

STEPPING Stones

May 2025

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

MANSEF News

Congratulations

Cardin Scholarship winners!

In honor of their achievements, fifty-six Maryland students will receive scholarship awards from the Michael Cardin Scholarship Committee of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF). The scholarships were awarded May 1, 2025.

The students -- who all attend a Maryland nonpublic special education school -- receive significant support for a range of physical, emotional, and learning disabilities and were nominated by their school in recognition of their perseverance and hard work. The awards will allow the students to take part in a variety 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 \$650,000 to over 550 special education scholars.

"These students exemplify the achievements that are 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 their own way."

(continued on page 4)

Along with the scholarships, MANSEF will present an additional award.

Rhona Schwartz, of North Potomac, MD, was unanimously selected by the MANSEF Board to receive the *Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives* Award for her commitment to working in the field of special education for over 40 years. As a dedicated, inspirational, and well-respected High School Director at The Katherine Thomas School (KTS), Ms. Schwartz has been instrumental in the school's development and growth since its high school program opened in 2005. Under her leadership, KTS has continually evolved, ensuring students receive the highest quality education in a supportive and inclusive environment. She has gone above and beyond to serve the community, earning the admiration of faculty, staff, students, and parents alike.

Ms. Schwartz's legacy at KTS is one of unwavering dedication, innovation, and heartfelt commitment. We are honored to recognize her contributions with this nomination for the 2025 MANSEF *Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives* Award.



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MESSAGE FROM THE President

Dear MANSEF Members,

As we conclude another academic year, I want to express our gratitude to the membership, on behalf of the Board, for your unwavering dedication to our shared mission. I want to reflect on our journey together, the challenges that may lie ahead, and our accomplishments as part of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF).

This year has been marked by significant changes and budget cuts that may impact the educational landscape in which we operate. While these challenges will test our resilience, they have also reinforced our commitment to advocating for our member schools as they support the students and families with special needs. We have examined the changes closely and plan to weather the storms of these changes, always striving to ensure that our students receive the quality education they deserve.

We have worked diligently throughout the year to be strong partners with our local school systems. We will continue our efforts by fostering collaboration and open communication. We have been able to advocate effectively for the critical role that nonpublic special education schools play in providing a continuum of services. Your participation in this advocacy has been invaluable, allowing us to amplify our voices and ensure that the needs of our students are recognized and addressed. Thank you all for your ongoing advocacy, which was a primary goal this year, as we hope to continue to make an impact on stakeholders such as parents and legislators.

I am pleased to announce that we have completed the first year of the Maryland Approved Alternative Pathway Program (MAAPP), which officially launched its initial cohort this past Fall of 2024. This innovative program is designed to support educators in our member schools, providing them an alternative pathway to achieve full licensure. Investing in professional growth for our educators strengthens our commitment to delivering high-quality education and enhances the learning experiences for our students.

Our work is vital, and we must approach the coming year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Please rest, reflect, and recharge as we prepare for the summer months. Thank you for your commitment to our students and being part of the MANSEF community. Together, we will continue to navigate the evolving educational landscape and ensure every child has access to exceptional educational opportunities.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating summer!

Best wishes,

Gina James,
Board President MANSEF

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Maryland Association of Nonpublic
Special Education Facilities

(410) 938-4413 Phone
(410) 938-5130 Fax
mansef@aol.com Email
www.mansef.org Website

Gina James
President

Kathy Flannery
Vice President

Vacant
Secretary

Jennie Kampf
Treasurer

Sue McLendon
Immediate Past President

Dorie Flynn
Executive Director

SCHOOL News

Arrow Center for Education - Tangram

Excitement filled The Arrow Center for Education Tangram on March 28th during its annual student talent show. Serving students with autism and related neurological differences, Tangram provides a supportive environment where every student can shine—many using non-verbal or limited communication.

Performances of singing, dancing, and comedy brought joy to families, staff, and peers, showcasing resilience and growth. “The students worked so hard,” said Speech-Language Pathologist Caitlin Cress. “It was a true team effort.” Teachers, aides, therapists, and staff helped students prepare and succeed. For Transition Director Roslyn Branchcomb, the highlight was “seeing students cheer each other on and work together.”

One standout moment came from **Leo Reckord**, whose past struggles with performance melted away thanks to Tangram’s nurturing support. “He used to hide during events,” said his aunt, April. “Now, he’s excited, connected, and thriving.” Leo’s review? A proud “10 out of 10,” delivered with a smile and a thumbs up.



