



The Maryland School for the Blind

— ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE —

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Dr. Bina and the Paredes family unveil the PaviLION statue

Message from the President

More than 1,700 Maryland students who are blind and visually impaired require our support and assistance. Many of our students have multiple disabilities in addition to their visual impairment. At MSB, we have the services and staff to meet their needs providing them with the education to which they are entitled.

As a nonprofit, we depend on private philanthropy so that we can serve more students, expand our community outreach, and continually improve our staff's professional development to keep pace with advances in their fields.

As Michaelangelo once said, *"I see the angel inside the stone, and I chip away to release him."* With the right tools and knowledge, our staff can make the best use of their greatest skill—the ability to recognize and nurture each student's hidden potential.

When I think of the role we play, I remember a quote by Louis Pasteur: *"When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become."* We set our students up for success by offering them opportunities so they can learn new skills, develop confidence, and enhance their personal abilities.

Michael J. Bina, Ed.D.

President

MSB Senior Rickia Ellis
receives her diploma
from Edward Veilleux,
Chairman of the Board



Message from the Chairman of the Board

When my son donated a kidney to his daughter this year, the number of professionals at the hospital involved impressed me. My wife and I were grateful they were there and that they knew how to work together as a team for the well-being of our family.

The hospital staff reminded me of The Maryland School for the Blind. The school has teams of experts: occupational, physical, speech, and recreational therapists; orientation and mobility and assistive technology specialists; teachers, music educators, athletic coaches, counselors, social workers, and residential staff.

Together they create a web of support for each student that is unparalleled. It allows us to be able to meet each student's unique needs. These professionals chose to devote their talents to working one-on-one with our students. They have pursued their careers here with dedication and have the satisfaction of knowing that what they have accomplished is something truly special. And like my wife and I are grateful to the hospital staff, I know the parents here at MSB are likewise very appreciative.

Our students and staff are a source of inspiration. They make everyone associated with the school so proud to be involved with such a great institution.

On their behalf, we thank you for your support.

Edward J. Veilleux

Chairman of the Board



The Quest for Independence: Tyrell Johnson is On His Way

Tyrell Johnson strode across The Maryland School for the Blind graduation stage in June. The air vibrated with the sound of applause. Like all graduations, the moment marked an ending as well as a beginning. But his experience was different. He had already conquered challenges most students never have to face. And in the process, he built a strong, independent character, and skills that will serve him throughout his life.

It wasn't easy. But he wasn't alone.

The teachers at The Maryland School for the Blind collaborated with teachers and counselors at Parkville High School to support Tyrell to ensure he was successful academically. "My job was to get it done, whatever it took," he said. "They were there for me all the way."

Tyrell was born with Stickler syndrome, a genetic condition that can affect vision, hearing, and physical abilities. He also had cataracts, strabismus, and glaucoma.

But thanks, in part, to his mother's untiring advocacy and his extended family at MSB, he got the support he needed. He never used his disability as an excuse. English, government, biology, and algebra exams can be difficult subjects. He put in a lot of hard work and it paid off.

Today, when people think of Tyrell, they think of someone who always does his best. If he doesn't immediately succeed, he keeps at it.

"I was proud to get my picture taken with Tyrell. He overcame steep challenges. He had a strong advocate in his mother, Cecelia — someone who saw his potential, who believed in him, who gave her full support, not only to him, but to our staff. Both Tyrell and his mom were key in the success achieved."

Tyrell set high expectations for himself. He showed up and did the work, and didn't let anything get in his way. He's a success story that is an inspiration to me, and I know he is to others here, as well."

– Dr. Michael J. Bina

With graduation behind him, Tyrell is moving on with his life, living in an apartment, and working part-time while he attends the Community College of Baltimore County. His goal is to become certified in Computer and Information Technology.

