



The Maryland School for the Blind

— ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE —

2018
ANNUAL
REPORT

Message from the Superintendent

2018 was a memorable year at The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) for many reasons. The year was filled with change, both for me personally and for the school itself. I was honored to have been chosen as the 13th leader in the 165 year history of the school when I accepted the position of Superintendent and CEO (formerly President) in September following the retirement of Dr. Michael J. Bina.

Dr. Bina served as President of MSB and led the school for the past decade from 2008 – 2018. He was a mentor to me and many others over his 50 plus years as an educator and leader in the field. Through his vision, the MSB campus has been transformed from outdated buildings into state of the art facilities for both our students and staff. His legacy will live on at MSB well into the future.

There were many highlights at MSB in 2018 including serving as hosts to the first ever Blind Soccer Development Camp in the United States for players and coaches from around the world and hosting the Camp Abilities Summit for camp directors from across the globe. We also partnered with athletes from across the country to attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the longest continuous game of goalball, and just received the official notification from the Guinness organization that we are indeed the world record holders! (read more on page 11).

Our students continued to “SOAR” in 2018 academically and in all areas of the expanded core curriculum (ECC). Students in both our Outreach and on-campus programs participated in events such as the Maryland Braille Challenge, the Maryland Savage Race, the East Coast Music Festival, the First Lego League Robotics STEM program, Camp Abilities, GRITS in the Kitchen, Mastering Independence Skills Through Living Experiences, as well as other educational and recreational programs throughout the school year and summer.

We are proud of our 12 graduates from the Class of 2018, who are highlighted in this report, as well as all of the students we serve throughout Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions. I look forward to partnering with you to ensure the continued success of our mission.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

W. Robert Hair

W. Robert Hair, M.Ed.
Superintendent - CEO



Donald Mearis, Class of 2018 President, with Rob Hair, MSB Superintendent and CEO

Message from the Chairman of the Board

Another great year at The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) has flown by and with it brought change, transition and progress! We sadly said good-bye to Dr. Michael Bina, President of the school for the past 10 years who elected to retire at the end of August. Dr. Bina's contributions over the years will live on in the school's campus that has been almost completely transformed with new buildings, living quarters and play areas that more functionally match the needs of current and future students. In addition, under Dr. Bina's guidance, the school's education programs became accredited and outreach programs expanded. We thank Dr. Bina for his excellent leadership and tutelage of the school during his tenure and wish him a fun-filled retirement!



After an in-depth search process, Mr. W. Robert Hair has taken over the position of President, which has been renamed Superintendent, effective September 1, 2018. The leadership transition has been very smooth. Mr. Hair has already accommodated for an enrollment spike, enhanced safety and security of the campus, and is actively pursuing State of Maryland contacts and legislators to ensure that the needs of the school are understood and supported.

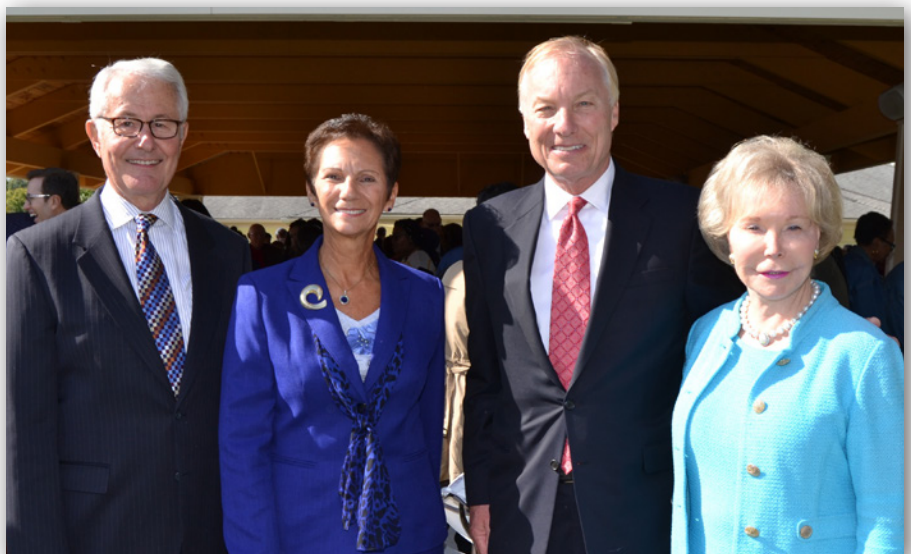
MSB has continued its many educational and fun programs like robotics, concerts, athletics and summer programs and recently undertook the challenge to set a Guinness Book World Record for the longest Goalball game.