TALENT
Show



Check Out Our Page and Give Us a Follow!

Baltimore Lab

On April 26, 2025, Baltimore Lab School (BLS) families, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, and community partners gathered at Mama Koko’s, a local restaurant and cafe across from the school, to celebrate 25 years of innovative education for children with learning disabilities. Cassie Motz, board president, Marlene Riley, board development chair, and Michelle Medeiros, current Parents’ Association president, shared their stories and experiences as parents of BLS students, their journeys to find a specialized school like BLS, and the transformative power of arts-integrated, multi-sensory instruction provided by highly qualified special educators and related service providers.

Thank you to our community for joining us in marking this significant milestone in our school’s history!



Marlene Riley, board member and parent of a BLS graduate, introduces the celebration theme.

MANSEF 2025 Cardin

(continued from page 1)

The following 56 students were selected because they exemplify the spirit that everyone can succeed with dedication and support.

Ava Alston, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending Chelsea School, will use her scholarship for XLP Tennis Camp.

Koby Ampoma-Mensah, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Penwood.

Corbin Andrucyk, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending The Chimes Schools, will use his scholarship for classes at Baltimore Clayworks.

Nicholas Arnett, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab, will use his scholarship for the College Internship Program at Elms College in Orlando, Florida.

Daniel Arter, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend Stages Music Arts Summer Camp.

Skyler Ball, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending Chelsea School, will use her scholarship for driving lessons at Karons Driving School and Camp Letts YMCA.

Ah'meer Barney, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship for football camp through the Lutherville/Timonium Recreation Council.

Morgan Butler, a student from Charles County Public Schools attending Kennedy Krieger LEAP Program, will use her scholarship for Camp Co-op Swim School.

Ailynn Cabell, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship for art lessons at The Painting Workshop.

Tristen Canada, a student attending Chelsea School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Shule.

Cameron Carroll, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend flag football camp through the Lutherville/Timonium Recreation Council.

Tallen Clark, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending The Auburn School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Aristotle.

Henry Colter, a student from Fairfax County Public Schools attending The Auburn School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Aristotle.

Nyah Coston, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending Chelsea School, will use her scholarship for volleyball academy and to attend Camp Letts.

Samuel Denney, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Offensive/Defensive Football Camp and Summer's Best Two Weeks camp.

Christopher Dingle, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending Chelsea School, will use his scholarship to attend a music workshop at the Berklee College of Music.

Jayce Dolphin, a student from Inspired Teaching Demonstration School attending The Auburn School, will use his scholarship for Camp Aristotle.

Amandine Fons, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending Chelsea School, will use her scholarship to participate in classes at the Savage Fencing Club.

Dontae Fulford, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship for art lessons at Make Studio Art Program.

Samuel Garrett, a student from Calvert County Public Schools attending The Pathways School - Anne Arundel, will use his scholarship to attend Rubiks WCA World Championships.

Finn Geller, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Million Boys Lacrosse Camp.

Wyatt Glunt, a student attending Chelsea School, will use his scholarship for SPD Basketball Camp.

Joshua Greene, a student from Howard County Public Schools attending The Pathways School - Catonsville, will use his scholarship to take classes at the Easy Method Driving School.

Quadus Green, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending The Foundation School of Montgomery County, will use his scholarship to participate in the MCO Warriors Basketball Organization.

William Hammel, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending The Pathways School - Catonsville, will use his scholarship to attend the ID Tech Camps.

Samuel Hankin, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending Sheppard Pratt School-Rockville, will use his scholarship for driver's education at Montgomery College.

Amelia Hardy, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to attend Lake Roland Summer Camp.

Robert Hardy, a student from Prince George's County attending High Road Academy of Prince George's County, will use his scholarship for game design through ID Tech Camp.

Angelo Highsmith, a student from Baltimore County Public schools attending Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend Lake Roland Summer Camp.

Yael Humphrey, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship to attend Camp Under the Stars.

Scholarship Winners

(continued from page 4)

Ayden Jennings, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Arrow Center for Education Tangram, will use his scholarship to attend Tech Revolution Summer Camp.

Kanyia Johnson, a student from Howard County Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to attend Lake Roland Summer Camp.

M'Riyah Johnson, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Arrow Center for Education Hunt Valley, will use her scholarship to attend MICA's summer program for art classes.