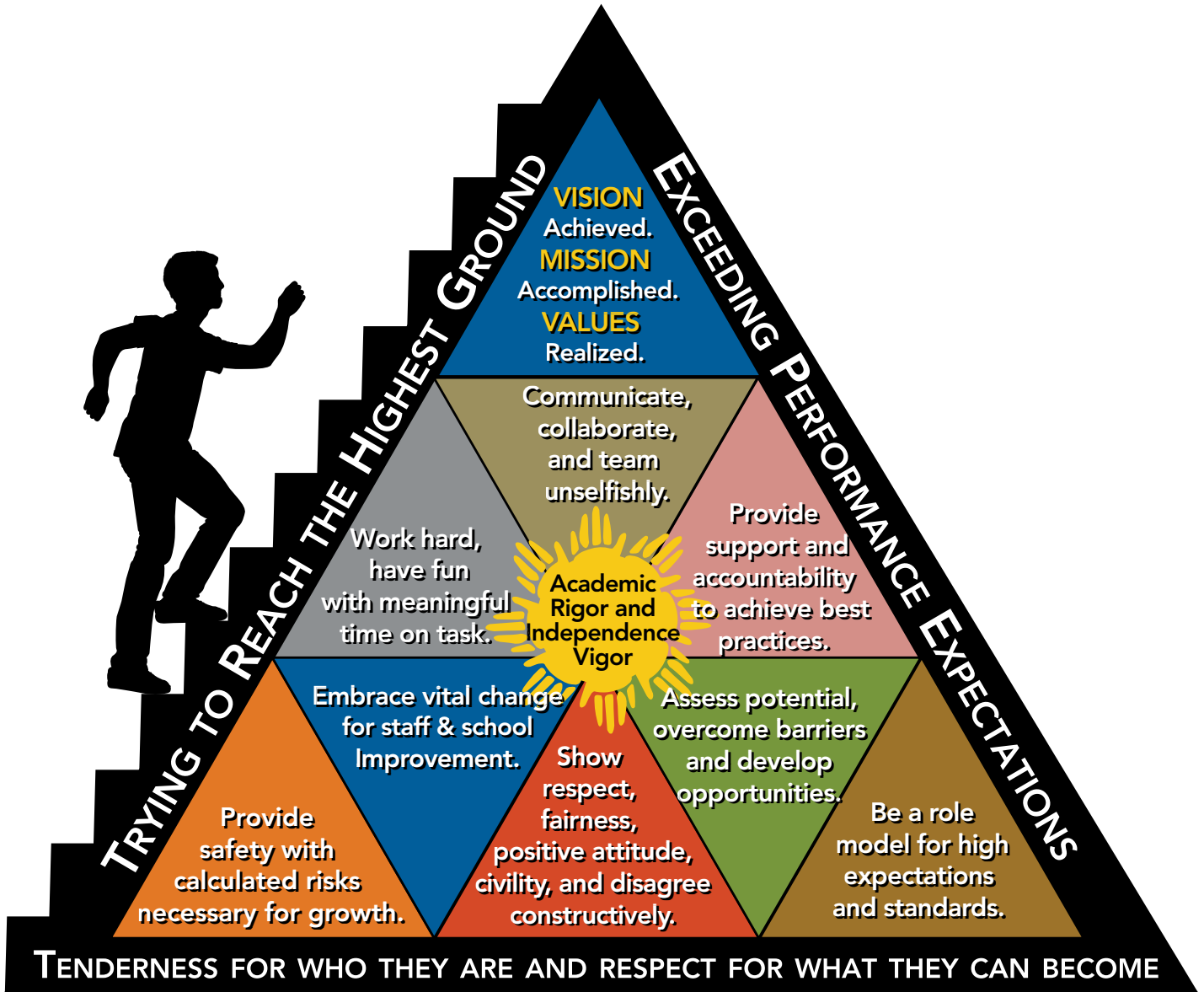
"I really did this," he said on graduation day. "I made it through high school. Now I need to finish college and get started on my career. I don't ever want to be that guy who sits at home doing nothing."

Here at MSB, we're sure that's not going to happen. We wish Tyrell and his thirteen graduating classmates all the best.



The Maryland School for the Blind

ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE



Improve safety	Improve student and staff wellness	Improve systems and planning	Improve programs and services	Improve communication, support and accountability	Improve financial position and stakeholder collaboration
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QUALITY EVERYWHERE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

VALUES To achieve its multiple responsibilities, the School is committed to safety, wellness, fairness, respect, personal responsibility, ethical standards and continuous improvement of program quality, professionalism, customer service, and stewardship of funds.

MISSION As a statewide resource center, the School provides outreach, educational and residential services for students to reach their fullest potential by preparing them to be as successful, independent, and well-rounded contributing members of their communities as possible.

