

STEPPING Stones

MAY 2022

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

MICHAEL CARDIN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 38 SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS FROM MARYLAND NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In honor of their achievements, thirty-eight 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 were awarded April 26, 2022.

The students -- who all attend or previously attended a Maryland nonpublic special education school -- are challenged by a range of physical, emotional and learning disabilities and 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.

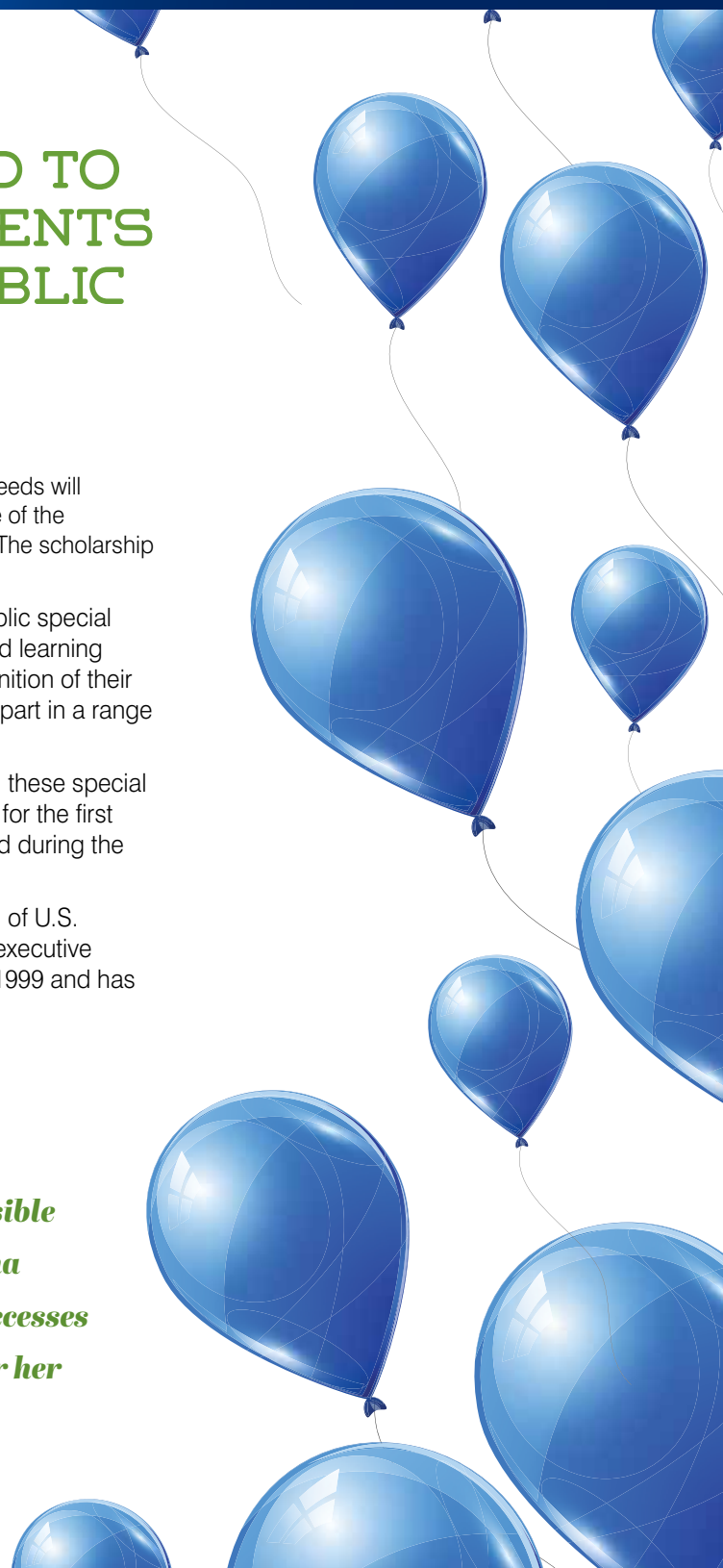
"It brings great joy to our dedicated Board members to know how proud these special student scholarship winners feel, as most are being publicly recognized for the first time in their lives for receiving an award for what they have accomplished during the school year.", said Alan Kanter, chair of the 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 \$420,000 to nearly 495 special education scholars.

For more information about the scholarship recipients, please contact Dorie Flynn at 410-938-4413, mansef@aol.com.

See page 14 for the full list of winners

"These students exemplify the achievement that is possible when students receive the proper supports," 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."



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to our members, students and families, and other partners,

This feels like a very busy time. We have had our legislative and advocacy season wrap up, a wildly successful virtual MANSEF conference, budgets due, end of year looming, Michael Cardin scholarship winners to congratulate, and graduations to prepare and celebrate! Some of what is keeping us busy is the "have to's" of the routine that comes with the end of the school year. But my wish for all of us is to be able to slow down to really enjoy the things that make it all worthwhile. We had 38 students achieve and be recognized as Michael Cardin scholarship winners. We had over 1000 attendees for a conference that was truly a labor of love to put together. And, in just a bit, we will have a number of students exit our doors into the world as graduates.

