

STEPPING Stones

Fall 2024

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

MANSEF News

Valuable Resources for Maryland Families

MANSEF is pleased to share two valuable resources right here in Maryland. The **Kennedy Krieger Resource Finder** and the **Parent's Place of Maryland** are dedicated to assisting families locate and secure services for their child with special needs. They provide information, support and resources to assist families by providing trainings and workshops as well as peer-to-peer support and referral services. So, whether you have a child with special needs or are looking to support a family who does, these organizations can aid you in your journey to understanding and advocacy.

Resource Finder

a project of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Who We Are

The Resource Finder is a valuable person-centered service for individuals with disabilities, families and professionals seeking information about and access to resources on intellectual, developmental and other disabilities and related disorders.

What We Offer

- Information about a wide range of intellectual and developmental disabilities and other conditions
- Information about service providers and specialists
- Child care resources
- Educational resources
- Recreational resources
- Financial and housing resources
- Parenting and caregiver resources
- Workshops and continuing education events
- Information about local, state and national associations

How It Works

Anyone is welcome to call or email the Resource Finder to request resources. When leaving a message for the Resource Finder, include as much detailed information as possible, including your location and contact information. The Resource Finder program coordinator will respond with a personalized list of resources.

Scan the QR code to make a request with the Resource Finder.



"The more you know, the more you can do."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Resource Finder at
Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more information, please call 443-923-2790, or call toll-free at 800-390-3372. TTY users, please contact us at 443-923-2645, or dial 711 to make a Maryland Relay call.

✉ ResourceFinder@KennedyKrieger.org

🌐 KennedyKrieger.org/ResourceFinder

Location
801 North Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21205



Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of employees, trainees, and patients and students, and their families. At Kennedy Krieger, we ground our care, services, training and research in treating others with respect and civility. We respect the cultural identity of every person. Kennedy Krieger does not discriminate against people based on, but not limited to, perceived or actual race, color, culture, ethnicity, national origin, age, language spoken, accent, marital status, veteran or military status, immigration status, socioeconomic status (i.e., access to resources), physical or mental disability, religion, pregnancy status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. We strive for equitable care for all individuals for whom we provide services, training, education and research participation. We encourage employees, trainees, and patients and students, and their families, to become active partners in the services provided by asking questions, seeking resources and advocating for their needs. Our culture of care is extended to our patients, the patients' family members and other people served. Here, "family" refers to parents, other family members, guardians, surrogate decision-makers and healthcare agents. ©2024 Kennedy Krieger Institute 6/24

Learn More. Get Involved. Stay Connected. Visit: KennedyKrieger.org/Connect



Maryland's Special Education and Health Information Center
Have a question or concern? Reach out!



We can help you...

- Learn how to advocate for the services your child needs
- Navigate the special education and healthcare systems
- Collaborate and communicate better with your child's school and health team

We have experts in...

- Early Childhood
- Transition
- Special Education
- Healthcare



Why

Our mission is to empower families as advocates and partners in improving education and health outcomes for children with disabilities and special healthcare needs with a commitment to diversity and equity.



What

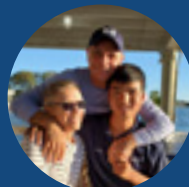
- One-on-one support from experienced parent experts
- Interactive training for parents and professionals
- Information and resources about education and healthcare
- Referrals to other organizations



Who

- Staffed by parents with lived experience
- Maryland's Special Education and Health Information Center
- The Parents' Place of Maryland (PPMD) began in 1990 with a philosophy of "families helping families"

Our funders and generous donors allow us to provide all of our services FREE to families.



"I'm the mom of a 21-year-old son with autism. Thanks to PPMD, I received the support and information I have needed to transition him at every stage of his schooling and from school to adult DD [Developmental Disability] services. Through its trainings, PPMD has helped me become the advocate my son needed to prepare him to live his best life."
- PPMD Parent (pictured)



@ThePPMD

@ThePPMDEspanol

@TheParentsPlaceOfMaryland

@theparentsplaceofmd

@thepmdespanol

PPMD's information, resources, and trainings can be made available in languages other than English, including sign language upon request. Please contact us regarding your translation and interpretation needs.