Lucas Khelawan, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending Chelsea School, will use his scholarship to attend the Sportfit Tennis Crusher Academy.

Skylar King, a student from Calvert County Public Schools attending Kennedy Krieger LEAP Program, will use her scholarship to participate in adaptive swimming lessons.

Andrew Lee, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending Sheppard Pratt School-Rockville, will use his scholarship to attend Lessans Camp JCC.

Kevin Lee, Jr., a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending The Chimes School, will use his scholarship to attend the Baltimore School of Music.

Jarome Liason, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Arrow Center for Education Hunt Valley, will be taking lessons at the ABC Driving School.

Shoshana Mako, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship to attend the Maayan Midwest Girls Classic Camp.

Taylor Malone, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to take art classes at The Painting Workshop.

Mar'Quez Marshall, a student from Anne Arundel County Public Schools attending St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend the Stages Music Arts Summer Camp.

Devin Murray, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County, will use his scholarship to attend camps through Montgomery County for robotics, culinary and ice hockey.

Lemario Owens, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend the Loyola Sports Broadcasting Camp.

Justice Peaks, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools attending The Chimes School, will use his scholarship to attend the Outreach Life Center: Boys and Girls Summer Basketball Camp.

Nazir Perry, a student from Dorchester County Public Schools attending the Benedictine School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Fairlee.

Michael Precht, a student from the Baltimore County Public Schools attending Arrow Center for Education Tangram, will use his scholarship to attend School of Rock.

Ian Reyes, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend Lake Roland Summer Camp.

Isaiah Rock, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending Arrow Center for Education Hunt Valley, will use his scholarship to attend My Driving Academy.

Jeremiah Smith, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend ID Tech Camp.

Nasir Smith, a student from Frederick County Public Schools attending The Foundation School of Montgomery County, will use his scholarship to attend martial arts classes at Groundswell MMA.

Noah Solomon, a student from Fairfax County Public Schools attending Sheppard Pratt School-Rockville, will use his scholarship to attend Workhouse Arts Center for visual art lessons.

Aleydis Morales Soriano, a student from Howard County Public Schools attending High Road Academy, will use her scholarship to attend Baltimore Chef Shop: Bake On!

Darius Waters, a student from Harford County Public Schools attending Arrow Center for Education Hunt Valley, will use his scholarship to attend Best Choice Driving School.

Holly Weber, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending The Chimes School, will use her scholarship to attend The Dance Studio.

Michael Wilson, a student from Anne Arundel County Public Schools attending Sheppard Pratt School Severna Park, will use his scholarship to attend Drive-Rite Driving School.

Lily Zuby, a student from Harford County Public Schools attending Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship to attend the Rage Box Contemporary Dance classes.

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



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mansef@aol.com

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More! SCHOOL



Benedictine

Benedictine is happy to announce that Stephanie Franklin has assumed the role of Education Director of our school education program. Stephanie has been with Benedictine for 12 years and has most recently been serving in the role of Assistant Principal. She has been an integral part of day-to-day operations as well as school planning and will continue to guide our staff in supporting our students to achieve their greatest potential.

Julie Hickey, who has been in the role of Education Director, will be shifting focus to growth and strategic initiatives in the role of VP of Children's Services.

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Foundation School

The Foundation Schools marked 50 years of service at our 2025 Benefit with a memorable evening of inspiration and celebration. We were honored to welcome United States **Senator Angela Alsobrooks** as our featured speaker. A steadfast advocate for Maryland nonpublic schools, Senator Alsobrooks spoke passionately about the urgent need to protect special education in today's challenging political landscape. Her presence united our community and reaffirmed our shared commitment to advocating for our students.

A standout moment of the evening was the "school of rock" performance by students from The Foundation Learning Center. Guided by their music therapist and support staff, students performed uplifting songs with heart and confidence, earning a standing ovation. The performance not only showcased their talent but also beautifully reflected our autism school's commitment to nurturing self-expression, emotional regulation, and collaboration through creative, individualized approaches. It was a spectacular night and a milestone worth celebrating.



News

High Road Academy of Howard County

High Road Academy of Howard County proudly celebrated World Autism Awareness Day by “Lighting It Up Blue.” Staff wore custom shirts and students joined in by wearing colorful wristbands. As part of Autism Acceptance Month, the school was decorated with puzzle pieces, lights, and inspiring artwork to recognize and honor the autism community. Throughout the month, students were greeted in the morning with quotes spotlighting trailblazers on the Autism Spectrum, helping spark meaningful conversations and reflection.



