



Prayer Intention: Let us pray for students, parents and guardians, teachers, staff and administrators as they begin the new school year. May they be blessed with joy in learning, growth in faith and wisdom in all things.

Sisters Academy of Baltimore

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is the only school of its kind in the Baltimore area: an independent, Catholic, tuition-free middle school exclusively for girls from families of limited economic means. Sisters Academy of Baltimore is sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame with the Sisters of Bon Secours, Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Sisters Academy empowers its students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society. The vision of Sisters Academy is that its graduates will be well-educated, self-assured, spiritual and committed young women who are so needed in our community, our nation and our world. They will be leaders who make a difference.

A commitment to education

Sisters Academy opened because of the remarkable commitment of the four sponsoring congregations of religious women, the hopes and dreams of the parents of southwest Baltimore, and the contributions of generous individuals, groups, corporations, and foundations who have embraced the mission.

Sisters Academy began on September 7, 2004 with the fifth grade. For the next three years a new grade was added each fall. In September 2007, all four grades (5, 6, 7 and 8) were enrolled for the first time. The first class of 8th graders graduated on June 4, 2008, completing the foundational phase of the school. The seventh class graduated on June 4, 2014. September 2014, marks the beginning of the eleventh year of operation.



(Continued from Page 1)

The goal of Sisters Academy is to educate young girls who have the potential and motivation to excel in middle school, a critical time of life for them. The curriculum and program have been designed specifically for middle school girls who have the ability and desire to succeed and would not otherwise have the opportunity for an excellent education.



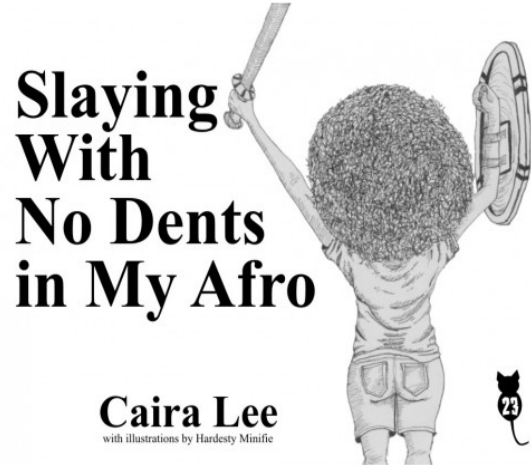
During her four years at Sisters Academy, a girl will:

- develop her interests,
- hone her skills,
- try a variety of sports,
- develop her artistic abilities,
- become sensitive to beauty around her,
- learn how to organize herself and her work,
- grow spiritually, and
- learn how to get along with others.



In the short-term, Sisters Academy enables students to perform well in middle school and to gain admittance to excellent high schools. The long-term benefit of Sisters Academy will be a greater chance of succeeding in high school and college and living a full and productive life.

All of the members of the first three graduating classes of Sisters Academy have graduated from high school and eighty-eight percent of those graduates are in college. One of these students is Caira Lee, a member of the first class to enter Sisters Academy in 2004 as a fifth grader.



Caira Lee (Class of 2008) has become a “performance poet” and recently published a collection of her poems in a book entitled ***Slaying with***

No Dents in My Afro. The following is the publisher’s description of this young lady and her book. “Caira Lee finished first in Cleveland’s SlamU youth poetry finals in 2011, but declined her spot on the team in order to attend another national competition: the National Endowment for the Arts’ Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest in Washington, DC, where she was a finalist. In 2012, she placed first in the SlamU finals again and traveled with the

(Continued from Page 2)

team to California, competing at Brave New Voices. Caira gave the commencement speech at her high school graduation after her classmates voted her Most Likely to Change the World. In 2013, she won a place on Cleveland's Lake Effect Poetry adult slam team, and competed at National Poetry Slam in Boston. She is currently studying at the College of Wooster, majoring in Political Science and Religious Studies." Caira Lee is spending her junior year of college studying abroad in Ghana.

Another reviewer wrote, "To watch the woman grow and to watch the woman grow the poems are two distinct things. Both are humbling, heart wrenching, inspiring, and necessary. The book, like the poems, like the woman, is a testament to what it means to be young, female, black, terrified, and terrifying, and the effect of what occurs when you embrace it all at once."
(Siaara "ControverSi" Freeman)

SSNDs serving at Sisters Academy

Five School Sister of Notre Dame serve at Sisters Academy:



Sister Rita Dorn



Sister Dorothy Daiger



Sister Virginia Brune



Sister Debbie Liesen



Sister Delia Dowling

Sister Rita Dorn teaches religion and mathematics. Sister Dorothy Daiger is the librarian. Sister Virginia Brune served as the master teacher for nine years and is now serving as the coordinator of our self-study. Sister Debbie Liesen is the founding principal. Sister Delia Dowling is the founding president.



Sisters Academy of Baltimore graduates

Our statement of philosophy

The four sponsors continue to reflect on their commitment to the mission of Sisters Academy as each congregation has reconfigured over the past ten years. Our statement of philosophy ends with these words, "Though each congregation has a distinctive charism, we are all committed to the empowerment of women. We believe in the transformation of young women through education. An educated woman not only has a way out of poverty, but also is equipped to exercise leadership, becoming a positive agent for change, wherever she goes. Liberation, transformation, influence: together, our four congregations work to mirror and show forth the goodness of God. Through our creative partnership, we are able to do together what, today, we could not have done alone." ■