

## BALTIMORE LAB SCHOOL

THE DIFFERENCE IS EXTRAORDINARY







# Innovative

Founded in 2000, Baltimore Lab School offers an exceptional academic experience for bright, motivated students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD. Originally developed as a division of The Lab School of Washington – the first school of its kind in the nation – our school enjoys a worldwide reputation for transforming lives as we guide students on the path to success.

Our transformative classroom experiences and engaging, multisensory, arts-integrated curriculum set us apart from other schools. Based on the groundbreaking teaching methods developed by our founder, Sally L. Smith, our program is proven to help young people with difficulties in reading, writing, and math, while preparing them for a range of rewarding choices after graduation. Baltimore Lab School remains at the forefront when it comes to current research on the brain, teaching, and learning.

If traditional classrooms and standard teaching methods have left you and your child frustrated, take a look at Baltimore Lab School. We approach learning unlike any other school. We think you'll be impressed by what you see...and hear...and feel.





# Ingenious

*At Baltimore Lab School, we know that every child can learn. The key is to discover how your child learns best - and to adjust our teaching accordingly. Unlike schools that adhere to one prescribed teaching method, we believe, “If one method doesn’t work, try another!” We recognize your child as a unique individual. And we commit to adapting our instruction to meet her or his needs.*

**WE KNOW:** “The arts are uniquely effective in developing vital brain functions.”



When it comes to marrying arts and academics, Baltimore Lab School is a leader. We are a college & career preparatory school located in Baltimore City that employs art in all of its engaging forms to help students master learning difficulties. Our arts offerings improve attention and retention, build organizational competencies, enhance language skills, and bolster self-confidence. The arts are vital components of our core curriculum at each grade level. Baltimore Lab School teachers design instruction that provides students with opportunities to construct and demonstrate learning through the creative process while reinforcing the practice and application of skills and concepts through visual arts, music, drama, and creative movement.



# Imaginative

*Baltimore Lab School is a leader when it comes to integrating arts and academics.*



## Academic Clubs

Among the most exciting – and transformational – features of Baltimore Lab School are our Academic Clubs. In themed spaces designed to foster student engagement, students occupy the roles of historic and cultural leaders as they create hands-on projects that bring a compelling past and present world to life. Through these daily classes, students engage in project-based explorations of history, literature, geography, science, archaeology, sociology, and visual and performing arts. Academic Clubs are fully aligned with Maryland State Standards and Frameworks for Social Studies in grades 1–6.

The dynamic, small-group setting assures that every Academic Club is socially rich and academically rewarding. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem-solving.

In first to sixth grade, students can:

- Explore the natural world as a ranger in the Discovery Club
- Revel in the mythologies of ancient world cultures in the Gods Club
- Venture through feudal society in the medieval Knights and Ladies Club
- Relive the spirit of our founding fathers in the American Revolution Club
- Experience the rebirth of philosophy, art and literature in the Renaissance Club
- Curate collections of art and artifacts in the Museum Club

The Academic Club methodology is extended into the Middle School and High School curriculum. We continue this experiential, “learn by doing” strategy through project-based assignments, the Middle School Innovator’s Workshop, the High School One Book program, site-based internships for seniors, and our popular student-run campus store.

## SPECIALIZED SERVICES, INTEGRATED IN THE CLASSROOM

*Every Baltimore Lab School student benefits from ongoing, one-on-one evaluations and customized academic strategies. In addition to offering integrated services in the classroom, we offer on-site clinical related services including speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, reading support, and psychological services to help ensure academic success. In fact, most of our students receive some level of related service support. Our occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and clinical psychologists & social workers are active in the classroom, working with students and collaborating closely with teachers to enhance our programs. By embedding these services into our school day and making them integral to our program, we assure that students get the help they need, when they need it most. In addition to integrating services in the classroom, our full-time, on-site specialists offer reading support, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, and psychological services in individual and small group sessions when applicable.*



# Intelligent

## Our Students

Bright, motivated, and invested in their education, Baltimore Lab School students are well-poised to tackle the challenges of their learning disabilities. They are receptive and responsive to our innovative teaching methods, work hard, take pride in their progress, and enjoy the confidence that comes from mastering our rigorous world-class curriculum.

