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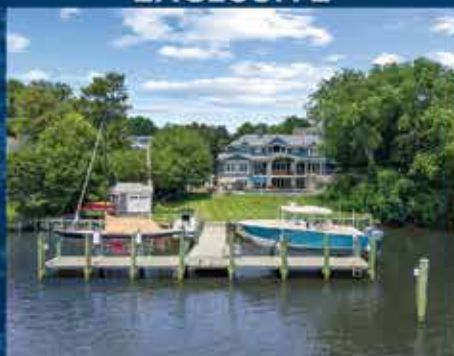
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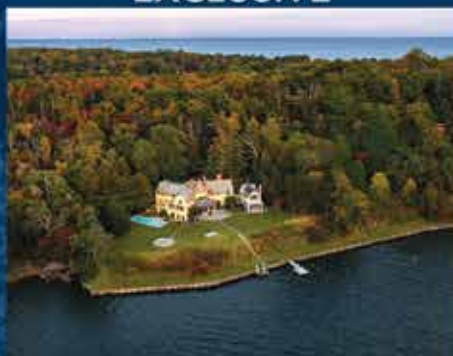
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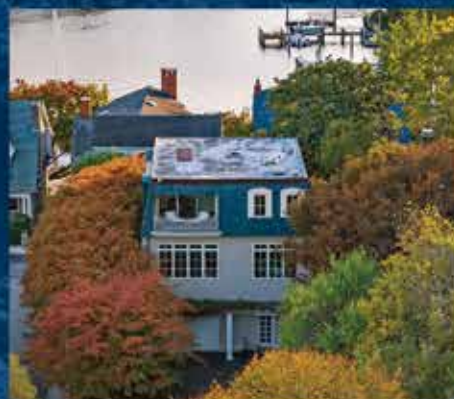
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Kendall Summers Esquire, is an experienced attorney practicing in the fields of Family and Estate Planning Law with 25+ years of experience.

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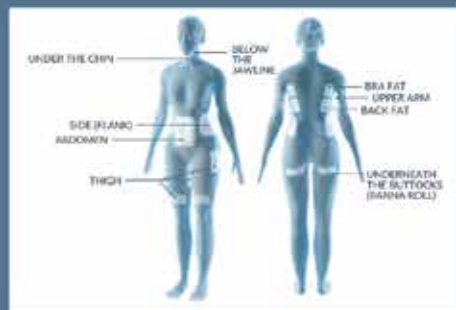
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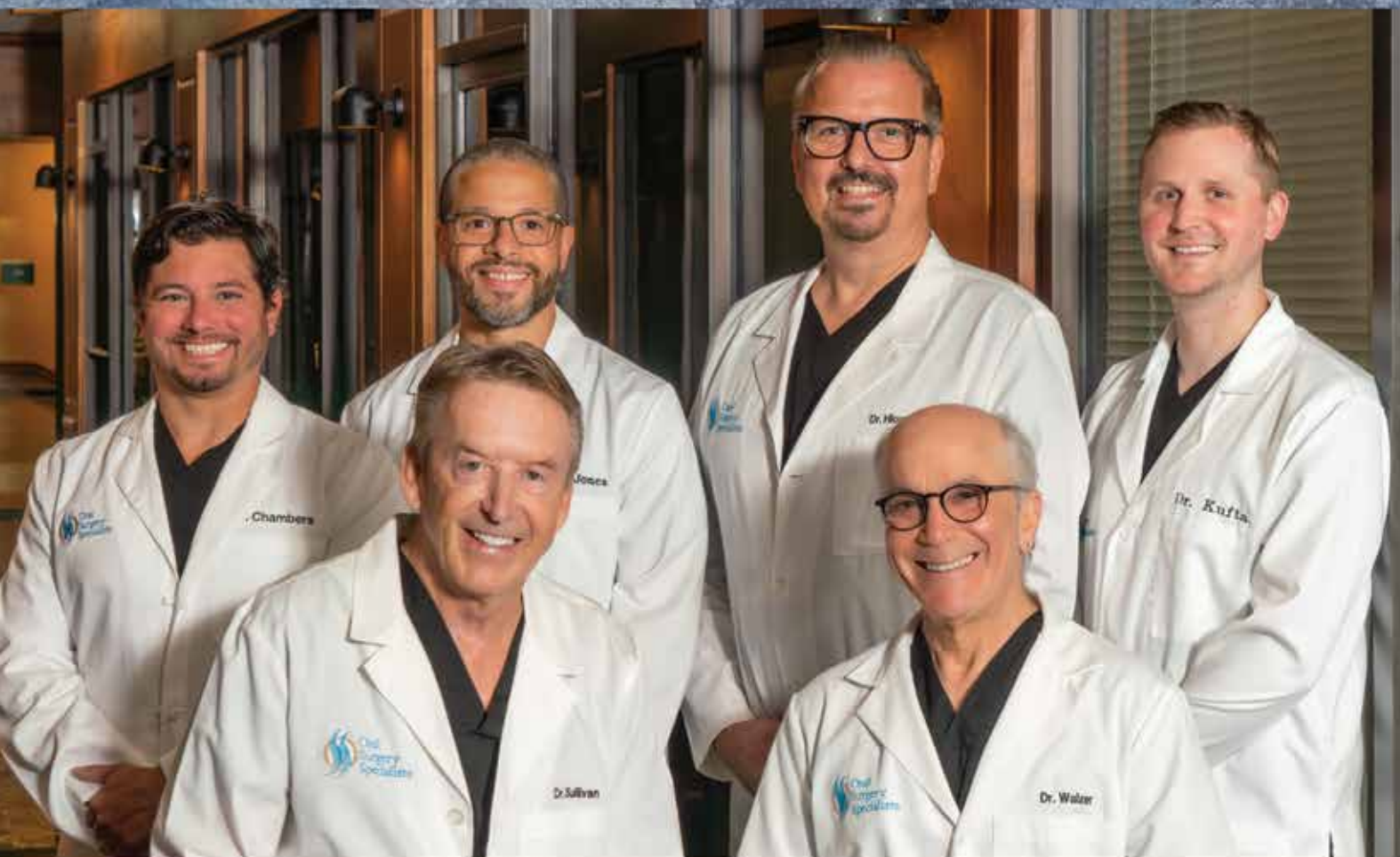