Again, it takes a village to serve the unique needs of the MSB children and we thank the Board of Directors, the staff, students, families, volunteers, donors, local school systems and the State of Maryland who all contribute to this esteemed goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion L. Mullauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marion Mullauer
MSB Board Chair



Dr. Michael Bina, MSB Past President; Marion Mullauer, MSB Board Chair; Peter Franchot, Maryland State Comptroller; and Dr. Nancy Grasmick, MSB Board of Directors, at groundbreaking for campus renovation projects

Got Grit? (re-printed from The Window Spring 2018)



Sydney using her refreshable braille display at the Great Reading Race Kickoff

Sydney Smith just celebrated her 12th birthday. Her mother, Tammy, can't believe that she is almost a teenager. "It's scary. My baby is growing up," she said.

The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) sixth-grader has never let vision define her. Born with septo-optic dysplasia, a rare congenital malformation syndrome, she has some light perception and can only see some colors and blurred shapes. Despite her visual impairment, she is fiercely independent. "She rides her bike without training wheels, up and down the driveway and street," her mother said. "As long as she's concentrating, she can do it. She does things even I am afraid to do."

Although Sydney has been a student at MSB since Pre-K, Heather Johnson is her current teacher. "Sydney has been steeped in our culture of independence from the

time she was a baby," Johnson said, "but true independence is hard to develop in a student if their family is not 100% behind them; fortunately hers is. Students need people who believe in them, but also who will push them," Johnson said. "I have low vision myself, and I didn't feel pushed enough as a kid." I tell my students early on, "We will build on this together, but it takes both of us. You can trust that I will be honest with you. You might not like it sometimes, but one day, I hope, you'll appreciate it."

Sydney also has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which creates additional challenges for her. "Her writing was disorganized, but I knew she had powerful life experiences to share," said Johnson. I told her, "If you can harness this energy, you're going to make waves. You are going to influence people



your whole life, just by being who you are. She has faced her obstacles head-on, even though it hasn't always been easy."

She also faced the challenge of learning to read Braille fluently, which takes a great deal of practice. At first, Johnson noticed Sydney would "fake-read" through books. "I could see she needed to develop her fluency in Braille. This past winter, when she hit 100 words per minute, it was like Christmas. She said, 'Now, I'm going to hit 120!' She sets high goals and then works to achieve them."

In March, Sydney won the top reader award in MSB's "Great Reading Race," a three week contest in which students set goals and log their reading hours. She read for a total of 1,845 minutes.

Parental support, expert teachers, and a learning environment are crucial. But

in the end, it is up to the student to rise to the challenge. According to Johnson, "Sydney is curious, engaging, and thirsty for information. She will do whatever it takes to do well in school. If she doesn't understand, she'll ask for help. She'll do more homework until she gets it. She gives her best effort. She's a powerhouse, that girl!"



In her gymnastics class and on the playground, this is also evident. She does forward and backward flips and cartwheels, and climbs to the highest heights. "She always wants to try things," her mother said. "She is fearless. When we're doing something, and I know it's kind of dangerous, I'll say, 'Let me do it.' She'll say, 'No! I should be able to try it myself.' She kind of throws it in my face. I love that about her. She's amazing!"

Class of 2018 Graduates



Jasynda Raquel Avila

HOMETOWN: Hagerstown, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Jasynda was a student at MSB for 11 years. Her favorite memories included meeting her friend Liz, socializing, and eating all of the good food at school. She was honored to receive the B. Franklin Newcomer Award at graduation which recognizes a student who demonstrates, through leadership and citizenship, a positive influence in both school and residential life.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVE: Most School Spirit

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Jasynda plans to continue living with her family and enter a training program through DORS. Her goal is to work at CVS Pharmacy. She also plans to help her mom with babysitting.