We work so hard to make the best things happen for the students we serve. So now, let's enjoy these moments where the best things are happening right in front of our eyes! One of my colleagues refers to things that "fill her cup", things that give her the joy and the energy to sustain through the tough moments. Breathe in these moments of celebration and refill your cup.

We have more ahead—some new legislation that will impact behavioral practices, more advocacy to due for salary parity, and all that comes with the cycle starting again of the school year. But looking at all we have done together this year, I have hope and optimism for what lies ahead.

I could not end this letter without thanks to you all for everything you do for MANSEF. To my Board colleagues for wrestling with complex issues, to the whole membership for supporting each other and the mission for our students, and to all our partners and stakeholders that worked hand-in-hand with us. Thank you to you all, and may your cups be full.

Sincerely,

Sue McLendon

Sue McLendon

MANSEF President



MANSEF

Virtual Conference

THAT'S A WRAP!

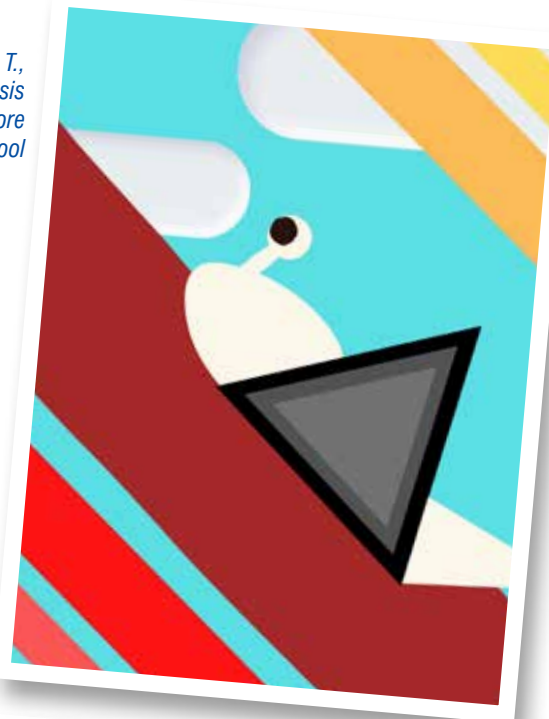
More than 1,000 special educators converged virtually on Friday, May 6th for the **MANSEF conference**. The keynote address was given by Debbie Silver, humorist and a boldly authentic speaker which set the tone with her inspiring remarks, motivating attendees for a day of exceptional learning experiences.

Without our amazing committee, we couldn't do what we do. Every member of the MANSEF Conference Committee is so dedicated and MANSEF offers our heartfelt thanks to each of them, most notably **Jay Gregorio** from the Children's Guild who provided unsurpassed technical assistance on navigating the logistics of a virtual conference. From the art show which showcased the works of our talented students, to the Kahoot games at the end of the day. It was a networking opportunity for all MANSEF members.

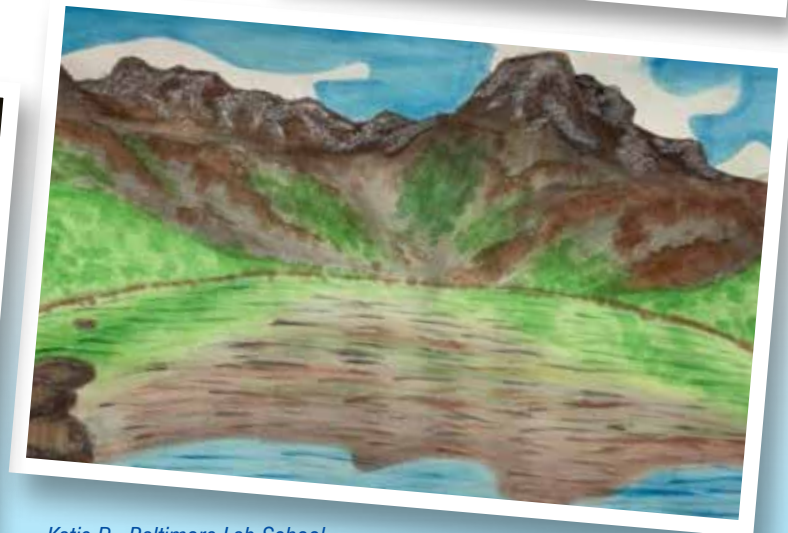
A final thanks to conference chair **Rae Meneses** from The Children's Guild, who pulled it all together, coordinating workshops on diversity, equity and inclusion, school safety and social emotional learning to stress management and mindfulness. Thanks also to **Dr. Deann Collins**, deputy state superintendent, at the Maryland State Department of Education, who brought greetings from the Department.