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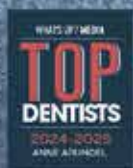
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A New Year. A Grateful Heart.



Thank you!



As Wellness House of Annapolis begins our 20th year, we want to thank this incredible community for supporting our mission. Because of you, we provide compassionate **FREE** mental health and wellness support to those in our community touched by cancer, including the entire family.

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- Health and Wellness
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- Social Support

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Wellness House
OF ANNAPOLIS

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To donate contact Development Officer Marshall Kaputsos at marshall@annapoliswellnesshouse.org or 667-270-5713.

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Welcome to 2026! I think it's safe to assume that between the holiday season and the new year, most of us compressed a lot of work and...okay, some play...within a little bit of time. I know I certainly did. And so, within this small strip of space available to make any sort of declaration about what this issue has for you, I'd like to, instead, offer sincere thanks to our teammates—the What's Up? Media staff and contributors—who did, indeed, work tirelessly through the holiday season to produce this magazine *and* those published before it and after. Our December, January, and February magazines (even March) have been keeping us very, very busy for the past couple months. Even our Weddings magazine—out now!—is produced at the same time as this one. And every bit of content is uploaded, formatted, and enhanced online by our digital team, then broadcast through our social channels. Of course, our dedicated clients were at the top of their game also, not only managing their own businesses, but participating in the production of what you're holding in your hands.

Altogether, we have one heck of a group that contributed to this product during the homestretch of the year. So...thank you all. Seriously. And an extended thanks to our readers, who make it all worthwhile and exciting. We look forward to making 2026 another unforgettable year with you!

James Houck,
Editorial Director



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Expert of the Month

Ashley Calo

Ashley Calo

Founder & Head Trainer | Maxed Out Fitness

Ashley Calo, an Annapolis-based personal trainer, fitness model, and American Natural Bodybuilding Federation (ANBF) figure and physique professional, began her fitness journey when she was 19 years old after a personal transformation from a size 16 to a competitive athlete. She has more than 20 years of experience in training and strategic meal planning, and in 2020, she launched Maxed Out Fitness, a woman- and veteran-owned elite boutique studio. Calo believes in customized programming, community culture, and empowering clients of all ages and abilities to own their fitness story.

Why is it so important to customize a fitness program?

Clients define "fit" differently because every lifestyle is different. Their routines, challenges, and goals vary greatly, so a cookie-cutter plan will never deliver meaningful change. Real transformation occurs when a program is built around their life, their limitations, and their vision for themselves. When you honor who a person truly is, you create results that they can actually sustain.

What excites you most about your career?

I love seeing people win. Every day, I get to help someone feel stronger, healthier, or more confident—whether that means shedding 20 or even 100 pounds, helping an athlete make the team, or seeing a 93-year-old dance again. My clients trust me with their goals, but they also let me push, love, and challenge them along the way. These relationships—and the lifelong connections we create—make this career so fulfilling.

What makes Maxed Out Fitness stand out from other studios in the area?