Get in Touch!

(410) 938-4413
mansef@aol.com





MESSAGE FROM THE President

Dear MANSEF Members,

As the Board President of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF), I enthusiastically welcome you to another year of collaboration, advocacy, and growth. Our organization is a vital resource for nonpublic special education schools across Maryland, and together, we can make significant strides in enhancing the educational landscape for students.

One of our foremost priorities this year is to advocate for and increase awareness regarding the critical role that nonpublic special education schools play in providing a full continuum of services. We recognize that every child deserves quality education tailored to their unique needs. By raising awareness about our programs and advocating for equitable resources, we aim to ensure that all students can thrive in an environment that supports their learning requirements.

To this end, your insights and experiences are invaluable as we engage in these discussions. Your feedback will help shape our advocacy strategies. We plan to develop strong relationships with legislators and the Governor's office to achieve this goal. Your involvement in this process is crucial; together, we can amplify our voices and ensure that those who serve our students are recognized.

In addition to advocacy, we are dedicated to supporting our member schools in navigating new legislation and regulations. This includes providing essential resources and guidance to ensure compliance while fostering an environment where MANSEF schools can excel. We are thrilled about our ongoing partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). Since December 2021, discussions have been underway to develop a Maryland Alternative Pathway Program (MAAPP) to support teachers employed at MANSEF schools. This innovative program officially launched its first cohort group in the Fall of 2024 to offer an alternative pathway for these educators to achieve full licensure. This collaborative effort enhances teacher preparation and strengthens our commitment to delivering high-quality education. Investing in professional growth empowers educators to serve their students better.

As we embark on this journey together, I encourage each community member, educators, administrators, families, and advocates to engage actively with these initiatives. Your participation is needed as we work collectively towards a future where every student can access exceptional educational opportunities.

Thank you for your continued dedication, support, and commitment to MANSEF and its mission. Together, let us continue working towards a brighter future for all students who benefit from nonpublic special education facilities in Maryland.

Warm regards,

Gina James,
Board President MANSEF

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Maryland Association of Nonpublic
Special Education Facilities

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SCHOOL News

Baltimore Lab

Read All About It! Our Oyster Gardening kick-off took place this fall when the Baltimore Lab School (BLS) Green Team visited the Lighthouse Point Marina on September 18, 2024, to plant oyster spat (babies) as part of our school's commitment to increasing the oyster population in the Bay. During this event, BLS students were featured in the news! Caydence L. (Class of 2025) and Tobi D. (Class of 2025) were featured on the front page of The Baltimore Sun. Nathaniel R. (Class of 2026) was interviewed for a WYPR story. To listen to the story, including Nathaniel's interview, visit tinyurl.com/bls-wypr-100824. Thank you to the Waterfront Partnership's Healthy Harbor Initiative and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for their support.

Top photo

Colton M. and Nathaniel R. (both Class of 2026) clean and collect data on an oyster cage.

Middle photo

Some of our BLS Green Team Members at the Lighthouse Point Marina (from left to right: Caydence L., Tobi D., Colton M., Nathaniel R., Hadassah Deena W., Gabi E., Eli K., Burke H., Carson K., and Khai L.).

Bottom photo

Caydence L. and Tobi D. (both Class of 2025) hold up the issue of The Baltimore Sun with their front page photo.

Benedictine

Benedictine's Therapy Dogs

Assistant Principal, Stephanie Franklin, is a true animal-lover. And she happily shares that love with her students. Her therapy dogs, Blue and Hera, are regulars on our Ridgely Campus. Their therapeutic benefit is felt by students and staff alike. And all were happy to celebrate their birthday recently with them. Benedictine is grateful for the dedication and creativity of our staff to help our students in so many unique ways!



Cedar Ridge

Hagerstown, Maryland Mayor Tekesha Martinez visited our careers class and shared with our high school students about her own experiences growing up in the foster care system. The

students were able to ask questions about her job as Mayor and how she ended up having that position. She encouraged them to build positive relationships with those who want to help them and to use their negative life experiences to fuel their success in the future, rather than be overcome by them. Thank you, Mayor Martinez, for supporting our youth!



