

Elijah is a student who has brought so much joy to the Sheppard Pratt School in Gaithersburg. The staff has seen significant improvement in Elijah since attending Shepard Pratt School in Gaithersburg. He demonstrates leadership by motivating his peers to follow the school rules. He shows motivation by being an example to others, for example, by showing his peers how to advocate for themselves and others. He is the first in a group session to help others around him when they struggle in the classroom. He motivates his peers to try new activities. He takes the lead when he goes out in the community, ensuring everyone is good. Elijah is very empathetic and resilient. He does not give up very quickly. He is always willing to try new activities and learn about other backgrounds. He can be a role model to other youths with disabilities. He encourages others to look beyond his disability. He sees himself as someone who can change the world's perspective on the special needs population. Elijah advocates for his right and his desire for a family, job, and happiness are communicated and desired as others in society.





## Sheppard Pratt School Glyndon

### Sheppard Pratt students have all the write stuff!

Seventh and eighth graders at the Sheppard Pratt School in Glyndon wrote and submitted their original pieces to the Young Writers' Twisted Tales contest. The contest tasked students with putting their own twist on the classic "good vs evil" trope by asking that they create a unique villainous character with a sympathetic backstory. Students needed to choose their words carefully as their piece had a limit of one hundred words. The work of fourteen Sheppard Pratt students was selected to be published in the Young Writers' anthology. When the anthology arrives, it will be proudly displayed in our library. Please join us in congratulating our very talented students!



## Sheppard Pratt School Lanham

Meet Idris, our official School Bus Duty Assistant! He has worked hard to develop the skills to wait patiently and speak calmly. Idris brightens the school and adds joy to the afternoon by announcing the arrival of buses each day.





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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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MAY 3, 2024

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