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High Road Academy of Prince George's County

High Road Academy of Prince George's County kicked off World Autism Month with a colorful and collaborative door decorating project.

The displays highlight themes of individuality, connection, and acceptance. Some doors include positive messages about the strengths and talents of individuals with autism, while others showcase notable public figures who are part of the autism community. Each puzzle piece reflects the idea that everyone is a valuable part of a larger whole.

These creative displays serve as a daily reminder that when everyone's unique pieces come together, the community is stronger and more complete.



More! SCHOOL News



Ivymount

Ivymount School continues to expand opportunities for students to practice creative expression, vocational skills and work-based learning. Through the Integrated Expressive Arts program, Aspire Social elementary and middle students requested and participated in a Renaissance dance demonstration. They also began a daily class focusing on drama via various games, which culminated in a student-led play. Endeavors School Program students enjoyed two interactive theater performances by Only Make Believe.

Through the Partnering for Productive Futures initiative, Endeavors students began working at five new community job sites. Post High School (PHS) students who work at the Brookdale senior living facility help lead a fitness class for seniors in the dementia care unit. Aspire and PHS students grow and sell plants through their Garden Grove horticulture business, and they recently “planted a seed” in the community by distributing tens of thousands of organic seed packets to various sites during travel training classes.

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Kennedy Krieger High School

"ANNIE" Lights Up the Stage at the Kennedy Krieger High School

The KKHS's production of "Annie," with its timeless message of hope and resilience, brought joy and laughter to a packed gymnasium on Friday, April 4th, 2025.

Annie stole the spotlight, bringing the crowd to their feet with her rendition of "Tomorrow." Daddy Warbucks brought warmth and gravitas to the role, balancing stern authority with genuine affection.

The supporting cast was equally impressive. The orphans brought energy and humor to every scene, especially during the rousing "It's the Hard Knock Life." Miss Hannigan played with comedic brilliance and perfectly timed delivery of "Little Girls."

Directed by Ms. Morgan Sadler, Mrs. Rachel Koster, and Mz. Beth Mwano, the production was polished and professional. We are thankful to our generous donors who made this production possible.

KKHS's production of "Annie" reminded us all that the sun really will come out tomorrow.



From left to right; Rachel Koster, Beth Mwano, Morgan Sadler



Kennedy Krieger - Southern Maryland

As part of autism awareness month, the Kennedy Krieger School: Southern MD Campus participated in the 2nd Annual Sensory Day hosted by the Wy's Words Foundation. This family friendly play day, which promoted inclusion and acceptance within our community, was loads of fun.

Linwood

Linwood School celebrates Mother's Day on the Wednesday before Mother's Day each year. Mother's received a flower planted in a pot that each student decorated this year. Students, moms, and staff all enjoyed breakfast on the front patio. The sunshine and temperature were a sign that spring was here to stay. **Xavier** enjoyed Muffins with Mom's with his grandmother and mother. Xavier will be a 2025 graduate of Linwood School.



SCHOOL
More!
News

SCHOOL



Sheppard Pratt

*Superintendent of Education for the State of Maryland, **Carey Wright, Ed.D.**, visited Sheppard Pratt's school in Hunt Valley for a tour.*

Carey Wright, Ed.D, Superintendent of Education for the State of Maryland, recently visited our Sheppard Pratt school in Hunt Valley. This visit provided a unique opportunity for Dr. Wright to engage with our leadership team and learn more about the important work we are doing in support of students with diverse needs.

During her tour, Dr. Wright was joined by Dr. Harsh K. Trivedi, CEO and president of Sheppard Pratt, Kathy Flannery, VP and chief of schools, and Tim Yearick, education director. The group toured the facilities, observed classroom interactions, and engaged in meaningful conversations about the state of education in Maryland, particularly for students who benefit from specialized support services.

We are grateful to Dr. Wright for taking the time to visit and for her interest in understanding the vital role that Sheppard Pratt plays in the broader educational landscape. This visit further strengthened our relationships with key stakeholders and reinforced our commitment to providing the highest level of care and education for all students.

The Sheppard Pratt School in Glyndon's Rebecca Bolton, lead clinician, and Arielle Wright, LCSWC, trained their fellow colleagues on the power of restorative circles. With a wealth of knowledge and hands-on expertise, Rebecca and Arielle guided school employees through the principles and practices of restorative circles—a powerful approach to fostering positive relationships, resolving conflicts, and building a supportive school community.