Maxed Out Fitness was built to combine the best of every studio I've trained in and offer what they lacked. Our trainers are experienced, continually educated, and supported by medical and therapeutic partners. With an in-house chiropractor and advanced in-body diagnostics, we offer exceptional tools and expertise. But our biggest strength is our community. The Maxed Out Fitness family trains hard, lifts each other up, gives back together, and welcomes every new member like one of our own.

Maxed Out Fitness

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HIGHLIGHTING
ENTERTAINMENT,
COMMUNITY,
AND EVENTS

2026 Polar Bear Plunge

PG. 20





BSO PRESENTS DISTANT WORLDS: MUSIC FROM FINAL FANTASY: CELEBRATING FINAL FANTASY XVI AND XIV

Legendary conductor Arnie Roth brings the world of *Final Fantasy* to life as he leads a full orchestra and chorus in a spectacular multimedia concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. On January 2–3, 2026, fans will be swept into the iconic soundscapes of the series—including music from *Final Fantasy XVI* and *XIV*—enhanced by stunning HD visuals from Square Enix. Featuring the unforgettable work of composers like Nobuo Uematsu, Masashi Hamauzu, and Yoko Shimomura, this immersive performance promises an evening of soaring themes, emotional depth, and pure nostalgia. Tickets range from \$49 to \$75. More info: www.bsomusic.org

2026 Polar Bear Plunge

Dive into one of Maryland's most iconic winter traditions on January 23rd to January 31st. The Polar Bear Plunge, celebrating 30 years of bold bravery and big-hearted community spirit in 2026. Each year, thousands take the icy leap into the Chesapeake Bay to support the 25,000 athletes and Unified® teammates of Special Olympics Maryland. Every dollar raised goes directly toward year-round sports and leadership programs, all provided at no cost to athletes and their families. By registering for the 2026 Plunge, you're not just jumping into freezing water—you're fueling inclusion, empowerment, and joy across the state. Help reach this year's \$4.75 million fundraising goal and make a splash that truly makes a difference. More info: www.plungemd.com

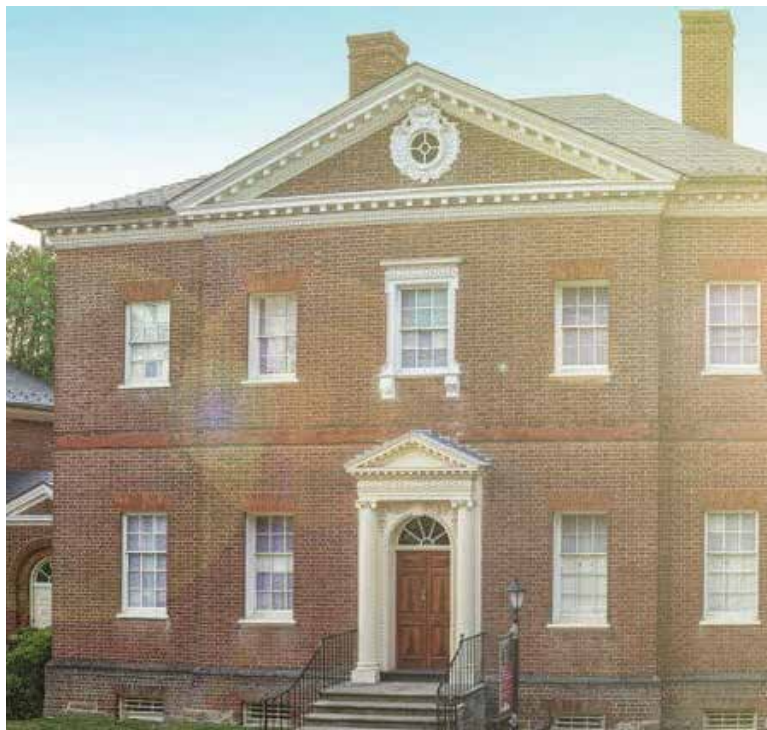


Photo by Steve Ruark



MARYLAND YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate an entire weekend of winter whimsy at the Maryland Yule Ball festivities, beginning with the Friday Night Winter Fantasy Ball on January 9, 2026, followed by the 7th Annual Yule Ball on Saturday, January 10, both held at the Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley. Each evening begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail hour before guests sit down to dinner and dance the night away starting at 7 p.m., surrounded by enchanting décor and a magical atmosphere worthy of a storybook celebration. Saturday also features a lively Renfaire Marketplace sponsored by Regal Threads, offering artisan wares, costuming, accessories, and whimsical goods to complete your Yule Ball experience. It's a full weekend of fantasy, revelry, and immersive holiday fun—tickets are expected to sell quickly, so secure yours early. More info: www.mdyleball.com



