Founded in 2000, Baltimore Lab School offers an exceptional academic experience for bright, motivated students with moderate-to-severe learning disabilities. 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-based curriculum sets 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 overcome their difficulties with reading, spelling, writing, and math, while preparing them for a range of rewarding choices after graduation. With one of the most studied and imitated programs in learning disabilities education, 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.
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 the only college preparatory school in Baltimore City that employs art in all of its engaging forms to help students master learning difficulties. Our myriad arts offerings improve attention and retention, build organizational competencies, enhance language skills, and bolster self-worth. Starting with our youngest grades, Baltimore Lab School uses the arts as a gateway for teaching other academics. As students progress through the school, art remains a vital component of our core curriculum.
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. Here students immerse themselves in the humanities by fully exploring one multidimensional theme throughout the year. Role-playing and “living the experience” take on an academic bent as young learners engage in a tactile, hands-on investigation of history, geography, literature, science, sociology, archaeology and art.

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 our 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
- Re-live 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
- Develop entrepreneurial insights in the Industrialists Club

The Academic Club concept is infused into the Middle School and High School curriculum. We continue this experiential, “learn by doing” strategy through project-based assignments, on-the-job internships for seniors, and our popular student-run campus store.
Every Baltimore Lab School student benefits from one-on-one evaluations and customized academic strategies. Your child may require clinical related services such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, reading support, and psychological services to help ensure academic success. In fact, all of our students receive some level of related service support. 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. This approach also helps preserve after-school and weekend hours for the pursuit of hobbies, sports, and relaxation.

In addition to offering integrated 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.
Our Students

Bright, motivated, and invested in their education, Baltimore Lab School students are uniquely equipped to tackle their learning disabilities. With an average or higher IQ, emotional wellbeing, and stable behavior, these young learners are receptive and responsive. They work hard, rejoice in their progress, and enjoy the confidence that comes from mastering our challenging curriculum.

Every Baltimore Lab School student is extraordinary, with a strong intellect that is recognized and tapped. In every classroom, you’ll find a wide range of learning styles…and an equally varied number of teaching approaches. We value the individual. And we’re intent on helping all individuals discover their value as well.

Our student body is diverse in its strengths and talents. It’s also culturally, socially, and economically diverse. We attract students from Baltimore City and the surrounding counties. Some students have even relocated from far away to benefit from a Baltimore Lab School education.

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 conditioned 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.
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. 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, stimulating environment that captures the imagination, fuels curiosity, and feeds the quest for knowledge. Our nationally acclaimed curriculum is multisensory, arts-infused, experiential, and rigorous. It’s also proven to be measurably successful.

Students benefit from small classes and our exceptionally low teacher/student ratios – often as low as 1:2. Teachers get to know your child quickly and insightfully. Individual attention, recognition, and reinforcement give young learners the foundation they need to eventually master the school’s challenging, college-preparatory course load.

Our youngest students experiment and explore in comfortable, age-appropriate surroundings. All Lower School classrooms have a two-teacher team to ensure differentiated instruction. Students are grouped by age and maturity, and children move through the program at their own pace, developing the skills and confidence needed for the academic rigors ahead. Art, music, technology, drama, creative movement, and dance are core components of our curriculum, starting in Lower School. Reading and written language are an intensive part of each day’s work. Math, science, social studies, physical education, social skills, technology, and our groundbreaking Academic Clubs round out the Lower School experience.
WE BELIEVE: “If one method doesn’t work, try another.”

Middle School: 6th – 8th Grade

Middle School spans sixth through eighth grade, when executive functioning, responsibility, and structure are underscored. Students amass a toolkit of learning strategies during these years. Technology, science, drama, literature and writing, and intensive math and reading remediation become increasingly important in every student’s daily schedule. Written language is emphasized as adolescents explore myriad forms of written expression. Middle School math focuses on abstract reasoning and computation.

Experiential, project-based learning – using the methodology based on our Lower School Academic Clubs – are integrated into all Middle School classes. Students enjoy a variety of educational field trips, including overnight outdoor adventures with our well-trained staff. A wide selection of visual and performing arts electives as well as physical education and interscholastic sports are all capstones of our Middle School program.
High School: 9th – 12th Grade

By the time they enter High School, teens are ready to take on the demands of a college preparatory course load. 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, rigorous college preparatory classes, and innovative uses of technology. Critical thinking, analytic skills, and executive functioning skills such as time management, help prepare students for “life after Lab.”

High School students shoulder more responsibility for their education. Teachers and staff encourage gradual and appropriate independence. Within this support system, students take ownership of their work 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, visual and performing arts provide the chance to build upon an interest...or discover a new one! Baltimore Lab School competes in the Chesapeake Athletic Conference for basketball, cross-country, track and field. Our vibrant theatre productions are “sellout” attractions that the entire community enjoys.
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 critical thinking skills. Past 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

International and Domestic Travel Opportunities

Baltimore Lab School recognizes that the best classroom on earth is, literally, The Earth. Our High School students enjoy opportunities to travel and study abroad in places such as Costa Rica, France, Spain, and England. Students have also enjoyed overnight trips to Boston, Gettysburg, and New York. We’re constantly expanding our search for global experiences that will enrich the lives of our students and teachers – stand by for news of upcoming adventures!
“We continue to develop our practice in response to current research on the brain, learning, and teaching.”
QUICK FACTS:

**Insights**
- The only college-preparatory school 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
- The majority of our graduates attend college
- We use arts as the gateway to 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 grades 9–12
- Global and domestic travel and learning opportunities
- Off-campus internships for grade 12
- Outstanding off-campus aquatic and sports facilities
- Member, Chesapeake Conference for Interscholastic Sports
- On-site Related Services: speech and language, psychological services, and occupational therapy – including on-site, state-of-the-art OT gym
- Graduate students from local universities work as classroom interns
- Active Parents’ Association
- Certified Maryland Green School by Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)
- Approved by Maryland State Department of Education
- A Maryland State Approved Nonpublic Special Education School (MSDE)
- 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**
- Audiobooks, Language Programs, and Text-to-Speech Software (Kurzweil, Inspiration, Dragon Speak, Read Naturally, etc.)
- Digital, student-produced High School newspaper and blog
- Extensive e-Library and online research database systems
- Innovative uses of technology and digital learning programs
- Interactive SMARTBoards
- 3-D Printer and design software in High School Technology program
- Tablets available, including Kindles and iPads
- Computers and laptops available
- Digital Arts Lab for graphic design, animation, video production, digitally produced yearbook, and more
- Online Access to Assignments and Quarterly Grades

**Baltimore Beckons**

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 ethnicity, 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. Make an appointment to come see us – we’d love to get to know you!
WE'RE PROUD OF THEM.

Invincible

As students move through Baltimore Lab School, they acquire an enviable 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 their learning styles, articulate their strengths, and self-advocate as they move through life. Your son or daughter will leave Baltimore Lab School with greater self-esteem, deeper self-confidence, and an unsinkable enthusiasm for the possibilities that lie ahead.
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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