Jacqueline Kathryn Bowen

HOMETOWN: Reisterstown, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Jackie's favorite memory was going on the senior cruise. She also enjoyed community outings, especially delivering "Meals on Wheels" as part of her job in the career education program. Jackie developed an extensive sign language vocabulary during her time at MSB. As a student for 13 years, she worked on advocating for herself, asking for help, making microwave snacks and learning job skills. She was voted Senior Class Treasurer.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVE: Most Creative

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Jackie will be living at home and enjoying time with her family.



Sabrina Elizabeth Chirichella

HOMETOWN: Silver Spring, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Sabrina's participation in music therapy classes was her most memorable experience. Her love of music was apparent as she sang along to the songs and engaged with the musical instruments. During her 12 years at MSB, Sabrina worked on transitioning from activity to activity with the use of her portable schedule of object/tactile symbols and traveling indoors with supervision along familiar routes in the dorm and in the school building.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVE: Best Singer

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Sabrina will be attending an adult day program in Montgomery County. She will continue to live at home with her family.



Jamal LaFawn Davis-Brooks

HOMETOWN: Pikesville, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Jamal made many memories while attending MSB for 15 years. He enjoyed daily social interactions with both students and staff and going on a field trips including the national aquarium and bowling. Jamal also enjoyed participating in activities including the school play, and recreational dances. Over the years, Jamal increased his independence with using a switch to activate various devices such as small appliances, radios, and a shredder. By using the switch he helped to prepare his meals and really enjoyed being the classroom DJ. He was voted Senior Class Vice President.

Senior Superlative: Best Dressed

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Jamal plans on living at home with his family and will attend an adult day program.



Louis James Gaffney, III (Tre)

HOMETOWN: Abingdon, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Tre’s favorite memory while at MSB was singing and performing in the school concerts. He also enjoyed singing and dancing socially with his friends. Some of the skills he developed during his 12 years at MSB were being kind to others, making friends, learning how to follow a schedule and working hard. He also loved learning how to cook and bake, especially making cookies in the oven! He received the Staff Commendation Award at graduation.

Senior Superlative: Best Dancer

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Tre plans to work in a restaurant and spend quality time with his family.



Nicholas Albert Heuchan

HOMETOWN: Dundalk, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Nicholas’ most memorable moment was when he earned his Eagle Scout badge. For his project he built accessible picnic tables and donated them to MSB. Nicholas was very proud of this honor and was happy to be able to help all students at MSB enjoy activities outside through the use of the accessible tables. As a student for 10 years, Nicholas displayed a strong work ethic and enjoyed a wide array of jobs including making deliveries, selling lunch tickets, recycling, making dog toys, and paper shredding. He served as the Senior Class Secretary.

Senior Superlative: Biggest Flirt

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Nicholas will live at home with his family and help with activities around the house. He will also continue with his Eagle Scout activities.



Joshua Jordan Holland

HOMETOWN: Glen Burnie, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Josh’s favorite memories involved being a member of the athletic teams. He was on the wrestling and track and field teams and won medals in both sports. He learned to use his “Racer” which assisted him in running the track. One of his favorite times was traveling to New York for a wrestling tournament, where the MSB team placed 2nd, and spending the weekend at MSB for a home track meet. The prom was also a memorable evening for Josh. He listened to music, danced and even went under the limbo stick.

Senior Superlative: Most Laid Back

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Josh would like to work at Blind Industries and Services of Maryland.



Anthony Chioke McCoy

HOMETOWN: Hebbville, MD

MSB MEMORIES: As a student at MSB for 18 years, Anthony had many memorable moments. He had fun dressing up and attending his senior prom and going on a lunch cruise with the senior class. He enjoyed physical education classes, especially going to the pool and spending time floating around in the warm water. He had fun splashing everyone and trying to dunk his teacher! Anthony learned a wide variety of skills at MSB, but the most important was the ability to use “eye gaze” technology to make his needs known to people around him.