We thank all of you for being passionate about empowering the students we serve and for helping to create a world where all are included.

*Joseph T.,
Digital Emphasis
Design, Baltimore
Lab School*



Charlie Z., Baltimore Lab School



Katie R., Baltimore Lab School

MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT



*Sol
Miranda-
Weiner*

Chelsea School

Chelsea 7th Grader Raises Money for Baseball in Puerto Rico

Rico - Chelsea School 7th grader **Sol Miranda-Weiner** is known to his school friends as a young man with two passions: science and baseball. As he turns 13 this year, he will be becoming a bar mitzvah and completing a mitzvah project. Sol has chosen to raise funds and support Play Ball Puerto Rico, an organization that renovates baseball fields that were devastated by Hurricane Maria and numerous earthquakes.

"For me, one of the most important things about becoming a Bar Mitzvah is the opportunity to help others", said Sol. "I love playing baseball, and I play on some really nice and safe fields in Washington, DC, and I want kids in Puerto Rico to have that too."

"I have chosen to renovate a field in Ponce, Puerto Rico, where one of my grandpas was born. In Ponce, the few fields that survived Hurricane Maria, did not survive the earthquakes. All the money that I raise will be used to renovate a specific field there. I really

like that they will also make sure to involve the community to renovate their field."

Play Ball Puerto Rico was started by then 13 year old, Lawson Strenecky, who wanted to do something when he saw the devastation of Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria. Sol is asking the Chelsea Community to be a part of his Bar Mitzvah project by donating money to Play Ball, Puerto Rico to help communities have a safe place to come together, and for kids to play baseball in Ponce.

The Children's Guild School Baltimore

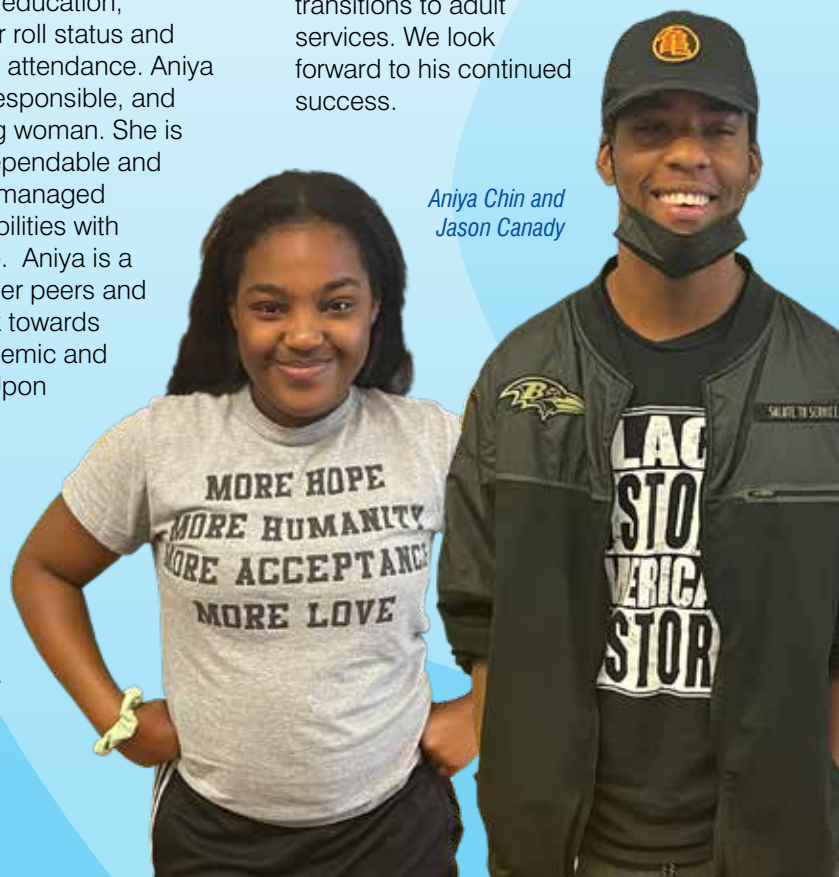
Aniya Chin, a graduating senior is a recipient of the 2022 Cardin Scholarship. Despite the significant amount of adversity that Aniya has experienced she has remained committed to her education, maintaining honor roll status and consistent school attendance. Aniya is an intelligent, responsible, and personable young woman. She is organized and dependable and has successfully managed multiple responsibilities with a positive attitude. Aniya is a leader amongst her peers and continues to work towards meeting her academic and personal goals. Upon graduation Aniya plans to begin pursuing her nursing degree at a community college.

Jason Canady, a graduating senior has remained

committed to his education maintaining honor roll status and school attendance since joining our campus in October 2019. Jason remains a leader amongst his peers and demonstrates a continued desire to learn new things. Upon graduation Jason plans to enroll in the Jumpstart Program. JumpStart is a 14-week construction-training program in Baltimore City where experienced teachers help students understand job readiness and prepare for success on the construction site. Through program Jumpstart he will receive essential safety training, financial coaching, a stipend and driver's education.

