



BALTIMORE LAB SCHOOL

THE DIFFERENCE IS EXTRAORDINARY

BLS Family and Friends -

On behalf of my fellow Board of Directors, thank you for making 2019 so special. The school continues to get stronger as our fantastic faculty and staff undertake their magical work helping our students meet their highest potential.

Based on the work of this team, BLS remains a leader in Baltimore for its integrated approaches to learning through speech, occupational therapy, counseling, reading services, and arts integration. The unique environment for our faculty and staff was recognized again as one of Baltimore Top Workplaces in 2019 (4th year in a row!). Steve and the team delivered another notable achievement when BLS became officially accredited by the Middle States Association through 2026.

As we close this decade, I wanted to share a few thoughts and observations on Baltimore Lab School and the prospects for next year and beyond.

First of all, break out the candles because next year represents an important milestone as BLS will celebrate our 20th birthday. Happy Birthday! Seems like just last year you were 19 (my kids hate that joke as well). From our humble beginnings at Port Discovery to our current home in historic Goucher Hall, BLS has touched countless families in Baltimore and beyond.

Over the past two decades, this school has changed lives by embodying the passion and values of our founder, Sally Smith. Sally was a passionate visionary who created a unique approach to teaching students who learn differently. At our November Board meeting we revisited the mission and beliefs to ensure we are using the arts and clubs in alignment with Sally's vision.

Visionary will be our theme in this upcoming year. In my mind, to be a visionary, you can't be afraid to follow your dreams. Steve and team will use the arts to have our students understand what it means to be visionary and dream. The club-based learning framework developed by our visionary founder is being used around the world to encourage children to pursue their talents and dreams.

We also have visionaries amongst our donors and supporters. Dr. Ellen McDaniel was a visionary in advocacy of students who learn differently and her steadfast commitment to ensure BLS remained a place of refuge, hope and support for our students. Her beautiful memorial garden flanks our portico and our students enjoy tending to the native plants in this peaceful oasis in the city.

The most notable visionaries are our students. Step into the Black Box or Lovely Lane for a performance, admire the artistic talents on display on the walls, or listen to the stories about field trips on the Chesapeake Bay and you will witness the dreams and accomplishments of tomorrow's visionaries. They are seizing their opportunities and laying the foundations for their next chapters with a smile and confidence that says, "I got this".

I hope your vision for 2020 and beyond is filled with joy and happiness. Most importantly, may your vision come true.

Happy Holidays,

Marc Wyatt
President, Board of Directors

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