At Baltimore Lab School, we value the individual, and we're intent on helping individuals value themselves, as well.

Every student at Baltimore Lab School is exceptional, with a special intelligence that we recognize and appreciate...and unleash. In every classroom, you'll find a variety of learning styles - and equally varied teaching approaches, tailored to address those different styles.

Our student body is diverse in its strengths and talents. It's also culturally, socially, and economically diverse. We attract students from within and beyond the Baltimore metropolitan region.

Baltimore Lab School's programs and policies are applied with equal consideration to all of its applicants and students. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, or any other status protected by applicable law. It is the policy of the school to provide reasonable accommodation to admitted students who can meet the academic expectations of the school. Enrollment is conditional on the student's ability to participate in the school's programs, with or without reasonable accommodation. Baltimore Lab School evaluates each need for accommodation on a case-by-case basis, considering the needs of the individual students. However, the school's programs generally are not designed to support the needs of students with primary emotional difficulties.



# Invigorating

## Faculty

The moment you enter Baltimore Lab School you'll be impressed by the exceptional talents of our teachers and staff. *Flexible, warm, supportive, persistent, inspiring, and determined* are just a few of the words families use to describe our team. We go to great lengths to attract and retain extraordinary, experienced professionals, most of whom have earned their Masters degrees. All academic teachers hold valid teaching certifications in the area of Special Education and all special area teachers (art, music, drama, PE) hold valid teaching certificates in their specific subject area. Our team is collaborative, creative, and diverse... as well as specifically trained in the field of learning disabilities, arts, and education.

Our faculty is focused on finding the most effective strategies to unlock your child's potential. Energy, vision, and dedication are important qualities that distinguish the teachers at Baltimore Lab School.

**WE COMMIT:** "If the teaching isn't working, change the teaching!"



## Lower School: 1st - 5th Grade

From the earliest grades, Baltimore Lab School offers a dynamic and stimulating environment that captures the imagination, fuels curiosity, and feeds the quest for knowledge. Our nationally acclaimed curriculum is rigorous, multisensory, arts-integrated, and experiential. The Lower School program prepares students with academic foundational skills, self-development skills, and learning strategies to advocate for their needs within the learning environment as they transition to the middle grades.

- Average class size of 6 students to 1 teacher
- Low student/staff ratio – sometimes as low as 3:1
- Two-person teaching team (teacher and instructional assistant) in math, reading, and language arts
- Challenging multisensory, arts-integrated curriculum
- Award-winning Academic Clubs
- Use of research-based programs such as Orton-Gillingham, Visualizing and Verbalizing, Lindamood Bell programs, Social Thinking, and Touch Math
- 1:1 use of word processing devices, such as Chromebooks, and interactive whiteboards

Our individualized and explicit small group instruction develops foundational and transitional academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Classes are led by a two-person teaching team, made up of a lead teacher and an instructional assistant. The Lower School curriculum provides students cohesive, multisensory instruction in English Language Arts, written language, science, health, social studies, math, and visual & performing arts. Balancing out the Lower School experience is our emphasis on social skill development, social and emotional learning, self-regulation, executive function strategies, and self-advocacy. Our program cultivates the development of students' strengths and skills that provide them with the confidence in themselves that is necessary for learning.

# Inspired

# Inclusive



**WE BELIEVE:** “If one method doesn’t work, try another.”



## Middle School: 6th – 8th Grade

Our Middle School program emphasizes organization and transition, preparing young learners for the faster pace and more demanding academics that await them in High School. Explicit instruction in the management of materials, time, and information is a priority as Middle School students assume more independence in their daily routine and more responsibility for their course work.

- Small class sizes, 6:1 average student/teacher ratio
- 1:1 word processing devices, such as Chromebooks, for every student
- Emphasizes executive functioning, responsibility, and structure
- Targets students' abilities and needs with differentiated instruction
- Encourages independent use of learning strategies and self-advocacy
- Prepares students for High School
- Provides rigorous multisensory, arts-integrated curriculum
- Offers engaging after school activities
- Fosters healthy competition and teamwork through interscholastic athletics

Middle School students study English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health. They also engage in a wide array of special areas of instruction – drawing, painting, graphic design, photography, drama, set design, music, creative movement, and fitness – to round out their academics. Written language is strongly emphasized; you'll find it woven throughout our Middle School curriculum. Middle School mathematics concentrates on abstract reasoning as well as computation skills. In true BLS tradition, the full spectrum of arts is used to help students access challenging new material. Technology plays an important role in the Middle School with interactive projectors, Promethean ActivInspire, Chromebooks, Google's G Suite for Education, Read & Write for Google, iPads, Daydream VR headsets, a 3D printer, and software programs effectively enhancing the classroom experience.