Donnie Moore, a graduating senior from the school to work program will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills he will need to maximize his independence and self-sufficiency in his community as he transitions to adult services. We look forward to his continued success.

*Aniya Chin and
Jason Canady*



SUCCESS

The Children's Guild School Transformation Academy

Re'Sean has really blossomed since enrolling at The Children's Guild Transformation Academy. In the past, Re'Sean avoided the classroom setting and as a result had minimal interaction with the classroom environment, including his peers. With the dedication and consistency of his 1:1 staff member, Kevin Wycoff, Re'Sean has since increased his time in the classroom throughout the day and happily seeks out peers and staff for interactions. His teacher, Katie Boyce, provided Re'Sean with a pointer to extend his reach, so he can come to the board to participate in the lesson. He comes to school happy, seeks out staff and peers, and participates throughout the day. We are thrilled to see him thriving!

Re'Sean



Ivymount

Two Ivymount School MLN students are pursuing their passions through a partial inclusion experience at the Thomas Edison High School of Technology in partnership with MCPS. **Brady** will soon begin his second year taking classes at Edison, studying Cybersecurity after having completed the Network Operations program in 21-22. He plans to pursue his interest in computer science and math at Montgomery College after high school. "Being at Ivymount since 4th grade, Edison is getting me used to how public schools work and preparing me for college without it being a big jump," he says.

This coming school year, **Chase** will spend part of his day at Edison studying Graphic Design and the remainder of his classes at Ivymount. "I wanted to do the program because it might help me in learning how to direct films," he says. Chase wants to "be the best student I can be" so he can attend USC, the same college that director George Lucas attended. 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.



*Top: Brady
Bottom: Chase*

Foundation School

Students come to The Foundation Schools (TFS) to learn the skills they need to be successful. We are proud to share the stories of two students who made the most of the support provided at TFS and now have the tools needed to mainstream back to their local school system. Senior Michael is one month away from graduating and is excited to have the opportunity to graduate at his home school. Ninth grader **JACOB** is just beginning his mainstreaming journey. He is taking two classes at his home high school, then returning to TFS for the remainder of the school day. *"The Foundation Schools has helped teach me social skills, life skills, and coping skills, and helped me grow to be ready to mainstream. I thank all the staff who have supported me during my time here."* -Jacob

Jacob



More!

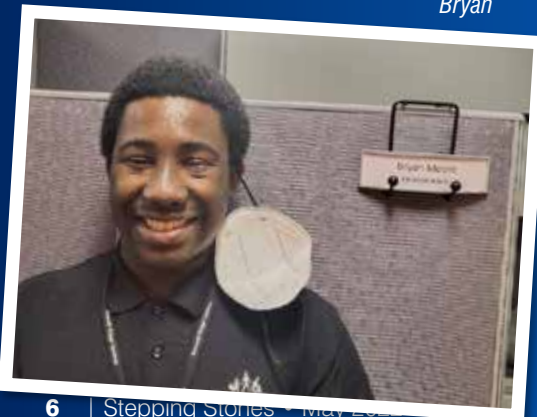
STUDENT SUCCESS

Kennedy Krieger

In August 2021, Bryan Moore began his internship experience with Project SEARCH at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Project SEARCH is a workforce development program that provides hands-on job training in a variety of integrated workplace experiences. Bryan has become more expressive with others during his year in Project SEARCH. When he began the program, Bryan was extremely shy and reserved. He preferred to sit by himself and only answer questions when addressed directly. Now, Bryan initiates conversations with peers and actively participates in group discussions and activities!

Bryan's growth is also evident in his work habits. He has been working in the Child Life department at Kennedy Krieger. His professionalism and confidence allowed him to increase his internship schedule from 2 days to 5 days per week. He was also willing to try a new job in Finance, even though he thought it would be hard. He said "this is going to be a little bit hard, but I am up for the challenge!" We are very proud of Bryan's progress and growth!

Bryan



Katherine Thomas School

The Katherine Thomas School student Isaiah & mother selected by the DC Chamber of Commerce as a '22 Small Business Honoree in the category "Young Entrepreneur of the Year"

The DC Chamber of Commerce today announced their 2022 Small Business Award recipients, and KTS' own **Isaiah Hamilton** was recognized as a "Young of the Year" for the company that he and his mother Tiffany founded, Victor Wear. As Co-Founder/President of Victor Wear, Isaiah collaborates with his mother on T-shirt slogans and designs. He is also assisting with event planning and logistics, speaking to the media, and increasing his role as the face/lead ambassador of the brand – all while attending high school and participating in extracurricular activities! Victor Wear, and Isaiah, embody Young Entrepreneur of the Year by creating employment opportunities for differently abled people. TLC is so proud of Isaiah for his incredible accomplishments!