More! SCHOOL News

Foundation School

Science is more fun when it is hands-on. This fall students from The Foundation School of Montgomery County visited the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. During their visit, students extracted DNA from wheat and tested their physical and mental strength through the exhibits. Teamwork was the main theme of this trip, as each student had to play their assigned role to complete the experiments. The various learning challenges that our students deal with daily can often be a source of frustration, leading to behavioral problems in the classroom. Field trips are an important outlet for the students in our program to learn new information in a relaxed and fun environment. The Science Center is just one example of how The Foundation Schools staff provide students with new experiences.

On October 17th, Prince George's County Councilmember Wala Blegay visited The Foundation School to learn about our school program. Her background in representing nurses who work in the mental health field makes her a great champion for supporting the mental wellness efforts that we strive to achieve with our schools.



Check Out Our Page and Give Us a Follow!

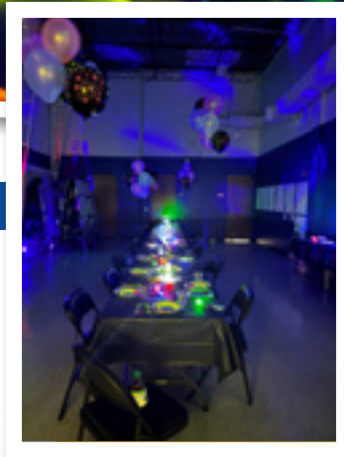


High Road Academy of Howard County

On Wednesday, Oct. 16th, students and staff at High Road Academy of Howard County participated in Unity Day, the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month, promoting togetherness to create healthier communities. The school encouraged all students and staff to wear orange to unite for kindness, acceptance and inclusion to send a message that no child should ever experience bullying. In addition to wearing orange clothing, students and staff were provided with orange wristbands to express a shared vision of the goal of Unity Day: to emphasize that bullying is not acceptable, and all students deserve to be safe in school, online and in the community.

High Road Academy of Prince George's County

During the week of October 7th, the staff and students at High Road Academy of Prince George's County celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week. The theme for this year was "Connecting Educators, Families and People with Dyslexia... Until Everyone Can Read." We decided to show our students how to glow with Dyslexia, so we celebrated with our students with a "Dine in the Dark for Dyslexia" lunch. We are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their learning differences. The knowledge gained through this week now allows our students to have better awareness of Dyslexia and the importance of living with it.



Get in Touch! (410) 938-4413

High Road School of Frederick County

High Road School of Frederick County kicked off its inaugural school year with several events to help connect families with their student's academic success. Most recently, students were able to participate in a trunk-or-treat event hosted by High Road staff. The purpose of these ongoing events is to give students and their families a chance to connect and participate in activities that allow for the practical use of social-emotional skills taught in the classroom setting. Baylee, a 7th grade student, has been actively involved in these opportunities. This has allowed Baylee to not only practice these critical life skills, but to model these skills for others and develop into a leadership role in the school setting.



More!
SCHOOL
News

Ivymount

Ivymount School had a packed fall with a Back-to-School Night information fair, PTA family movie night, apple picking/baking and Halloween parties, plus music, theater and dance events through Ivymount's Integrated Expressive Arts initiative. We also welcomed part-time therapy dog, Lightning! In October, Ivymount School celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by recognizing the jobsites that help prepare students for adult life. The Aspire Applied program launched 17 new clubs, spanning topics such as cooking, dance, chess, robotics, anime, and an LGBTQ alliance club. They align with clubs in public schools and create diverse learning and incidental teaching opportunities to support skill generalization.



Several programs offered educational opportunities to families and the broader community. The Endeavors program established a parent training series for new families and other targeted groups on topics such as academic and behavior intervention. The Transition team provided two information sessions about adult services for families of students earning certificates. And the Ivymount Professional Collaborative led webinars for caregivers and professionals on teaching sexuality education and on promoting positive transition experiences.