Candlelight: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Candlelight Concerts return to Annapolis on January 3rd with a stunning tribute to the music of Fleetwood Mac, transforming Maryland Hall into a glowing, multi-sensory experience illuminated by hundreds of candles. Across select dates this season, guests will be treated to a 60-minute performance that reimagines the band's iconic hits in an intimate, atmospheric setting where every note feels close and alive. Doors open 45 minutes before each show, and seating is first-come, first-served within each zone, ensuring a relaxed and welcoming evening for music lovers ages 8 and up. It's a beautiful way to rediscover the songs you love in a whole new light. More info: marylandhall.org/events

FIRESIDE REVELRY: A COLONIAL TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND MISCHIEF

Fireside Revelry returns to the Hammond-Harwood House on January 10 for an enchanting candlelit concert inspired by the seasonal music, dance, and poetry once shared in 18th-century Annapolis parlors. Anchored in the festive spirit of the Twelve Days of Christmas, the evening blends elegance and mischief with English catches, Scottish airs, and American parlor songs that reflect both refined and rustic winter traditions of the early Republic. Performed inside one of Annapolis's most storied homes, the concert features soprano Elissa Edwards, artist-in-residence, joined by guest musicians who bring colonial salon culture to life. It's a warm, spirited way to open the semi-quintennial year with history, harmony, and a touch of old-world revelry. More info: hammondharwoodhouse.org/event

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BIGKID DANCE: IF I DIE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

Led by visionary artistic director Mark Caserta, BIGKID DANCE brings its powerful, queer-centered contemporary works to the stage at Maryland Hall on January 24th with a performance that examines love, identity, grief, curiosity, and the complexities of navigating today's world. Based in Philadelphia, this movement community is known for its collaborative spirit and emotionally charged choreography that invites audiences to feel, reflect, and connect. With bold storytelling and intimate physicality, BIGKID DANCE creates an experience that resonates long after the final moment. Special student and group rates are available for this performance. More info: marylandhall.org

KEYSHIA COLE: THE WAY IT IS 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Keyshia Cole brings her unmistakable voice and heartfelt storytelling to The HALL at Live! on January 18 as she celebrates the 20th anniversary of her iconic debut album, *The Way It Is*. Fans can relive the emotion, passion, and soulful power that made the record an instant classic, all in a high-energy performance that honors two decades of chart-topping hits and R&B legacy. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and free parking makes the evening even easier to enjoy. More info: www.livech.com/Maryland



Army Navy Double Header

Navy men's and women's basketball take the court against Army on January 24, 2026, for one of the most spirited doubleheaders of the season, with the women tipping off at 11:00 a.m. and the men following at 1:30 p.m. at Alumni Hall in Annapolis. Fans can enjoy the electric rivalry atmosphere as the Midshipmen battle the Black Knights in back-to-back games that

define service-academy competition. Parking is available on the Yard for those with a DOD license, and a free shuttle bus will be running for all other spectators for easy access. It's a high-energy day of hoops, pride, and tradition you won't want to miss. More info: navysports.eventue.net



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Senior Provider Group Luncheon

On November 13, the Senior Provider Group (SPG)—an Anne Arundel County based support network of businesses and nonprofits that provide services to the elderly population—held its annual celebration luncheon at Maggiano's Little Italy in Annapolis. At the luncheon, the SPG's five grant recipients were announced: Care Prepared, Severn River Lions Club, Hospice of the Chesapeake, Expose Dementia, and Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. The presentation also featured award recognition for longtime sponsor/supporter What's Up? Media and its Publisher/President Veronica Tovey. Learn more about the SPG at seniorprovidergroup.org

1. Tammy Turner and Ellen Christian 2. Ellis House staff, sponsor of event, with Guy Poole, Owner and Operator 3. Tom Smith and Suzanne Hewes 4. Deborah Wade, Jennifer Yeatts, and Jackie Hopkins 5. Autumn Lake staff, sponsor of event 6. Dawn Lewis, Marie Simpson, Elizabeth Balderrama, Veronica Tovey, Nikia Thomas, Jennifer McAndrews, and Michelle Henderson 7. Donna Butman and Emalee Crawford 8. Veronica Tovey with SPG President Nikia Thomas





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The Complete Player Charity Golf Tournament

On October 6, The Complete Player Charity (TCP) held its Eighth Annual Golf Tournament at Compass Pointe Golf Course in Pasadena. Presented by Andy and Leslie Price, the day's events featured a fun round of golf, putting and chipping contests, a 10K hole-in-one challenge, and more prizes—all to benefit the youth empowerment charity's academic mentorship, leadership programs, and summer camps. Learn more about TCP at tcpyouthempowerment.org.