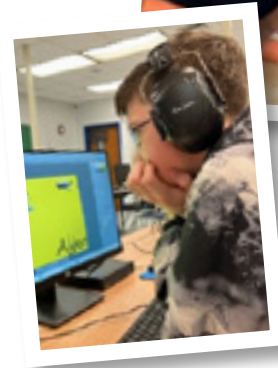
Sheppard Pratt School in Rockville recently hosted its annual Career Day to help students learn about opportunities available after they finish school. Members of the community joined our students to share about their careers in areas including nursing, police work, farming, writing, digital media, IT, and more.

News

continued!

The Sheppard Pratt Schools in Anne Arundel County are Type II programs: special education programs embedded within public schools. The goal is for students to be able to maximize the time they spend with their peers at Millersville Elementary, Severn River Middle, and Severna Park High School.

Each of our Type II programs has been celebrating success this spring! In the elementary school, students participated in cardio drumming in the physical education class. Middle schoolers enjoyed working on projects in the digital palette class. At the high school, students participated in a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) activity focused on cancer awareness. We are grateful for the collaboration and experiences our students have within the public schools, all while getting the support they need from their special education program.



At the end of January, Lindsay Lyons, school related services manager at the *Sheppard Pratt School in Hunt Valley*, Caitlyn Gambrill, school related services manager at the Sheppard Pratt School in Rockville, and a team of speech language pathologists (SLPs) attended the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference in Orlando, Florida. The conference is known as the leading community-building and learning event for all things AT, and this year's theme was geared toward complex communicators.

At the conference, Lindsay and her team spoke about their collaboration with the Hunt Valley transition coordinator to adapt transition assessments and yield more accurate outcomes, as well as their collaboration with staff and the community to provide meaningful vocational experiences for their students and support making the community more accessible for the population they serve.

student SUCCESS

Baltimore Lab

Kate Reinhart, BLS 11th Grader, and BLS Outdoor Education Coordinator, Mrs. Patti Child, attended the 83rd Annual State Conference of the Maryland State Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) in March 2025. Kate, the State President, presided over the conference and presented her State Project supporting the Sultana Education Foundation. Over spring break, Kate visited the Sultana Education Foundation in Chestertown and, as part of her year-long fundraising efforts, delivered a \$14,200 check for the foundation. The donations were raised to purchase a new stays'l and fresh set of flags in honor of the America250! celebration. While at the foundation, Kate had a few minutes to relish in her accomplishment. Kate's term as State President was from April 2024 to April 2025 and part of her responsibilities were to work with her mentor to develop and implement a meaningful "State Project" for Maryland C.A.R. members to participate in through education, service, advocacy, and fund-raising. Her theme was "Clear Skies & Favorable Winds" and members participated in two service projects: volunteering at the 250th Commemoration of the Burning of the Peggy Stewart in Annapolis last October and then at a SEF event in Chestertown in November. Kate represented Maryland C.A.R. and promoted her project at almost 40 events this past year.



Stories

Children's Guild

Graduating senior, **Chase Lynch**, was proudly featured as an author at Family Literacy Night at Anne Beers Elementary School in Southeast Washington, DC, where he debuted his new audiobook to an enthusiastic audience of students, families, and educators. The timing of the event was especially meaningful, as April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month – a perfect backdrop for the characters in Chase's book, who reflect the diverse experiences of children and teens on the spectrum. His story not only captured imaginations but also sparked important conversations about inclusion, acceptance, and representation. Chase also had the amazing opportunity to discuss his new book live on Living Local DMV (channel 50).



Devin is a bright and curious student with autism who needed an environment that nurtured his unique strengths and learning style. When his family found The Children's Guild of Prince George's County, they discovered a place that valued his brilliance and provided the structure he needed to succeed.

The Children's Guild's classrooms were unlike anything Devin's family had experienced—designed for creativity, movement, and engagement. The school's flexible, student-centered approach extended learning beyond desks and textbooks. Teachers tailored strategies to each child, encouraging exploration, self-expression, and confidence. This dynamic setting helped Devin embrace his strengths, develop social-emotional skills, and grow into a self-assured learner.

The school's holistic model equipped Devin with the tools to excel academically and socially. His progress was so significant that he no longer needed independent social therapy. Devin has grown into a confident young man who now speaks to crowds, sharing his story with pride.