SCHOOL

News

Katherine Thomas School

KTS has greatly benefited from a partnership with the Rotary Club of Rockville. During the summer of 2023, Rotarians started building a butterfly and native plant garden (and some vegetables), which resulted in the creation of a high school horticulture class. The garden is used all year round, and the students even planted vegetables such as lettuce in the winter. In the spring of the 2023-2024 school year, the Rotarians returned to KTS to expand the garden, including the addition of a raised bed with vegetables and herbs. The garden has been a big hit with the students with its applications to horticulture, biology, and culinary classes, and the school's PT has even used picking the grape tomatoes for strengthening a student's fine motor coordination.

This summer, Rotarian Chuck Woolery educated the high school students about invasive plants. Then, he led them in removing invasive wild growth in the area near the school, which enabled the students to help the environment and earn community service hours. We are extremely grateful for the Rotary's support and the ensuing opportunities that the garden connection has provided for the KTS high school students!



More! SCHOOL News

Kennedy Krieger - Fairmount

The Kennedy Krieger School Fairmount Campus hosted a special guest on October 31st, Delegate Mark Edelson of District 46, Baltimore City. While on a tour of the program, he joined the students from the school at their annual on-site pumpkin patch. Every year the school's two playgrounds are transformed into pumpkin patches where students can pick their own pumpkin. This year's pumpkins were donated by SECU. Although there's no carving at school, students were able to select stickers to transform their pumpkin into a jack-o-lantern. In addition to visiting the pumpkin patch, Delegate Edelson visited classrooms, talked to parents, and soaked in the seasonal excitement.

Pictured (left to right): Sandi Jenkins, Education Director Kennedy Krieger School Fairmount Campus, Dr. Aaron Parsons, Vice President School programs, Delegate Mark Edelson, Dr. Linda Myers, Vice President School Programs, and Shellie Ritchie, Principal KKS Fairmount Campus.



Kennedy Krieger - Greenspring

Kennedy Krieger High School kicked off our Best Buddles collaboration with Archbishop Spalding High School on October 22nd with a "Meet and Greet Hang Out." Students from both schools enjoyed the weather while getting to know about each other in a casual, yet fun setting. In this picture, Brandon, Oscar, and Sofia engaged in reciprocal conversations with their buddies by using topic cards. Students are looking forward to our next event at Spalding High School to see their high school musical.



Check out our
newly revamped
website and follow
us on Facebook!



Kennedy Krieger - Southern Maryland

The students at the Kennedy Krieger School: Southern MD Campus participated in their first Summer Olympics Field Day. Fueled by the Olympic Games in Paris, students spent some of their summer sessions learning about and participating in Olympic-based activities which led to this final event. Students participated in an obstacle course, relay races, and activities to boost their tennis, field hockey, and soccer skills. It was great to see students and staff cheering each other on and a fun way to end our summer session!



Get in Touch! mansef@aol.com

RICA

There's a new 4' x 16' mural donning the walls of RICA-Baltimore to commemorate the Harlem Renaissance and Civil Rights Movement in the United States. The artwork was produced by students in Mr. Robley's art class. Construction began in late January and was completed in early March with the help of many students and staff. The artists used mixed media assemblage of painted cut cardboard, paper, and fabric on two quarter-inch plywood boards.

Students learned of collage artist Romare Bearden and painter/muralist Aaron Douglas. Both artists contributed greatly to documenting the history of the black experience within the United States from emancipation through the Harlem renaissance and into the Civil Rights era. Collage techniques used by Romare Bearden served as a backbone to the physical creation of the artwork while the imagery itself is directly tied to Aaron Douglas.



SCHOOL
More!
News

student SUCCESS



Arrow Center for Education - Hunt Valley

Senior Jaden M. is a student from The Arrow Center for Education located in Hunt Valley. Jaden applied for and was accepted to the CCBC General Motors ASEP program. This 2-year trade-based program is geared so that students earn their Associate of Applied Science degree. Students learn to repair newer model vehicles with classroom instructions and hands on training. Every student who completes the program has a job upon completion.