1. Happy golfers 2. TCP Founder and Executive Director Andy Schindling with friends 3. Big swing to tee off the tournament 4. Hole sponsored by Tate auto dealership 5. TCP team members Lucas Panzer and Mark Russell flank a TCP supporter 6. TCP board member Rose Whitney delivers remarks 7. Golfer chips for charity 8. Ruppert Landscape sponsors with TCP team members

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THE BRAD KAPPEL TEAM TO OPEN FLAGSHIP OFFICE

The Brad Kappel Team of TTR Sotheby's International Realty—recognized among the Top 100 Sotheby's Agents Worldwide—recently announced the upcoming opening of its flagship administrative office in West Annapolis, slated for Spring 2026. The new space will reflect the Team's deepening roots in the Chesapeake Bay region and its commitment to delivering an elevated client experience through refined coastal design, collaboration, and strategic insight. As the Brad Kappel Team continues to redefine luxury waterfront real estate in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and Maryland's Eastern Shore, this investment signifies a long-term commitment to the local community and an enhanced platform for client-focused service. Learn more about the Brad Kappel Team at bradkappel.com.



Impact100 Greater Chesapeake Awards Annual Grant

Impact100 Greater Chesapeake awarded their annual grant in the amount of \$56,000 to Open Hands of MD, marking Impact100's eighth year of grant awards directly supporting nonprofits in Anne Arundel County. Open Hands of MD is a nonprofit organization that assists neighbors in need with free food and household items. Their mission is to address food insecurity in our neighborhoods by providing a fresh food pantry where

neighbors can shop, completely free of charge, for their own food. They participate in food recovery efforts to reduce food waste from grocery stores and warehouses averaging between 80,000 and 90,000 pounds of food distributed monthly. "We are elated to be the recipients of this generous grant! It is truly transformational in allowing us to serve more neighbors safely by increasing our freezer storage by 250 percent!" says Melissa Kurzmiller, Executive Director of Open Hands of MD. The Impact100 Annual Meeting was held on October 5th at The Golf Club at South River. Finalists for the grant delivered presentations about their project proposals to Impact100's membership, followed by a vote of the membership to award this year's grant. Impact100 is now seeking members for the 2026 grant cycle. Women interested in learning more about the organization and the benefits of membership are invited to visit the website at impact100greaterchesapeake.org.



REYNOLDS TAVERN AND 1747 PUB RECEIVE \$50,000 IN NATIONAL GRANT FUNDING

Reynolds Tavern and 1747 Pub have been awarded \$50,000 from the Backing Historic Small Restaurants Grant Program, a national initiative presented by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This year, 50 beloved restaurants across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands each received \$50,000 grants to help preserve and grow their businesses. Established in 1747, Reynolds Tavern is one of the oldest taverns in the United States and a cornerstone of downtown Annapolis. Today, the restaurant, tearoom, pub, and historic inn are operated by Reynolds Tavern and Historic Inn, owned by Sally Boyett, while the property is owned by Dave and Diane Rey of The Beaver and Lac'd Hat, LLC. The Tavern is celebrated for its historic dining rooms, afternoon tea service, lively pub, and beautiful outdoor courtyard and terrace. The \$50,000 grant will fund exterior improvements designed to preserve the building's historic charm while enhancing guest experience. Planned upgrades include improved exterior lighting for safety and visibility, new historically appropriate signage, upgraded terrace and café seating, and construction of a custom pergola to provide shade for outdoor dining. "We are honored to receive this national recognition from American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation," said owner Sally Boyett. "This grant allows us to preserve the authentic character of this historic landmark while making important improvements that will enrich the experience for our guests and ensure Reynolds Tavern continues to thrive as a dining destination and cultural landmark in Annapolis for generations to come." Learn more at reynoldstavern.org.

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Triple Crown of Charity Sailing Trophy Awarded

The highly-anticipated 2025 Triple Crown of Charity Sailing Trophy presentation and reception was held at the Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating Annapolis Adaptive Boating center on October 30th. The leadership of Maryland Cures Cancer Regatta, the CRAB Cup, Hospice Cup, and Weems & Plath were present to celebrate the awarding of the trophy to Roger Mason and Chris Valentino

for their record-breaking race and fundraising results as the Tradecraft Team. The three Annapolis charity races attracted 238 boats, over 1,000 skippers and crew, and raised \$556,627 for charity. The Triple Crown of Charity Sailing Trophy is awarded to the skipper with a combination of the lowest race scores and highest fundraising. All three races are scored individually and the results are tabulated for the eventual champion. The Trademark Team accomplished two second place finishes and one first-place finish while raising \$56,690. This year's champions Roger Mason and Chris Valentino also raised the highest amount of funds last year and they were recognized and awarded the Weems & Plath Rainmaker Award. Congratulations to all! Learn more about crabsailing.org.