Middle School students also participate in weekly division-wide problem-based learning challenges that include science, technology, engineering, arts, math, team-building, and self-awareness components. These challenges are part of a creativity and innovation curriculum with a goal of creating purposeful solutions to community or global problems and entrepreneurship.



# Industrious



## High School: 9th - 12th Grade

From ninth through twelfth grades, students are increasingly challenged; they find the support and inspiration they need in small class instruction, multisensory teaching, and project-based learning. Extraordinary aspects of the High School experience include our internship program, extracurricular activities, One Book program, rigorous college preparatory classes, learning opportunities outside of the classroom, and innovative uses of technology. Critical thinking, analytic skills, and executive functioning skills, such as organization and time management, help prepare students for life after graduation.

Students shoulder more responsibility for their education in the High School. Teachers and staff encourage gradual and appropriate independence. Within this support system, students take ownership of their work, both in class and at home, and play a greater role in their choice of academic classes and electives. Self-awareness increases and self-confidence builds as students move through the High School.

A wide array of after school, extracurricular opportunities await our High School students. Team sports, clubs, and the arts provide the chance to build upon an interest...or discover a new one! Baltimore Lab School competes in intramural athletics such as basketball, cross-country, and track and field.



With an eye towards tomorrow, our High School program is designed to empower young people to be successful adults. Students are encouraged to think beyond the schoolyard and to envision their next steps, be that college or career. Post-secondary guidance is integral to every grade from ninth through twelfth. With the help of our college & career counselor, students define and explore their interests. Self-awareness is paramount. Seniors participate in workplace internships that help them refine their goals and hone their talents. Baltimore Lab School is proud of the fact that the majority of our students continue their education at the college level.

## Internships

Ask our alumni about their favorite High School memories. They're certain to mention our Internship Program! Senior-year students work outside the school at a pre-approved job for up to three hours per day. It's an illuminating glimpse at career possibilities and a priceless chance to polish workplace skills, from interviewing to problem-solving to effective communication. Previously, our students have worked with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), and their partners, through the Start on Success (SOS) program and completed paid internships at locations like Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland Medical Center, University of Maryland St. Joseph's Medical Center, the YMCA, City SEEDS, and other organizations in the Baltimore City region. Past unpaid internships include stints with the American Civil Liberties Union, Baltimore Montessori School, Baltimore Mounted Police, H.P. Rawlings Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Johns Hopkins University, the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Mercy Hospital, award-winning theatre companies, restaurants, bakeries, and art studios.

## Global Learning

### *Domestic and International Travel Opportunities*

Baltimore Lab School recognizes that the best classroom on earth is, literally, the Earth. Each year our High School students have the opportunity to participate in overnight trips. In the past, students have traveled to Boston, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, New York City, New Orleans, Nashville, and many more. Our High School students have also enjoyed opportunities to travel abroad to places such as Costa Rica, France, Spain, and England. We're constantly expanding our search for global experiences that will enrich the lives of our students and teachers.



*“We continue to develop our practice in response to current research on the brain, learning, and teaching.”*

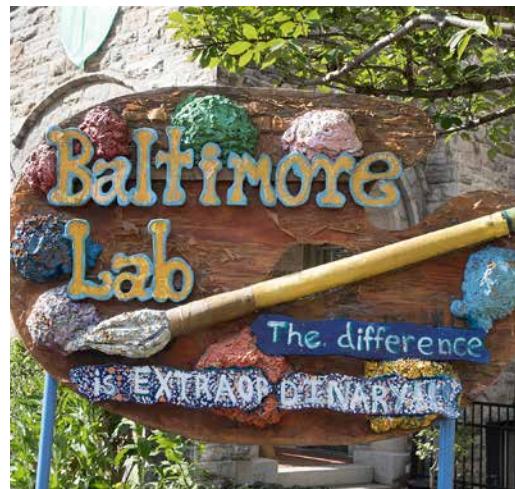
## QUICK FACTS:

### Insights

- College & career-preparatory school located in Baltimore City specializing in learning disabilities education
- Founded by Sally L. Smith in 2000
- Developed as a division of The Lab School of Washington, founded 1967
- Many of our graduates attend college
- We use arts as a foundation for and extension of learning
- Technology integrated across all classes and divisions
- Wide variety of after-school sports and activities
- Outdoor Education adventures and opportunities across all grade levels
- Community service opportunities and Service Learning projects
- Spanish offered in High School grades 9-12
- Domestic and international travel and learning opportunities
- Off-campus internships for grade 12
- Access to outstanding off-campus aquatic and sports facilities
- On-site Related Services: speech-language pathology, counseling services, and occupational therapy - including on-site, state-of-the-art OT gym
- Graduate and undergraduate students from local universities complete their service learning hours and internship requirements in our classrooms
- Volunteer Parents' Association
- Certified Maryland Green School by Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)
- Approved by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as a nonpublic special education school
- Accredited by Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)
- Member, Association of Maryland Independent Schools (AIMS)
- Member, National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Member, Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF)

### Technology

- 1:1 Chromebook program in grades 3-12
- Use of Google Classroom and G-Suite apps
- Assistive technology such as speech to text, word prediction, and text to speech software
- Extensive e-Library and online research database systems
- Innovative uses of technology and digital learning programs
- Interactive whiteboards
- 3-D Printer and design hardware and software
- iPads used in many Lower School classrooms
- Digital Arts Lab for graphic design, stop motion animation, video production, a digitally produced yearbook, and more
- Online access to assignments and quarterly grades



### Baltimore Connections

Baltimore Lab School enjoys a prime location in the heart of one of Charm City's most vibrant neighborhoods, renowned for its early American history as well as for its museums, cultural diversity, and burgeoning arts scene. We are located in the well-known, historic Goucher Hall on St. Paul Street, readily identified by our distinctive "castle-style" architecture. Schedule a tour to come see us - we'd love to get to know you!



# Invincible

*As students move through Baltimore Lab School, they acquire a comprehensive education, preparing them for a rich choice of college and career paths, but they acquire something more – something we believe is even more important: self-knowledge. From the earliest years, our graduates have been taught to understand how they learn best, articulate their strengths, and self-advocate as they move through life. Your child will leave Baltimore Lab School with greater self-esteem, deeper self-confidence, and an unsinkable enthusiasm for the possibilities that lie ahead.*

## Our Mission:

Baltimore Lab School is an innovative learning community fostering scholarship and creativity in students with unique strengths and diverse learning needs. In an environment of inquiry, hands-on exploration, and the arts, Baltimore Lab School students learn to advocate for themselves as they become engaged and compassionate members of a global society.

## We Believe:

### Students

All children possess unique strengths, can learn, and must develop the ability to self-advocate.

### Educators

Enthusiastic and creative staff must be supported to grow professionally by seeking out non-traditional, evidence-based teaching methods that best meet the needs of diverse learners.

### Arts

The arts can be a vehicle for organizing the learning process and combining multi-sensory instruction with experiential learning for students with learning disabilities.

### Culture

Student success requires a safe and structured environment, founded on kindness, compassion, and the celebration of differences (race, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, military status, or ability). Baltimore Lab School strives to hire a diverse staff in order to prepare students to be global citizens by exposing them to people from different cultures and social groups, along with the opportunity to affirm students' cultural identities and enhance the learning environment. This can also provide employees with an opportunity to work, learn, and grow with a diverse group of people.

## A graduate of Baltimore Lab will be:

1. A critical thinker, problem solver, and communicator prepared to face the challenges of college life or workplace.
2. A responsible self-advocate who knows and employs individual strategies for success in college and/or career.
3. An engaged and compassionate global citizen who appreciates and respects the differences in others.
4. A lifelong learner who continues to seek new opportunities to grow.





## Inquire

For more information about Baltimore Lab School, please contact our Admissions Office. We'll be happy to answer your questions.

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