When asked if he was excited about his future Jaden stated, "if you had asked me before I came to Arrow if I would graduate, I would have told you no. I wanted to drop out to get away from school as fast as I could." He went on to explain that in the public school he felt like he couldn't learn, and he was embarrassed. When Jaden started at Arrow, he said he thought that it would continue to be the same story, but when he gave it a chance, things started to change. Jaden stated "All of the teachers teach us about strategies to calm down and to think things through. I learned that it is okay to get mad and this is the very important part, you do not have to keep getting mad. You can walk away, yell, or whatever, but walk away."

Jaden loves working with his hands and has planned to be a mechanic since Middle School. With the help of Ms. Dunham, the Transitional Coordinator, Jaden created a resumé, applied and was accepted to the CCBC Program. Jaden is scheduled to graduate in June 2025 and start the CCBC program in August 2025. We at Arrow Center for Education Schools are very proud of Jaden M. and his accomplishments. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Stories

Arrow Center for Education - Riverside

The Arrow Center for Education Riverside School would like to congratulate Aidan, Nehemiah, and Landon on their official Student Government Association class officer pinning ceremony. Candidates had to show improvement in self-regulation, have good participation in classes, and use their strategies to communicate and work collaboratively to win their campaign. We are so proud of all the candidates and their classmates who helped run a great campaign getting the whole school involved. All the candidates created platforms outlining what their stance was on homework, school lunches, and school culture along with what they would try to do to improve the student experience at ACE Riverside School. In their speeches the candidates explained why they would be the best candidate for the position, what leadership skills they had and why they had passion for their school. Pinning our students were our awesome teachers, Ms. Glassman and Mr. Riddick.

We can share a little more about one of our officers! Nehemiah is a well-spoken, charismatic leader in the classroom, and a skilled reader. Nehemiah will tell you that his teachers and staff at his old school never knew who he could be because they could not see the real him beneath his struggles. Nehemiah and his parents have expressed how excited they are that Nehemiah has made steady progress. Nehemiah's mother stated "My son is part of the school student government, and he takes his job very seriously. He completes his assignments with minimal prompting." His mom went on to express that several years ago this would not have been possible and that their family is so grateful that Nehemiah landed where he did.

Many times, we can lose sight of the little victories when compared to the big wins. For our students, being on a school football team is just a dream, something that seems unobtainable. Aidan wanted to play football but had difficulty when emotionally charged. Self-regulation, sportsmanship, and the skill of being coachable are concepts that are hard sometimes even on our good days, but Aidan had a goal of being on the football team and worked hard to get there! Aidan explained that the coaches told him that it is okay if you mess up, it is okay if things do not go the way you want but you need to keep trying.

At ACE Riverside Aidan was one of over fifteen students determined to meet his academic goals to be an Arrow Warrior! The ACE Football team played their homecoming game with Aidan actively as a part of the team. His family came out to watch the game because they were so proud of Aidan's determination, with all the little victories culminating in the big win of being a part of an athletic team. While the Arrow team got the win in terms of points scored, Aidan got an even more important win for himself!



student SUCCESS

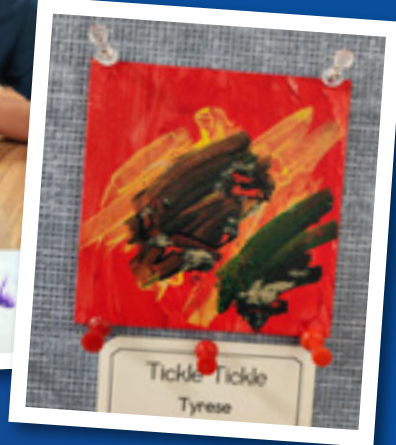
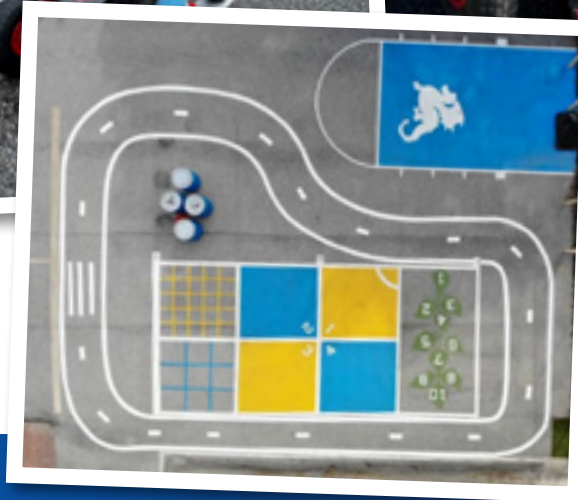
Baltimore Lab School