Isaiah with his mother, Tiffany

Student Art Recognized through "Celebrating Through Art: The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display."



of The Katherine Thomas School students who had artwork selected to be showcased virtually in the annual Celebrating Through Art: The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display! Honorary chair of the Campaign, Maryland's First Lady, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, joined to offer congratulatory remarks at this recognition event.

Graduate Sarah Davie Creates Poster Backdrop Artwork for the new Amazon Series, "As We See It."

Sarah Davie's art talent was developed within the Rockville area; she is a graduate of TLC's The Katherine Thomas School, where her artistic talents were

cultivated and further developed her skills through the ArtStream Program in Chevy Chase, MD and VisArts in Rockville, MD. Elaine Parks' class at VisArts presented the opportunity for student work to be selected and featured in promotional posters for the Amazon show, "As We See It." Sarah was enrolled in Ms. Parks' VisArt VisAbility Art Lab class, an art program for young adults with disabilities. Another student from Ms. Parks' class had artwork selected for the show as well.

News of Sarah's accomplishment spread to local Washington, DC ABC News Channel 7. News Channel 7 Reporter Alison Starling interviewed Sarah and her mother about the experience of having artwork selected for an Amazon series poster, as well as insights about Sarah's artistic journey, inspirations, and personal life. The interview can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3jM8Roj>

Sarah Davie



The Pathways Schools Class of 1994 Graduate Highlight

Even many years after graduation from The Pathways Schools, our alumni seek comfort and support by reaching out to us during difficult times. **Cliff** graduated in 1994. His heart was broken when his wife passed away in the fall of 2021. A good deal of the time was spent talking about how his experience at Pathways still plays a part in his life today. What follows are remarks Cliff shared during the conversation:

Pathways altogether gave me guidance. When I came there, I only knew evil and thought, "why school?" Coming from the projects, I didn't see people going to school. They were getting locked up. I thought I have got to get up out of here, go in the right direction, and take the guidance...

At my admissions interview, the former Principal (former MANSEF Board President and current Pathways Board member) Dr. Philippe Dupont said I had an attitude, and that "Pathways doesn't need anybody in the school with that attitude." I walked out. My foster parents explained this was my last chance. Dr. Dupont was willing to give me a second chance. I never thought that could happen. I took that second chance, I learned I had to do it to live, and I successfully completed school at Pathways.

While I was in school, I got a lawn mower and started to make money the right way. Now, I've been the manager of a pizza place for many years. At Pathways I learned it was important to have a sense of humor to help make others feel comfortable, and I use that with my employees and customers... My foster family and Pathways helped me deal with everything... In the school community groups, I learned how to communicate. To deal with the loss of my wife, I held a family community group... I was blessed to have seven of my own foster kids come to my wife's funeral...

I carried a lot from Pathways to be successful. I was always watching the staff and learning from them. They made me feel good. You changed me.

Sheppard Pratt School - Glyndon

Jordan B. began his educational and vocational career at the Sheppard Pratt School in Glyndon in November of 2020. As with many students, Jordan took time to understand the program, learn the expectations, and get to know the staff. He

tested limits and asserted his wants and needs through both verbal and nonverbal communication.

Jordan has acquired new skills and accomplished many goals since then. The biggest accomplishment is his ability to transition between classes and activities. With the assistance of his 1:1 aide, Mr. Isaiah, Jordan can take walks, go to the playground, and participate in school events. Watching the two of them communicate and work together is truly heartwarming.

Jordan's interests include listening to music, dancing, going on long walks, and using the swings at the playground. Jordan is known for his sense of humor and brings a smile to the face of everyone he meets. He begins each school day with good attitude and a song and dance in his step. His cheerful outlook is contagious.

In the classroom, Jordan is a wonderful student; he is pleasant, attentive, and hard working. He does especially well in math. Jordan also enjoys social studies, where he is currently doing a fantastic job learning and identifying safety signs and environmental signs.

We are immensely proud of the student Jordan has become and have high hopes for him in his future! It has been a pleasure working with him. Congratulations on graduating this June and on all your accomplishments.



Class of 1994



Ilma and Spiderman

Sheppard Pratt School Gaithersburg

Ilma enrolled in the Sheppard Pratt School in Gaithersburg in July 2021.

At first, she was hesitant to move around the building and complete daily, routine tasks, such as going to the bathroom or eating lunch at school. She was very nervous about being touched or using school materials.

However, over the last several months, Ilma has blossomed. She is making huge leaps at school! Not only does she willingly use the bathroom and eat lunch at school, but she also allows staff to give her handshakes or fist bumps. She is interacting more with her peers and excels at using her voice output device to communicate with others. She is better able to ask for help when she needs it. She is transitioning throughout the building and helping staff with tasks, such as delivering the daily attendance to the front office. Ilma's personality continues to shine through more every day. Her future is surely bright!