ZESKIND'S CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Zeskind's Hardware & Millwork celebrated its **100th anniversary** this fall, marking a century of service, innovation, and community support in the Annapolis-Baltimore region and beyond. Founded in 1925, Zeskind's began as a small, family-owned hardware store and has grown into a leading supplier of millwork, doors, windows, and fine hardware for residential and commercial projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic. "This milestone is not just about longevity—it's about the people, partnerships, and passion that have brought us here," said Rick Miller, Owner & President of Zeskind's. "We are honored to celebrate 100 years with our dedicated team, loyal customers, and the communities that have supported us through every chapter." To commemorate its centennial, Zeskind's hosted a 100th Anniversary Celebration at their Severna Park Door & Window Showroom location on September 20th, featuring a Severna Park Chamber of Commerce presentation and ribbon cutting, customer appreciation event, and celebration at the showroom with live demos, food trucks, and giveaways. Learn more about Zeskind's at zeskinds.com.

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A graphic featuring a dark blue background with a pattern of small white stars. In the center, the text "WHAT'S UP? MEDIA'S" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right, and enclosed within a red rectangular banner. Below this, the words "BEST OF" are displayed in large, white, 3D block letters with red outlines. Underneath "BEST OF", the year "2026" is written in the same large, white, 3D block letters with red outlines. At the bottom of the graphic, the word "VOTING" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right, and enclosed within another red rectangular banner.

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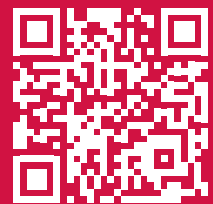
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Meet Avik Cherry

THIS BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE IS POISED FOR SUCCESS

By Tom Worgo

The idea hit baseball player Avik Cherry like a screaming line drive off his bat. An overwhelming thought came to him early in his freshman year in 2024: change things he did off the field to improve significantly on the field.

It wasn't like he was in a bad spot baseball-wise. The freshman already made a statement after earning the starting second baseman job for Broadneck High School.

Cherry was in awe of senior shortstop Calvin Cook, who holds several Bruins' hitting records and went onto play at Division I Middle Tennessee State University. Cherry saw Cook as the ideal role model to work with, along with a couple of the Bruins' top players in order to elevate his skills.

"Playing alongside Calvin was the most exciting moment of my life," Cherry explains. "I was scrawny (5-foot-4, 135 pounds) during my freshman year and I really didn't throw that hard. But I looked at him and the way he throws the ball across the diamond. I said, 'If I want to play Division I that's what I have to do.'"

Cherry pursued his goal with plenty of enthusiasm. It became like an obsession. He has worked on every part of his game during the season and offseason for the past 18 months. His workouts went from one hour to three hours per day.

"HE IS JUST CONTINUING TO GROW AS A PLAYER. HE DOES EVERYTHING THE RIGHT WAY AND IS A GREAT TEAMMATE."



To develop into Division I prospect, Cherry (now 5-foot-7, and 160 pounds) concentrated on improving both his fielding and educating himself about nutrition. He ate a lot more, increased his weightlifting, and the number of at-bats he took from a pitching machine. On top of that, Cherry participated in a velocity program to build up his arm strength and watched videos to make himself a better base runner.

He saw great results. Four months after his sophomore season ended, the 17-year-old verbally committed to Georgetown University for a baseball scholarship in September, turning down offers from University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Rutgers University.

Georgetown seems to be the perfect fit academically and athletically for Cherry, an Arnold resident. He wants to major in finance with an eye on becoming an investment banker, or a financial adviser. He carries a weighted 4.4 grade-point average.

"Georgetown was my favorite by a mile," Cherry says. "The coaching staff was amazing. They just made me feel like part of the family. And I just fell in love with the campus. It's small, so nice, calm, and serene."

"He can field better than anyone I have ever seen in the middle infield (in 13 years)," Broadneck Baseball Coach Matt Skrenchuk said of where Cherry's work got him.

He's an elite offensive player, too. Cherry set a school record as a sophomore for runs scored (37) and figures to break some career records over the next two seasons for triples.

Last spring, Cherry hit .351 with 22 RBIs, four triples, 11 stolen bases, an .495 on-base percentage and 22 walks. Back in 2024, he led the Bruins in batting (.364), hit three triples, stole 10 bases, and had a .500 on-base percentage.

Cherry's individual game performances were just as impressive. In 2024, he smacked a triple and inside-the-park home run, finishing with three RBIs against Crofton. As a sophomore, Cherry went 2-for-2 with four RBIs versus Chesapeake had perhaps the game of career when he hit for the cycle and produced five RBIs.

"He was very influenced by the older players in our program since his freshman year," Skrenchuk says. "He would take the initiative to join the best players on team to workout with and hit in the cage in the offseason. Now, he is more of a leader. He gives a lot of hitting lessons to elementary and middle school kids."