Beyond academics, teachers and staff champion Devin's passions, from his charitable projects to his track meets, reinforcing that success extends beyond the classroom.

"Devin has matured so much since being here. My family and I are truly thankful to all the staff and teachers at The Children's Guild. This is truly a place that meets each child where they are and helps them blossom and grow."

- Nicole, Devin's mom

More STUDENT



Foundation School

The Foundation School Family is proud to celebrate **Kayden**, winner of the 2025 Children's Mental Health Matters (CMHM) Art Poster Competition! His original artwork was selected to represent this year's statewide campaign, which promotes mental health awareness, acceptance, and support for children and families. Kayden's design beautifully captures the campaign's core message: the power of Kindness, Hope, Support, Love, Talking, and Listening. His art will be featured throughout the year to inspire conversations, combat stigma, and encourage open dialogue about mental health.

As the face of the 2025 CMHM campaign, Kayden is using his creativity to make a meaningful impact.

We celebrate his achievement and applaud him for using art as a powerful tool to promote understanding and hope.

Check out the 2025
Cardin Scholarship winners
on pages 4 and 5!

SUCCESS

Stories

High Road School of Frederick

This spring at High Road Frederick brought not only a change in weather, but butterfly gardens for our students to nurture and learn from. During this process, students were able to not only learn academic content but also discuss and develop social-emotional skills. **Jabari** is one student who has really sprung into the 2025 Spring activities. His self-confidence and positive mindset have sprouted into increased academic outcomes and engagement in the classroom. Classroom staff member Ms. Thea noted “Jabari has grown into his skills and confidence and is so excited to create more positive classroom experiences with his peers.”



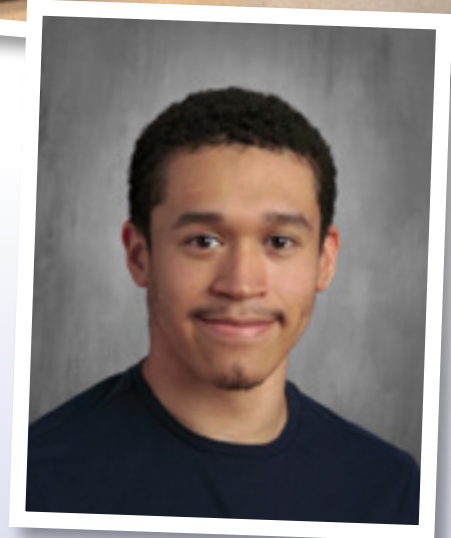
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Ivymount

Gabe joined Ivymount School's Aspire program in 2013, seeking more individualized programming to meet his diverse support needs. Ivymount staff provided tailored strategies and a neurodiversity-affirming approach to help him overcome challenges and emphasize his unique talents. Now a senior who works at jobsites, Gabe also takes in-person classes at Montgomery County Community College and will graduate with 15 college credits.

Gabe's Intro to Mythology final project featured a mock debate between two historical figures, which earned special recognition from his professor. He plans to attend Montgomery College, majoring in Humanities, before transitioning to a four-year university.

Known for his wisdom and sound judgment, classmates often seek Gabe's advice. Reflecting on his journey, Gabe says, “Ivymount provided me with a community which really helped me come into my own and recognize my potential.”



student SUCCESS stories...



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Katherine Thomas School

What an incredible season it's been for The Katherine Thomas School Special Olympics middle school and high school basketball teams! Both teams demonstrated outstanding determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season, culminating in a stellar performance at the State Championships recently at the University of Maryland.

The middle school boys brought home the gold medal and our middle school girls and KTHS team earned a well-deserved silver — a true testament to their hard work and dedication.

This achievement would not have been possible without the incredible guidance and leadership of our coaches: Coach Mavros, Coach Hammond, Coach Kahn, Assistant Coach Becker, and Assistant Coach Evelyn. Thank you for your unwavering support, commitment, and belief in our athletes.

Linwood

Kyra Gorman, featured in Linwood School's CBI Corner, has worked at Aneгада Delight for the past two years. She participated in a Work Based Learning Experience (WBLE) which is an 8 week paid work opportunity through DORS.



student SUCCESS

Phillips - Laurel

This April, **Shaun Schwarzmann**, a senior from the Class of 2025, successfully earned his ServSafe Food Handler certification. As a student in the Culinary Arts program, Shaun had the opportunity to gain this nationally recognized credential through the National Restaurant Association.