Senior Superlative: Best Smile

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Anthony plans on living at home with his family and attending an adult day program.



Donald Russell Mearis, Jr.

HOMETOWN: Waldorf, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Donald's most memorable times in his 11 years at MSB involved sports, especially wrestling. With the help of his coaches, he overcame many obstacles to become one of the strongest competitors in the sport. He learned perseverance and confidence from his involvement in MSB's athletic program. One of his proudest moments was being voted the Senior Class President.

Senior Superlative: Most Athletic

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Donald's goal is to get a job as a cook in a restaurant after attending DORS. He will live at home with his family and hopes to get his own apartment in the future.



Loretta Elizabeth Stewart

HOMETOWN: Washington, DC

MSB MEMORIES: Loretta was a student at MSB for 18 years. Since music has always been a significant part of her life, Loretta's most memorable time at MSB was the senior class trip on the Baltimore Spirit cruise ship, where she stayed close by the ship's DJ listening to the jams play for the entire trip. Loretta worked hard on daily living skills and learned to independently scoop her food and drink from an adaptive straw cup.

Senior Superlative: Most Energetic

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Loretta will be attending an adult day program in the Washington, DC area where she resides in a group home.



Adam Benjamin Testerman

HOMETOWN: Bel Air, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Adam was a student at MSB for 12 years. His most memorable times involved friends that he made at school. He enjoyed being with them, and doing fun, social activities together. Adam's favorite subject was math and he feels that the math skills he learned at MSB are the skills that will be most helpful to him in the future.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Adam plans to attend a community based adult program.



Richard Alton Tyndall, III

HOMETOWN: Glen Burnie, MD

MSB MEMORIES: Richie's most memorable moments involved social activities and spending time with his friends. He enjoyed playing games in the gym, and dorm, during leisure time. He will also remember singing the Fifty Nifty United States song with his classmates. In his four years at MSB, Richie learned many skills, including job training. While working his on and off campus jobs, he learned how to stay focused on tasks and how to work with a team. He received the Staff Commendation award at graduation.

Senior Superlative: Employee of the Year

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Richie plans on getting a job that will allow him to use the skills he learned at MSB, especially his money management skills.



Senior Class Officers:

President: Donald Mearis

Treasurer: Jacqueline Bowen

Vice President: Jamal Davis-Brooks

Secretary: Nicholas Heuchan

Class Colors: Black and Gold

Class Flower: Sunflower

Class Motto: "I don't get hype. I stay hype."

2018 MSB Student Awards



Louis "Tre" Gaffney
Staff Commendation
Award



Jasynda Avila
B. Franklin Newcomer
Award



Richard Tyndall
Staff Commendation
Award



Tyler Shallue
MSB Alumni
Award

2018 MSB Staff Awards



Matthew Mescall, MSB and TU Goalball Coach, received the 2018 Towson University Sports Club Coach of the Year Award



Dr. Michael Bina was awarded the American Printing House (APH) 2018 Wings of Freedom Award

2018 MSB Building Design Award



The Pre-School Early Learning and Outreach Center at MSB was honored and selected to appear as an outstanding design in the August 2018 issue of the American School & University Educational Interiors Showcase Magazine, the premier competition honoring education interiors excellence. The school received a plaque to display in the building lobby, by the designers Marshall Craft Associates.

The Maryland School for the Blind

ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE

GOALBALL

WORLD RECORD 2018



The Maryland School for the Blind has officially set the Guinness World Record for the longest continuous game of Goalball, according to the Guinness World Record organization. Teams consisting of MSB students and alumni as well as collegiate, adult and Paralympic athletes attempted the feat on December 7th and 8th, 2018 by playing the physically challenging game for 25 hours and 30 seconds.

There was no prior record for this attempt, but the Guinness World Record organization reviewed the



rules of the sport and set a 24 hour parameter for the first-ever attempt upon receiving the application from MSB. The MSB organizers added an hour to the minimum requirement and set a



team goal of 25 consecutive hours. The team achieved their goal and set the record with an official time of 25 hours and 30 seconds.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of The Maryland School for the Blind, disability sports, unite our community, advocate for people with disabilities, and showcase the game of goalball by setting a Guinness World Record.