This school year, during recess, Lower School students have access to the Baltimore Lab School (BLS) bike path designed by our Occupational Therapists, Jennifer Severt and Taylor Gosnell-Del Franco. Garrett K., 4th Grader, uses the bike path weekly - it provides him with a heavy work opportunity that is age-appropriate and super fun! Garrett bikes on the path safely, demonstrates good body awareness, and shows leadership skills by helping to clean up the equipment at the end of recess. The bike path is also a great opportunity for Garrett to practice response inhibition and force modulation skills as he is able to bike up a gradual incline and judge turning at sharp corners. Way to go, Garrett! The painted bike path, along with several vehicles (scooters, go-karts, etc.), were funded through The Ravens Foundation, Inc.'s PLAY 60 Grant.

Top left photo - Garrett K., 4th Grader, biking on the painted path.

Top right photo - Lucinda B., 5th Grader in the background of this photo, uses the path by way of scooter. The scooter provides both vestibular and proprioceptive input and supports Lucinda's gross motor skills and flexibility with others. Lucinda does a great job with making and following a plan to use the bike path during recess.

Bottom photo - Aerial view of the BLS bike path, also known as the Trike Trail.



Benedictine School

Benedictine students participate in Tiny Art Show

Benedictine students showed off their artistry in the recent Tiny Art Show held by our local public libraries. The art show encourages creativity and expression with the only rule being the artwork must be smaller than 4" x 4" x 4." Eleven students participated from Benedictine and artwork was on display for the community to enjoy. We are so proud of their work!

Stories

Foundation School

Every summer, The Foundation School opens for students who need more time to prepare for the next school year. During the summer program, students engage in unique learning experiences outside the classroom. In July, the SHARE Food Network in Hyattsville, MD partnered with our high school students to provide volunteer opportunities. SHARE Food Network is led by Catholic Charities and provides nutritious meals to families in financial need, at a reduced cost. During their time with SHARE, six high school students counted and stored food items, packaged boxes, and learned how to move pallets. One student enjoyed working with SHARE so much that he inquired about future employment. Through the partnership with SHARE, students not only developed skills but gained exposure to future career opportunities and earned the service-learning hours required to graduate high school.



Check out our
newly revamped
website and follow
us on Facebook!



Get in Touch! mansef@aol.com

Ivymount

Emme T. has new skills, friends and fun at school after a year of hard work! Emme joined Ivymount School's Endeavors Program in 2023 as a first-grade student who had struggled to engage and participate in her previous school. To start, she focused on building relationships with her teachers and classmates and finding things she enjoyed. Her instructors systematically added more challenging work and activities to her schedule and Emme now participates in specials, small group instruction, and challenging individualized desk work/academic instruction. She is especially motivated to practice reading and spelling and loves showing new skills to her teachers. Emme works hard and advocates for herself and her needs throughout her school day. She loves to work on dance moves and is a great friend to classmates. She brought in treats for a show and tell to teach them about a special holiday she celebrates with her family. The school team is so proud of her hard work!

student SUCCESS Stories continued!