Jordan

The Children's Guild Schools

The Children's Guild, Inc. Baltimore Campus implemented the DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) initiative school-wide throughout grade levels. Every Wednesday at the same time, all students are engaged in some form of literary content. This school year students are making improvements through such literacy initiatives including the instructional platform i-Ready, which provides every student with individualized/personalized instruction to meet their needs. There are formative assessments that identify student progress, challenges, and needs. i-Ready Reading inventories and Data Chats provide opportunities for the Reading Specialist, students, and teachers to set goals that support and improve reading. Identifying instructional grade level placements and setting goals towards proficiency were key in the process. Next school year, The Children's Guild, Inc. Baltimore Campus will continue literary efforts to ensure their instruction will be just as productive and enhanced.

Below: Students involved in the DEAR initiative at Baltimore campus, and members of the High School Student Council at Prince George's campus



SCHOOL News



Mr. Dews and his students

The Children's Guild Schools

The Children's Guild, Inc., Baltimore Campus Competes in the Maryland Stock Market Game - Mr. Cornell Dews, an educator at The Children's Guild Baltimore Campus, taught his high school students about the Stock Market and entered them into the 2021 Maryland Stock Market Game. After days of trading, the results were in: The Children's Guild Inc., Baltimore finished in the top 20% of schools competing in the online Maryland Stock Market Game.

At one point in the competition, the team even finished in fourth place! Not only did this competition allow the students to compete against their own age group, it also gave Mr.

Dews the chance to teach his students financial literacy.
Photo of Cornell Dews and 2nd photo of students

The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County announced two new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives for students. The Makerspace Project engages middle school and high school students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or multiple disabilities in introductory engineering by building an inclusive community of neurodiverse and neurotypical families, peers, and special education teachers and made possible by a generous donation from a student's parent. Engineering for US All (e4usa) is a first-of-its-kind, national initiative designed to introduce engineering design principles to a new generation of students. The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County is the first special education school to participate, made possible by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant managed by the University of Maryland.

The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County organized our first High School Student Council (HSSC) to give our students a chance to be leaders among their peers and increase their community involvement. The 10 active members of the HSSC meet weekly and have already made changes within their school community. For example,

HSSC members decided to deliver lunch to every classroom so that they can connect with all their peers. An ongoing project is the School Store program, established to develop financial literacy in a real-world setting by selling school merchandise such as shirts, book bags, hats, etc. The student council gives the students a voice and a chance to advocate for themselves and other students on topics such as school activities, assisting the community, and starting new student clubs.



Miguel and Antoine

Ivymount Student initiatives including planting a garden, making dog toys, and greeting cards

Ivymount

Ivymount School has been excited to steadily increase participation in job sites, community programming and in-school businesses. In addition to Work Based Learning happening at numerous job-site partner locations, several in-school student-led businesses created unique skills development opportunities this year, with students managing all aspects of producing custom seasonal greeting cards and decor, hand-made dog toys, and daily lunch/snack offerings. To make use of new outdoor learning spaces and strengthen motor skills and problem solving, this Spring, students worked together to prepare and plant seven garden boxes with flowers and herbs.

Curriculum highlights included a new social learning curriculum focused on self-awareness and self-advocacy in the autistic community, a science fair on coding, a games approach to building independence and adaptive skills for the home, and mock interviews with local business leaders to prepare for employment. Social Studies students added their voices to a book they created about leaders who shifted the world with their words and actions; students made self-portraits and a personal message that they think is important to share with the world. Here are just a few:

"There's no mis in mistakes, only better takes." – 5th grader

"Take time to stroll through the rows of books at a library." – 7th grader

"No matter what, always follow your dreams." – 8th grader

Kennedy Krieger

Playground Communication Board Article - In April, the Fairmount School at Kennedy Krieger Institute unveiled their playground communication boards for their students! Our team of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) worked together over the past year to create vocabulary individualized to our students and playground. These communication boards provide additional support for students to express their thoughts and feelings. A student may be able to communicate "your turn" while playing catch by gesturing to the "your" and "turn" icon. Additionally, a student may be able to communicate "I want swing" to let their communication partner know what they want to play with on the playground. These are just a few examples of the many ways that a playground communication board can provide additional support to a student's communication skills. Our hope is that more communication boards will be installed on playgrounds around the community for a more accessible and inclusive community.

Playground communication board



Foundation School

The first week in May is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week at The Foundation Schools! With the chime of a bell over the PA system, we began the week with a school-wide mindfulness meditation. On Tuesday, students practiced gratitude and wrote what they appreciate in their lives, including the friends they have and what they look forward to during the day. Wednesday was a special screening of "Inside Out" where students learned how our emotions can work together to keep us healthy. On Thursday, students wore green and used chalk to create affirmations and drawings inspired by their mental health journeys. To conclude the week, our schools hosted a cookout and revealed our new mural made by staff and students, reminding anyone who enters our school that they are not alone.

