



BALTIMORE LAB SCHOOL

WHERE
BRIGHT
MINDS
LEARN
DIFFERENTLY

Baltimore Lab School (BLS) empowers bright, motivated learners with ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning disabilities to discover their strengths and build the confidence, independence, and skills to succeed in school—and in life. Founded in 2000 by visionary educator Sally L. Smith, BLS continues her pioneering work in arts-integrated, experiential education that transforms the way students learn.

Baltimore Lab School provides an exceptional college and career preparatory education for students in grades 1-12. In small classes, teachers get to know each learner—their strengths, challenges, and learning styles—while delivering individualized instruction tailored to their needs. Every teacher is certified in special education, with most holding advanced degrees and specialized training in diagnostic and prescriptive teaching. Students benefit from an integrated team of full-time reading specialists, occupational and speech-language therapists, and clinical social workers who collaborate in the classroom and small groups to provide comprehensive support—all in one place. This whole-child approach helps students build the skills and confidence to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Highlights

- **125 students** on average enrolled in 1st-12th grade
- Located in **Old Goucher** Hall in the heart of historic Charles Village

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

What Sets Us Apart

- **Personalized Attention:** Small Class sizes—s 6:1 student-to-faculty ratio ensures each learner gets the support they need.
- **Expert Faculty:** All classroom teachers are licensed and trained special educators. Arts and related services professionals are licensed in their specialties, bringing both expertise and passion for supporting unique learners.
- **Integrated Services:** Speech-language, occupational therapy, and counseling are not only offered on an individualized basis but are woven into classroom learning—helping students apply skills in real time.
- **Intensive Reading Support:** With three licensed Reading Specialists, and special educators trained in evidence-based programs, we provide one-on-one, small group, and whole group interventions tailored to student needs.
- **Immersive Innovative Learning:** Through daily Academic Clubs classes, history, science, and culture are brought to life through hands-on learning—making instruction both engaging and memorable.
- **College & Career Ready:** 85% of graduates continue to college; 15% pursue meaningful career pathways.
- **Real-World Experience:** Every High School senior participates in an internship, gaining valuable workplace skills.



BALTIMORE LAB SCHOOL

THE DIFFERENCE IS EXTRAORDINARY

Areas Served

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

Diploma Track 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.

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**

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, 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

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.



LOWER SCHOOL GRADES 1–6

The Lower School program builds strong academic foundations through a multi-sensory, arts-integrated approach. Each classroom features a lead teacher and instructional assistant, allowing for highly individualized attention and flexible grouping.

Core Academics

- Reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and health
- Project-based Academic Clubs aligned with Maryland State standards
- Emphasis on critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving

Academic Clubs

Academic Clubs are one of the most distinctive and inspiring parts of the Baltimore Lab School experience. In these themed, hands-on classes, students step into the roles of explorers, inventors, journalists, and civic leaders—using art, storytelling, and imagination to bring history, science, and culture to life.

Through daily, project-based lessons, students build critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills while meeting Maryland State Social Studies standards for grades 1–6. Each Academic Club combines visual and performing arts, literature, and science in a dynamic small-group setting that encourages collaboration and creativity.

Examples include:

- **Discovery Club**—learn about conservation, community, and stewardship through the eyes of park rangers.
- **Explorers Club**—study global habitats and environmental sustainability.
- **Groundbreakers Club**—design and lead model cities as young mayors and urban innovators.
- **American Revolution Club**—experience early America and the birth of a new nation through dramatic reenactment.
- **Heralds of History Club**—report on major events as time-traveling journalists studying democracy and social change.
- **Museum Club**—curate artifacts and create exhibits celebrating the achievements of ancient civilizations.

Rooted in founder Sally L. Smith's groundbreaking philosophy, Academic Clubs demonstrate how integrating art, science, literature, and play can open powerful pathways for learning—helping students see themselves as creators, problem-solvers, and engaged citizens.

Technology & Outdoor Education

- Use of laptops, iPads, SMARTBoards, and text-to-speech tools
- Day and overnight field trips across the Chesapeake Bay region
- Rock climbing, swimming, and environmental stewardship activities

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 7–8

The Middle School program bridges foundational learning and preparation for the rigors of high school. Students gain independence, organization, and executive function skills as they take on greater responsibility for their academic and personal growth.

Core Academics & Electives

- English, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies
- Electives in art, drama, music, photography, design, movement, and fitness
- Weekly Innovators' Workshop focused on creativity, problem-solving, and community challenges

Signature Programs

- #Adulting Lessons – explore self-care, organization, and life skills
- Executive functioning, self-awareness, and goal-setting instruction
- Weekly advisory and community-building activities

Technology, Athletics & Student Life

- One-to-one laptops, iPads, 3D printing, and digital design tools
- Basketball, cross-country, swim, and track teams
- Afterschool clubs, social events, and service-learning projects

HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9–12

The High School program prepares students for life after Lab—college, career, and beyond. Rigorous academics, arts-based electives, and real-world experiences combine to develop confidence, critical thinking, and leadership.

Core Academics & Electives

- College-prep curriculum in English, math, science, social studies, and world languages
- Arts electives: visual arts, theater, photography, music theory, and digital media
- Executive functioning, self-advocacy, and social-emotional skills emphasized through the BLS Compass Program

Preparing for Life After Lab— Internship & Transition Programs

- Individualized college and career counseling
- Naviance college readiness software
- Senior internships at local organizations have included placements at organizations like: MICA, Mercy Hospital, and the Baltimore Police Department in previous years
- Opportunities for dual enrollment in college courses
- SAT and ACT Testing Site
- College Visits on and off campus
- After Lab Parent Portal Website

Technology & Outdoor Education

- Basketball, cross-country, swimming, track, and bowling teams
- Graduation chorus, visiting artists, and digital arts lab
- Annual service-learning requirement (75 hours)
- High School students serve as “Student Leaders” to younger students
- **Overnight Learning Experiences:** Past High School trips include Boston, Nashville, Phoenix, New Orleans, New York City, Hershey, Philadelphia, Ocean City, Assateague Island, Williamsburg, & Jamestown



Baltimore Lab School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Located in the historic Charles Village neighborhood, Baltimore Lab School serves families across the greater Baltimore region and beyond.