High Road Lower School of Prince George's County

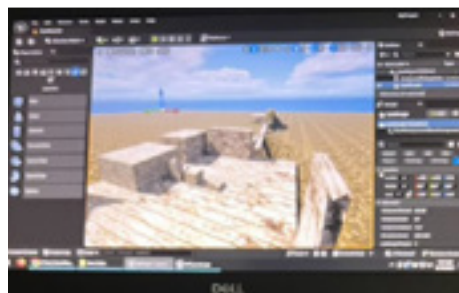
Messiah is a third-grade student who joined High Road Lower School of Prince George's County in the fall of 2023. When he began with us, Messiah had extreme challenges communicating his wants and needs. Messiah has spent nearly a year engaging with the PBIS system at our program and is now not only able to use functional communication on a regular basis, he also joyously gets out of the car in the morning to start each day with a parking lot dance party! Pictured is Messiah participating in our Silent Disco Party held for level 4 students in October.



Pathways

The Pathways Schools' winner of MANSEF's 2024 Cardin Scholarship, William, used his award to attend the summer iD Tech camp at Towson University. This one-week program allows students to get a taste of collegiate life while learning STEM skills and having fun. Topics included coding, game development, apps, videos, and robotics, taught by seasoned professionals. William said he enjoyed participating in the class learning to create an online game including platforms and breaking boxes, after drafting blueprints and writing plans. William had an amazing experience, and his campmates voted for the game he created as "Best Game" in the class. His instructor encouraged William to continue pursuing opportunities in the coding field. His mother and the Pathways team believe the award made a life-changing opportunity possible for him. He has continued to build on his camp experience and success by participating with Greenbelt Association for Visual Arts (GAVA) through Pathways this fall. We look forward to continuing to see him build his skills and prepare for future employment in the field.

Below: screenshot of William's computer game design; Cardin luncheon - staff member, with William, his mother, and Executive Director).



St. Elizabeth School

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) is a popular fantasy role-playing game where players team up to explore fictional worlds, face monsters, and reach shared goals. SES Social Worker Erin Robinson's high school counseling group has been playing D&D for over five years, inspiring the creation of a weekly D&D Club during lunch. This year, student Alex Hinrichsen has stepped into the leadership role of Dungeon Master, which involves crafting a new and original campaign for the school year. Group facilitators have enjoyed watching students bring creativity and leadership to the game. "The pride, responsibility, and confidence I have seen in Alex in just a few weeks has been astounding," said Ms. Robinson.



Phillips - Laurel

Mindful Moment at PHILLIPS School - Laurel

During the Extended School Year (ESY) program staff incorporated Mindful Moment breaks to help students with self-regulation. Our Mindful Moment breaks provided opportunities to take a walk outside, listen to soothing music, have a moment of silence, participate in a yoga class, etc. Students enjoyed the breaks so much that they created their own Mindful Moment cards. A collection of cards depicting Mindful Moment activities proven to work with our students will be a valuable resource.

Amos, a fourth-grade student, blossomed with his classes' Mindful Moment activities; particularly yoga classes. Amos often gets antsy towards the end of the day, sometimes to the distraction of others. He started asking for Mindful Moment breaks utilizing the yoga poses he learned. This resulted in him being much calmer and more engaged throughout the day.



Get in Touch! (410) 938-4413

RICA

The educational program at RICA-Baltimore is pleased to share the success story of Fernando! For the past four years, Fernando has been learning and improving his self-advocate skills. He was recently honored as a recipient of the prestigious 2024 Maryland Association of Resources for Families & Youth (MARFY) Youth Achievement Award. MARFY is an association of private child caring organizations providing foster care and other services across Maryland. Fernando was one of only 20 students selected out of hundreds nominated!

Fernando will be graduating this year and looks forward to entering a trade school to hone his mechanical skills. When asked to describe his journey with us, he shared that, "RICA-Baltimore turned my life around by helping me learn how to focus on myself and not worry about the drama of others anymore." His advice to all students who may be experiencing adversity at any point in their lives is to "always find something that you love to motivate you instead of using or doing anything to calm your stress that is not good for you."





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PO Box 6815
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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.



Check out our listing of educational advocates, consultants and attorneys in the new **2024-25 MANSEF Membership Directory.**

Visit **MANSEF.ORG** to download your copy.

*Check out our newly revamped website
and follow us on Facebook!*