New mural



Chalk art created by the students



Katherine Thomas School

The Treatment and Learning Centers and The Katherine Thomas School “Stronger Together” Gala - After delays due to the pandemic, TLC and KTS were excited to celebrate their 70-year plus TLC and 25-year plus The Katherine Thomas School gala in-person on April 28, 2022! Achieving 70+ years of services in the community and not only surviving but thriving in the face of an extended global pandemic is a testament to the strength and character of the TLC and KTS community. We were thrilled to be able to recognize our TLC Champions at the gala and were honored to have Mr. J. Randy Lewis as a keynote speaker. Mr. Lewis spearheaded the hiring of many individuals with disabilities while an executive at Walgreens, with his life’s work aligning with TLC’s mission and vision.



Student projects from Sheppard Pratt School - Lanham

Sheppard Pratt School - Severna Park

This year, the 11th grade English class at the Sheppard Pratt School in Severna Park High School hosted a book drive for Reading Partners, a national non-profit literacy organization. To earn their required service-learning hours, in just 32 days, the class of five students raised over 200 books. The 20 plus critical skills they learned and practiced over the course of this service project will help them in the classroom today, in the workplace tomorrow, and in life forever. These skills include conflict resolution, strategic planning, critical thinking, flexibility, and adaptability. In addition to the book drive, the students created 14 unique bookmarks based on Common Core English and Language Arts concepts for grades K-4. We would like thank Charlie, Dylan, Jacob, Kalen, and Maggie for taking up this challenge and for the growth they exhibited in the process!



student created bookmarks and posters for the book drive

Sheppard Pratt School - Lanham

At the Sheppard Pratt School in Lanham, our students have been very busy showing off their knowledge! - During the first quarter, students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. The year 2021 marked the bicentennial of Central American independence. To recognize this momentous milestone, our teachers and students did research on the five Central American countries that won independence 200 years ago: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

The first science fair at the Sheppard Pratt School in Lanham took place during our second quarter. Our students followed the steps of the scientific process as they conducted experiments that involved initiating chemical reactions, studying physical changes, and defying gravity! The stunning results proved the event was a smashing success.

During the third quarter, in honor of Black History Month, we celebrated the contributions of many Maryland citizens. We transformed our school into a Black History Museum. We called the exhibition, “Passages to Freedom”. Our team of curators put together exhibits representing the contributions of Black people to the American tapestry and the never-ending struggle for freedom and equality for all.

Now, in quarter four, our students are excited to finish up the school year celebrating Autism Acceptance Month!



More!

SCHOOL News



Sheppard Pratt School - Rockville

The Sheppard Pratt School in Rockville's PBIS team, led by Shanel Jenkins and Cooper Schirf, has spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at recognizing and rewarding positive behaviors in school. The initiatives began with restoring the school's token economy. Students earn coupons by meeting expectations like respect, responsibility, and safety. These coupons can be exchanged for toys, snacks, activities, and more. The students have also used coupons for school-wide events, including movie screenings, trivia, and raffles. The coupons can be used at the "Pop-Up Shop" too, which opens at varying intervals and offers an array of special desserts and school materials. Finally, students are excited for the grand re-opening of the school store, the "Phoenix Emporium." They are making wish lists to describe what they would like stocked in the store. The Emporium will support both the token economy system and the major principles of our school's behavioral expectations.



*School store reopening and
the "Pop-Up Shop"*

St. Elizabeth School

St. Elizabeth School students had a fun visit from the Easter Bunny before heading off for spring break. SES Senior/costume enthusiast Matthew Nagy continued his tradition of dressing up as the Easter Bunny to pose with fellow students. Matt set up his portrait area in the school's indoor playground so that students could stop by throughout the day. For one class period, SES Senior/photography enthusiast Timothy Hancock used the school camera and tripod to capture some of the magic. Matt and Timmy – thank you for always sharing your talents with your classmates!

*Matthew Nagy as the bunny
and himself*



Phillips School

The PHILLIPS School~ Laurel is proud to announce that four of our students collaborated to create the winning poster design for this year's Mental Health Matters! campaign.

They combined their talents to create a design entitled "Freedom Through Expression." The people in these images are reading, spending time with friends and family, dancing, playing video games, and drawing. The artwork serves as a reminder that we all have mental health needs, and how we deal with them is what makes us unique.

The runner-up poster was painted by Paris, a senior at PHILLIPS School that loves to express herself through fashion. She wanted to make a piece of art that reflected how we need to support each other during hard times. The hands and heart represent teamwork and a reminder that we are not alone when things get tough.



*Paris with her runner-up poster art
and the winning poster design*

CARDIN SCHOLAR

About MANSEF

MANSEF is a not-for-profit organization of 70 nonpublic special education schools that promote quality services and specially designed instruction for children and youth with disabilities. The schools serve more than 3,800 students between the ages of 3 and 21.