Besides developing his skills at Broadneck, playing four years for the U.S. Elite showcase teams—including the U17 squad from June to November—has made him a better player. His teams travel up and down the East Coast to as far away as Georgia and Texas for high-profile tournaments. Advancing to the Wood Bat World Series in Florida highlights each season.

"We face the best pitching on the East Coast and we are trying to prepare Avik for the next level," U-17 Elite Coach Jimmy Kittelberger says. "He is just continuing to grow as a player. He does everything the right way and is a great teammate."



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In Mayor Jared Littmann's Plan for Annapolis

'ARTS AND CULTURE HAVE TO BE PART OF THE MIX'

By Carol Denny

Since his swearing in on December 1, Mayor Jared Littmann has been true to his campaign promise to listen, partner, and act with Annapolis residents. Crisscrossing the city to learn what matters to citizens, he's focused on some big priorities, including the City Dock Resiliency Plan, parking, public safety, and permitting. But he's also made time to hear the concerns of the arts community.

During his campaign, Littmann participated in a candidates forum on the importance of the arts, stating that "artists are one of Annapolis' greatest assets" and sharing his thoughts on the value of a vibrant local arts and entertainment scene.

In a recent interview with What's Up Annapolis, Littmann offered several examples of how he believes the arts create a sense of community in the city.

"The Annapolis Film Festival is a fantastic event, one I personally enjoy," he says. "It's inspirational to see the imagination of the two founders and how they've run with this idea. Maryland Hall also does a really nice job with so many of the performance groups—the symphony, the opera, the ballet. Then there are events like the Day of the Dead festival that celebrate different cultures."

"It's important for me to get to know every organization," he continues, "even if it's not my personal interest. I want to see who's missing at the table and make sure no one is getting ignored."

"WHEN WE THINK ABOUT WHAT WE APPRECIATE ABOUT LIVING IN ANNAPOLIS, IT INCLUDES EVENTS LIKE THE SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL OR DINING UNDER THE STARS, WHICH WE ENJOY TOGETHER."

— MAYOR JARED LITTMANN



Annapolis Mayor Jared Littmann

Asked about the popular public murals in Annapolis, Littmann said his personal favorites are the larger-than-life portraits of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood Marshall near the courthouse.

"I also like the creation story on the Best Place for All Mural at Arundel Center," he adds. "The two artists who were selected as finalists for that project decided to work together. Each inspired the other, and brought two communities together."

For tourism, one of Annapolis' most important economic engines, the arts can be a significant draw. (A study by Americans for the Arts found that arts attendees spend an average of \$38.46 per person, per event, beyond the cost of their tickets.)

"Arts events encourage people to come to Annapolis, even if they're from close by—from Severna Park, South County, or West County," Littmann agrees. "These visitors are having a good experience. They're spending money. And it's not any one type of visitor, but a mix of people," he says, reflecting the diversity of local arts offerings.

Littmann also praised the power of the arts to connect individuals. "So many people today feel isolated—working from home, focused on their devices. The wonderful thing about the arts is it gets people out of the house and brings them together, sharing experiences and debating ideas. When we think about what we appreciate about living in Annapolis, it includes events like the Songwriters Festival or Dining Under the Stars, which we enjoy together."

The value of the arts for young people also resonates with Littmann. “Arts are a way to show students that there are so many ways to be successful in life. We can show kids what working artists are doing—things that are experiential, such as painting or music. Even if you don’t make your living in the arts, they can become a hobby or a side job, providing opportunities for personal enrichment.”

A 2025 survey of the local arts community found that individual artists, as well as arts organizations, find it challenging to secure the work and performance spaces they need in the city, particularly downtown. Littmann praised the success of out-of-the-box initiatives like Live Arts Studio, whose

offices, rehearsal, and performance areas are located in a new venue at the Annapolis Mall.

“It would be wonderful if we found other spaces further out, not just on West Street—perhaps churches or community halls,” Littmann suggests. “Rents in Annapolis are expensive, which is another reason to look elsewhere. I’m open to suggestions on how to tackle that.”

Looking toward the future, the mayor sees the new City Dock as holding “a lot of potential” as a place for art.

“In Annapolis, our historical heritage and our connection to the Navy are things that draw people to the city,” Littmann observed. “But arts and culture have to be in the mix.”



Events like the Annapolis Songwriters Festival boost tourism, attracting music lovers to the city.

How can we encourage the growth of a strong, vibrant arts community in Maryland’s capital city?

The Annapolis Arts Committee, a group of more than 30 artists, arts organizations, and arts supporters, held a series of listening sessions in 2025 to answer that question. Read about the needs and concerns expressed, and about the recommendations that resulted from those conversations, at www.annapolisartsdistrict.org/annapolisartsplan.