VISION The Maryland School for the Blind, serving as an integral part of Maryland's special education continuum, will exceed student-achievement expectations by setting high standards and providing best-practice programs in state of the art facilities.

2014 Graduates



**David
Boone**

HOMETOWN:
Frederick,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Most Serious
Student' and Class
President, school
plays, karaoke,

playing percussion in *The Blue Duffs*, class trips,
Bible study, being a student ambassador, physical
education classes and Senior Prom.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend a local
work program and live with his family.



**Anthony Terrell
Cousins, Jr. (AJ)**

HOMETOWN:
Germantown,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Class Clown',
being with friends,
field trips, school
plays, MEAC,

horseback riding, ski trips, track team and fishing.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend
residential and day programs at CSSD.



**Shakira Janae
Marie Cunningham
(Kira)**

HOMETOWN:
Pikesville,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Most School
Spirited', listening to
music, yoga, biking

and making new friends.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend a day
placement and live in a supported adult
residence.



**Rickia
Ellis**

HOMETOWN:
Baltimore,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Best
Dressed', working at
various campus
jobs, reading to

local daycare children, track team, swim team
manager, cheerleading squad, goalball,
horseback riding, MEAC, school plays, ski trips,
karaoke and Senior Prom.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend Chimes'
employment program and live with her family.

CLASS MOTTO:

*“We are the best you’ve ever seen,
we are the class of 2014”*



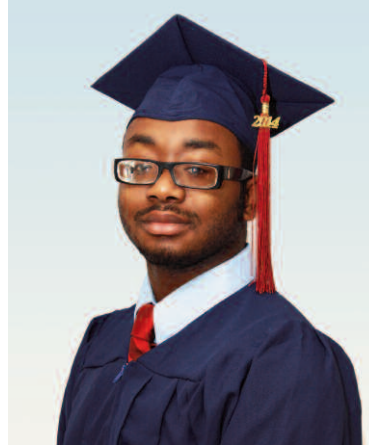
Andrew Melvin Hare (Andy)

HOMETOWN:
Reisterstown,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Most Original', swinging on the bench swing at the dorm, biking

and spending time with friends.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend a day placement and live with his family.



Tyrell Davon Johnson

HOMETOWN:
Baltimore,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Most Athletic', being a PE aid for elementary students and art classes,

making lifelong friends, and passing 4 HSA exams.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend CCBC working toward a certificate in Computer and Information Technology.



Jenna Willis-Johnson

HOMETOWN:
Baltimore, Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Most Creative' and the Senior Class Secretary, goal ball, swimming and

cheerleading, singing in *The Blue Duffs*, school choir, school plays, writing stories and poems, karaoke, MEAC, yoga, ski trips and Senior Prom.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Work with Abilities Network and live with her family.



Thomas Jones

HOMETOWN:
Glen Burnie,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Best Smile', music programs, school plays, MEAC, ski trips, senior

activities, swim team and friends.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend Providence Center and live with his family.

CLASS OF 2014

Colors: Red & Blue

Flower: Sunflower



Kuassi Kouhiko

HOMETOWN: Silver Spring, Maryland

MSB MEMORIES: Voted 'Most Laid Back' and Class Treasurer, reading and borrowing books from the library, goal ball,

track and swim teams.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend CHI Centers for employment services and live with his family.



Dimitri Mitropolos

HOMETOWN: Hagerstown, Maryland

MSB MEMORIES: Voted 'Best Dancer', Class Vice President and Prom King, participating in school plays, swimming,

biking, MEAC, Senior Prom and friends.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend the ARC program and live with his family.



Shauntese Marie Neal

HOMETOWN: Forestville, Maryland

MSB MEMORIES: Voted 'Energizer Bunny', Prom Queen, MEAC, school plays, horseback riding, music and friends.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend a day program at the ARC of Prince George's County and live with her family.



Zachary Santos

HOMETOWN: Nottingham, Maryland

MSB MEMORIES: Voted 'Biggest Flirt', Senior cruise, dancing with friends, telling jokes, school plays,

baseball and swimming.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Attend the ARC day program and live with his family.