The nonpublic special education schools are part of the state's educational continuum for students with special needs. They provide a more intensive level of staff support in both classroom and non-classroom services. A nonpublic special education school is the most appropriate choice for many Maryland students who are unable to have their needs met in the public schools. These schools serve students, with a range of disabilities, who require the most intensive services. The most prevalent diagnosed disabilities are emotional disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

Thousands of Maryland families rely on nonpublic special education schools to provide their children with specialized instruction. The nonpublic special education schools are an important component of the state's educational system.

For more information about MANSEF visit www.mansef.org.

The following 38 students were selected for exemplifying perseverance in the face of adversity and embodying the spirit that everyone can succeed with hard work and support.

PETER ARBRO, a student Montgomery County Public Schools who attends the Foundation School of Montgomery County, will use his scholarship to attend the Studio Acting Conservatory Summer Youth Program.

KOBY AMPOMA-MENSAH, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the St. Elizabeth School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Fairlee.

ROBERT BISHOP, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Arrow Center for Education, will use his scholarship to attend the MICA Summer Art Camp with a focus on illustration.

AISHA BLANKUMSEE, a student from Washington County Public Schools, attending Villa Maria School will use her scholarship for art lessons at Zoll Studio.

ANIYA CHIN, a student from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, attending The Children's Guild will use her scholarship for driving lessons at the Beltway Driving Academy.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP winners

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.

AIDEN CUPP, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship for art lessons at Zoll Studio.

TREVON DARDEN, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools, attending the High Road Academy of Prince George's County, will use his scholarship for the M-NCPPS Summer Day camp for golf and robotics.

ALPHE DEDE, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools attending The Children's Guild School of Prince George's Count, will use his scholarship for Kids After Hours adventure summer camp.

HAMZA DHIMNI, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools, attending the Sheppard Pratt School – Rockville, will use his scholarship for swimming lessons at Goldfish Swim School and art and basketball lessons.

NATHANIEL EPSTEIN, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Arrow Center for Education – Tangram, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Fairlee.

DEMI HEARD, a student from Prince George's County Public Schools, attending the Pathways School - Horizon, will use her scholarship to attend Kids on Campus through Howard Community College.

DOMINIC HINRICHS, a student attending the Chelsea School will use his scholarship ISA Nepal Basketball Academy.

NICO HURD, a student from Frederick County Public Schools, attending the Kennedy Krieger School - Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend CAMP-A-FASD in Illinois.

ALIYA KATRINIC, a student from Queen Anne's County Public Schools, attending the Pathways School – Anne Arundel, will use her scholarship to attend the Project Access through Howard Community College.

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 Bowie.



CARDIN SCHOLAR



ANALENA KING-SYKES, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship for art lessons at Zoll Studio.

MICHAEL KNEISLEY, a student attending the Katherine Thomas School, will use his scholarship for summer school at the Katherine Thomas Summer learning Enrichment Program.

SANAA LAMORELL, a student from the District of Columbia Public Schools, attending the High Road Academy of Howard County, will use her scholarship to learn hair braiding at the Bennett Career Institute of Braiding.

ABIGAIL MAHR, a student attending the Katherine Thomas School, will use his scholarship for summer school at the Katherine Thomas Summer learning Enrichment Program.

GEOFFREY MANSON, from Montgomery County Public Schools who attends the Katherine Thomas High School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Liberty Boy Scout summer program.

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.

KURTIS NEWKIRK, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Arrow Center for Education – Tangram, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Fairlee.

LEMARIO OWENS-MAHONEY, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship for Play-by-Paly Sports Broadcasting camp.

KEIVON PRIDGET, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, who attended The Pathways School -Anne Arundel, will use his scholarship for driving lessons at CBS Driving School.

CHRISTOPHER PROFFITT, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Carroll County Public Schools attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend CCK Martial Arts.

DA'LYIAH REESE, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to attend The Painting Workshop.

SCHOLARSHIP winners

KALEB ROBINSON, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools, attending the Arrow Center for Education, will use his scholarship for camp at the Y in Towson.

MARCIANA SELIG-CONSTANT, a student from Baltimore County Public Schools attending the Villa Maria School, will use her scholarship to participate at ASADC: TikTok workshop.

ANGELROSE SERRY, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Prince George's County Public Schools will use her scholarship to attend Baltimore City Community College.

COOPER STEPHENS, a student from Calvert County Public Schools, attending the Pathways School, will use his scholarship for Chesapeake Driving School.

SKYLER STURGILL, a Baltimore County Public Schools student who attends the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend The Painting Workshop.

ISAIAH TULL, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School will use his scholarship to attend The Painting Workshop.

HANS VILCEUS, a student from Montgomery County Public Schools, attending the Sheppard Pratt School – Rockville, will use his scholarship to attend Coach Parker Basketball Academy.

NAFIZ WATKINS, a student from Baltimore City Public Schools, attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship for Flag Football camp through Lutherville Timonium Recreation Council

GANYA YEMARIAMFERE, a student 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.





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