Beeping egg hunt



1st Pitch students promote beep baseball



1st North American Blind soccer development camp at MSB

Winter Concert Jr. Choir



Camp Abilities





Top male and female athletes



MISLE students working in the community



MSB Savage Race team

MARYLAND 5.06



Early learning students using technology



TECCH summer program



Dot5U Dogs robotics team

Andy

East Coast Music Festival participants



Camp Abilities



Kindergarten Graduation



Prom king and queen



Early Learning Program



Maryland Braille Challenge



BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY 2018 (as of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

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Lorraine Costella, Ph.D.-
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Liza Brown-DiCostantino

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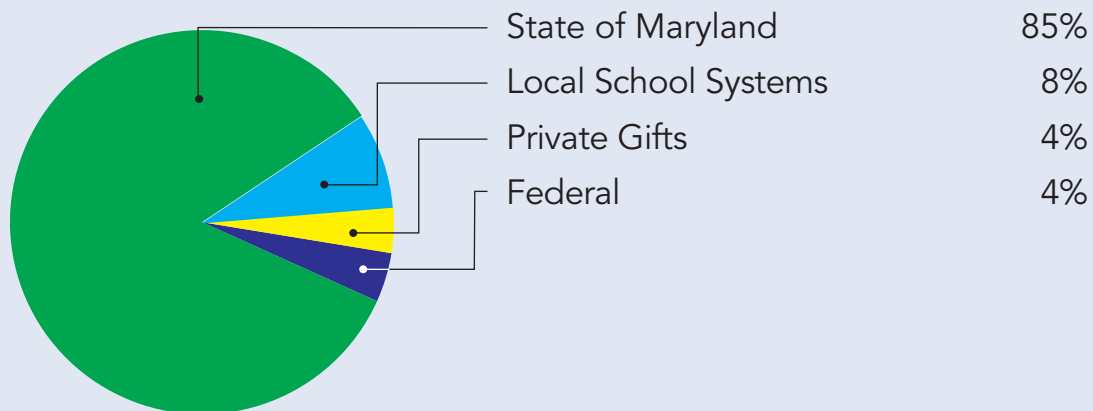
Directors:

Kimberley Alfonso

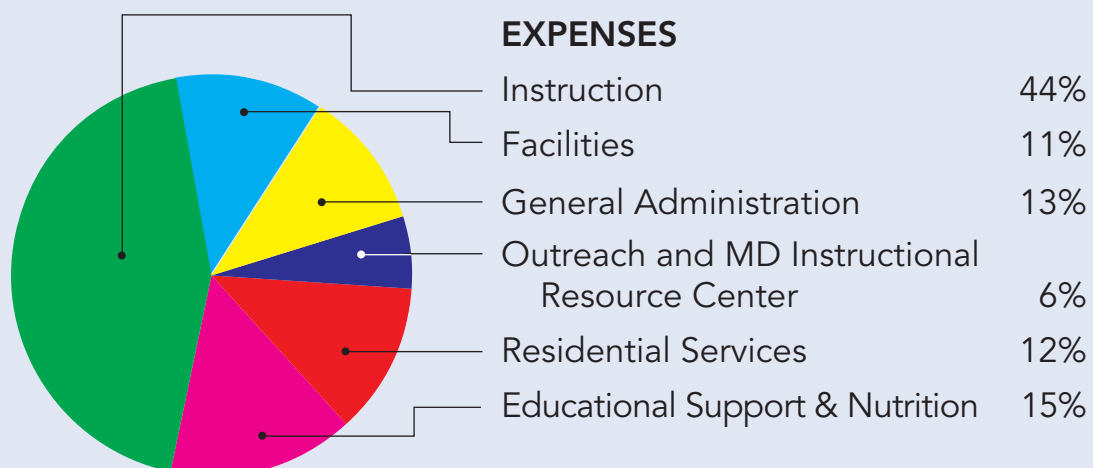
2018 Financials

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 \$30.1 million.

REVENUES



EXPENSES





The Maryland School for the Blind

ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE

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