



# BALTIMORE LAB SCHOOL

THE DIFFERENCE IS EXTRAORDINARY

2220 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 • (410) 261-5500 • baltimorelabschool.org



## Why Baltimore Lab School?

Baltimore Lab School provides an exceptional, college and career preparatory education for bright students with learning disabilities in grades 1-12. These disabilities include dyslexia and ADHD, as well as other learning differences. Our innovative, arts-integrated curriculum is experiential and multidisciplinary, specifically designed to help young learners overcome challenges with reading, writing, and math, while preparing them for a rewarding range of college and career choices. In addition to mastering core academics, Baltimore Lab School students explore the visual and performing arts, participate in outdoor education and athletics, and gain confidence, self-esteem, and self-awareness.

Students thrive academically and socially in small classes with an exceptionally low teacher-student ratio. Every academic teacher at BLS is highly trained and certified in special education; most of our teachers hold master's degrees. All teachers receive additional training in diagnostic-prescriptive teaching and intensive academic

remediation. Every Baltimore Lab School student benefits from progress monitoring through informal assessments and customized academic strategies specifically targeted to his or her needs. Full time on-site reading specialists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, clinical social workers, and psychologists are active in the classroom and offer specialized services in individual and small group sessions.



## The Lab Legacy

Baltimore Lab School was founded in 2000 as a division of The Lab School of Washington by Sally L. Smith (1929-2007), a pioneer in the field of learning disabilities. She created Baltimore Lab School to provide the same extraordinary opportunities as The Lab School of Washington, which has successfully educated students with learning disabilities since 1967. Sally's groundbreaking research and writing on art as a gateway to learning and her award-winning Academic Club methodology are the heart of Baltimore Lab School's approach to education.

## Highlights

- **125 students** on average enrolled in **1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade**
- **6 to 1** average **student-teacher ratio**
- The **majority of Baltimore Lab School students go on to college**; extensive list of college acceptances on website
- Baltimore Lab School offers its students and the public clinical related services, including **Speech-Language Therapy, Counseling Services, and Occupational Therapy** (with on-site O.T. Gym)
- Located in **Old Goucher Hall** in the heart of historic Charles Village

## Accreditation and Memberships

- MD State Department of Education (MSDE) approved nonpublic special education school
- Assoc. of Independent MD Schools (AIMS)
- MD Assoc. of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF)
- Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)
- MD Assoc. for Environmental and Outdoor Ed. Green School

*Baltimore Lab School is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit educational organization.*

## School Day

8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (Mon., Tu., Th., Fri.) and 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Wed.); students can arrive as early as 7:45 a.m.; after-school care, clubs, activities, outdoor education adventures, and sports until 5:30 p.m. daily

## Mascot

The Dragon

## Areas Served

Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City & County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County, & Prince George's County

## Curriculum

Baltimore Lab School's arts integrated curriculum is aligned with Maryland State standards and meets or exceeds state and local grade requirements. Our High School students graduate proudly with diplomas.

## Lower School (Grades 1-5)

Customized schedules and classroom instruction support specific developmental skills in reading, writing, math, science, history, and geography. Academic clubs, visual art, drama, dance, physical education, music, technology, executive function skills, and social-emotional learning are equally important components of the Lower School program.

## Middle School (Grades 6-8)

In the Middle School, students participate in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, academic support (reading and math intervention), executive function skills training, and weekly division-wide problem-based learning challenges. Students also experience a wide array of electives - art (sculpture, drawing and painting), dance, drama, music, video production, coding, and fitness - to round out their academics.

## High School (Grades 9-12) & Internship Program

In the High School, students enroll in rigorous, college and career preparatory courses. Students choose from a wide range of art-based electives: visual art, drama, photography, music theory, and vocal music. High School students participate in an internship program at various off-campus locations. Previous job sites have included Mercy Hospital, MICA, restaurants, and the Baltimore City Police Department. Executive functioning, critical thinking, and analytic skills are emphasized in our signature BLS Compass program as students prepare for life after Lab.

## Technology

One-to-one devices in all grades (primarily Google Chromebooks), access to iPads, Technology Innovation Center (TIC), Virtual Reality (VR) glasses, SMART Boards, Interactive Projectors, Promethean Activinspire, Google Workspace for Education, Read & Write for Google, Read Naturally Live, Lexia, Digital Media Lab (iMacs, digital cameras, & Adobe Creative Cloud Software), Nearpod, & digital library databases

## Student Life

At Baltimore Lab School, we believe that life outside the classroom is every bit as important to your child's development as life inside the classroom. That's why we put tremendous emphasis on opportunities to explore, expand, and engage with new friends, the neighboring community, and people, and places beyond our hometown.

**Athletics:** Swim team, tennis, cross country, bowling, cheer team, soccer, disc sports, and basketball

**Outdoor Education Adventures:** Rock climbing, Chesapeake Bay Stewardship, student-led action projects, and more

**After-School Activities:** Anime Club, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Arts & Crafts Club, Service Club, Italian Culture Club, Literary Magazine, Magic: The Gathering Club, Legos Club, Yoga & Mindfulness Club, WBLS Video Club, & Robotics Club

**After-Care (Dragon Club):** Supervised homework completion, hands-on activities, and outdoor play

**Global Learning Experiences:** Past High School trips include: Costa Rica, France, Spain, and England, as well as domestic overnight trips to Massachusetts, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, New York, Virginia, and Tennessee

## Grading System

All students in grades 1-12 receive quarterly report cards and written narratives on their academic progress. Lower School students receive performance indicators on a comprehensive list of skills in each course, as well as grades for effort. In Middle and High School, students receive letter grades and self-development grades for their coursework.

Grade point averages (G.P.A.) are not weighted and the school does not rank students