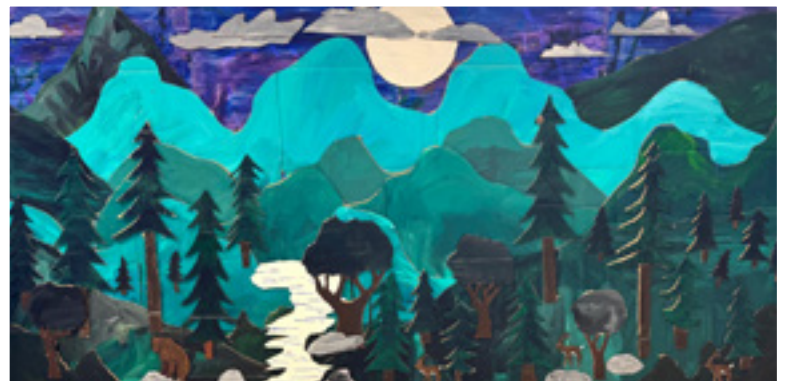
The ServSafe certification demonstrates essential knowledge in food safety and hygiene—covering topics such as proper handwashing, safe food storage, and preventing cross-contamination to stop the spread of harmful bacteria. This achievement supports Shaun's post-secondary interests and enhances his future employment opportunities in the food industry. His teacher and parents are incredibly proud of his hard work and dedication.

What's next? Shaun is currently studying for the OSHA certification. This credential is often sought after in various industries to demonstrate a worker's workplace safety and health training.



RICA

The students at RICA-Baltimore were assigned a project to create a large mural to beautify the Media Center. They worked in conjunction with the media specialist to brainstorm imagery that could match the nature-themed decorations already within the space. After considering several options, the students developed several images digitally and presented their work to the media specialist to obtain feedback regarding what imagery would best fit the space. With two final images chosen, a day and night scene, the class began the process of creating large cardboard based collages mounted on plywood and painted to create visual texture. The students worked for 5 weeks and eventually created the two murals shown. They used the artist, Emily Carr, to draw inspiration for both color and the form of the landscapes. The expected final installation of the work within the media center is late May or early June.



Stories continued!

St. Elizabeth School

St. Elizabeth School is proud to announce that four of its students have been awarded the Michael Cardin Scholarship for 2025!

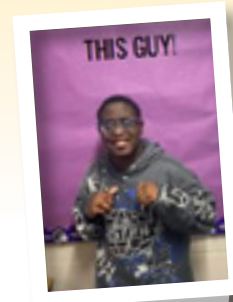
Koby Ampomah-Mensah, a third-time recipient, will return to Camp Penwood this summer. **Daniel Arter**, also a three-time recipient, will attend Stages Music Arts camp to continue growing his musical talents.

First-time recipients **Mar'Quez Marshall** and **Dontae Fulford** will be exploring their creative passions this summer—Mar'Quez at Stages Music Arts camp and Dontae at the Make Studio summer arts program.

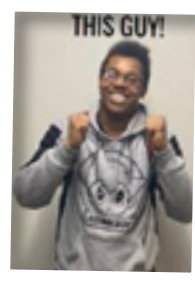
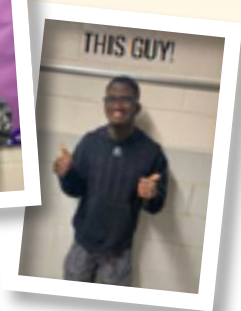


to All Our Scholarship Winners!

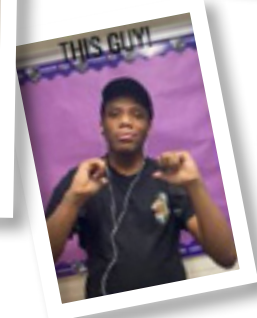
Daniel



Koby



Dontae



Mar'Quez



Sheppard Pratt

Congratulations to our Severna Park High School student for being part of the winning Unified Tennis team!

We are thrilled to announce that a student from Sheppard Pratt School at Severna Park High School was part of the team that won first place in Unified Tennis! This remarkable achievement highlights the hard work, teamwork, and spirit of our students.

Unified Sports pairs general education students with special education students to compete at the county and state levels. The program focuses on building friendship, physical activity, confidence, social inclusion, community inclusion, and school inclusion.





6501 North Charles Street
PO Box 6815
Baltimore, Maryland 21285-6815

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.**



Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities

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