CLASS OF 2014

Prom King: Dimitri Mitropolos

Prom Queen: Shauntese Neal



Samantha Merryman (Sam)

HOMETOWN:
Parkville,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Most
Dramatic',
participating in
school plays,

managing the 2007-2008 Goalball team,
singing in concerts, senior trips, karaoke,
socializing, writing, horseback riding and
yoga classes.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Work with
Abilities Network and live with her family.



Dovontay Taylor

HOMETOWN:
Temple Hills,
Maryland

MSB MEMORIES:
Voted 'Employee of
the Year', school
plays, swim team
manager, goalball,

wrestling and track and field.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Work in the
community with supports from an adult service
provider and live with his family.

**THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
2014 CLASS OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: *David Boone*

VICE PRESIDENT: *Dimitri Mitropolis*

TREASURER: *Kuassi Kouhiko*

SECRETARY: *Jenna Willis-Johnson*

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 Richard Eshmont
 Martha Frank
 Tracy Hawkins
 Ralph Hinson

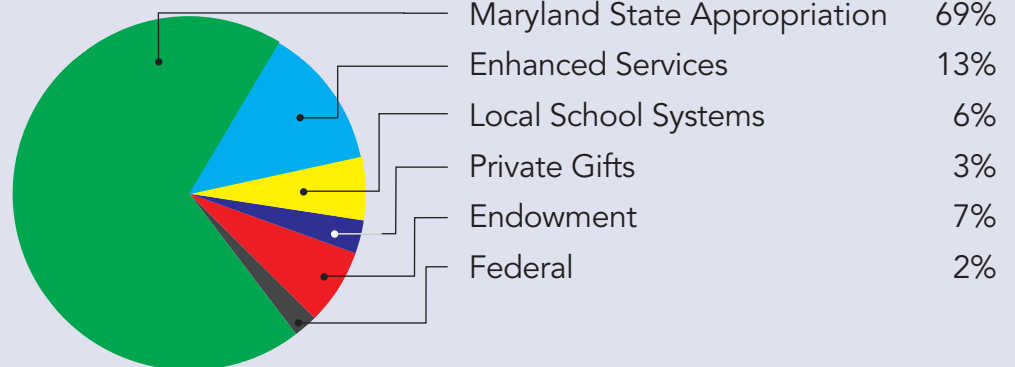
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 Martha Seabrooks
 David Slomkowski
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 Theresa Watson
 Donna Wellmann
 Wayne White

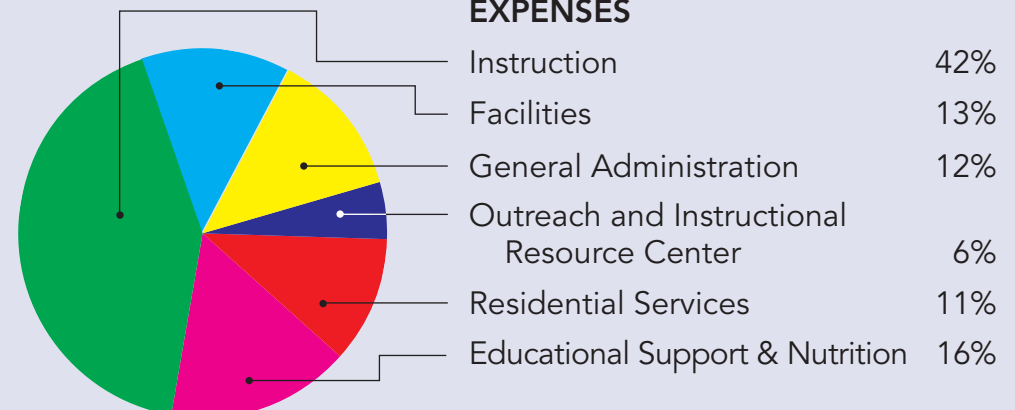
2014 Financials

The Maryland School for the Blind is a private, 501(c)(3) school under Internal Revenue Service regulations. The School's fiscal year ends June 30th. Funding is provided primarily through grants from the Maryland State Department of Education and payments from local school districts. Contributions are received from individuals, corporations, foundations and community groups. Total expenses approximated \$26.6 million.

REVENUES



EXPENSES





The Maryland School for the Blind
— ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE —



Multiple Disabilities Blind Learning Activity Center and Cottages

3501 TAYLOR AVENUE • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21236
410-444-5000 • www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org



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