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Empowering Every Learner:

St. Mary's Strengthens Academic Support Across All Grades



St. Mary's School in Annapolis has a long history of serving students both academically and spiritually. St. Mary's Elementary School (Pre-K through 8) and St. Mary's High School (9 through 12) have always boasted a rigorous curriculum, ensuring that students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. When the need for support for students with learning differences became apparent, St. Mary's School answered the call, establishing learning centers in 2022 for the high school and in 2023 for the elementary school.

"It's not that there are more students with learning differences today, it's that school staff and families are becoming

more attuned to the unique way each child learns and succeeds. Our students are blessed to grow up in a more inclusive educational environment where exceptional learners are given the tools and support to access the same curriculum as their peers. As a result, they are thriving" shared Brooke Richardson, the Director of Learning Support at St. Mary's High School.

Richardson works exclusively with students in grades 9-12, while Learning Specialist Lydia Norton supports students in grades Pre-K through 8. Norton shared that "adding the role of learning specialist at the elementary level has transformed how we support students' diverse learning needs. A common misconception is that private schools cannot provide accommodations, when in fact, we are able to offer individualized support in a structured, faith-filled environment where students can thrive. The students I work with have a wide range of needs—from ADHD and anxiety to specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia or dyscalculia. Our goal is

for accommodations to be seamlessly integrated into the classroom so that students feel supported and empowered to succeed."

The high school's learning center was designed to meet the needs of diverse learners. Its goal is to provide educational equity to students with mild to moderate learning disabilities. This is done through a combination of appropriate accommodations and one-to-one support. Richardson notes that learning does not stop at dismissal time. The center, or LC as the students call it, is a hive of learning and support well after the school day has ended. Parent involvement is also welcome and encouraged Richardson shared, "all stakeholders are an essential part of an individual student's success; in addition to what we achieve here at school, a partnership with parents is vital."

Norton explains that while students in the lower elementary grades are often best supported in the classroom by their teachers and teaching assistants,

students in grades 5-8 are given the option to take assessments in the learning center. Students have the choice of going to class first to review the test or quiz with their teacher and then proceeding to the learning center to work, or they may move straight to the Center to get started. Typical supports include extra time, use of anchor charts and graphic organizers, calculator use, or utilizing speech to text technology. The elementary school also has a full time math specialist, and dedicated reading specialists for grades Pre-K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 who work with all students, regardless of accommodations.

The High School's Learning Center works seamlessly alongside the School Counseling Department to ensure that students are cared for both academically and otherwise. "We take a holistic approach to supporting students' learning differences and social emotional needs," says Amelia Noemer, the Director of School Counseling at St. Mary's High School. Students can find both of these support services conveniently located side by side in the school's Notre Dame Hall. Both Richardson and Noemer shared that it is not uncommon for a student to visit both offices on a single visit. This philosophy is echoed by Noemer, who shares, "Our goal is to support students by meeting them where they are and providing them with a safe place to grow and learn."

Reflecting on the school's commitment to inclusion and excellence, President Deacon Moore shared, "St. Mary's School continues to build upon its mission of forming the whole student, mind, body, and spirit, by ensuring that every child is given the opportunity to reach their fullest potential."

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

111 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-263-2869

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

113 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-263-3294

stmarysannapolis.org

FAQ's



Norton - How does the Elementary School LC and the High School LC work with one another?

The High School LC created a great framework for us to begin supporting students at the elementary level. Brooke has been a constant resource of information, recommendations, and resources that I can provide to our students and their families. At the elementary level, we mirror many of the procedures in the high school level in order to ease students' transitions to the upper school.

Richardson - How does the Learning Center support students day-to-day?

The Learning Center supports all students in a variety of ways. From study skills to organization, any student who needs assistance is welcome. The LC also offers more individualized guidance. For students with learning differences, it's the place where they receive many of their accommodations, such as extended time for assessments, targeted organization coaching, and one-on-one meetings to ensure they stay on track for success.

Richardson - What makes this program different from regular classroom support?

The LC and our teachers work together to ensure that the needs of each individual student is being met. Once an accommodation plan is created, the teachers and I meet to discuss how it will be implemented in practice. Our goal is to build on each student's strengths; therefore students are encouraged to enroll in College Preparatory, Honors, and Advanced Placement courses. At the same time, they can be confident that they will receive the support they need to be successful in all of their classes.

Norton - How does the Center help students grow more independent over time?

Many students begin using more supports that we gradually release over time. For example, some students come to me for tests and quizzes so that we can develop good test-taking strategies and habits, and then once they have gained that confidence, they go back to the classroom for assessments.

Richardson - How does participation in the Learning Center prepare students for college?

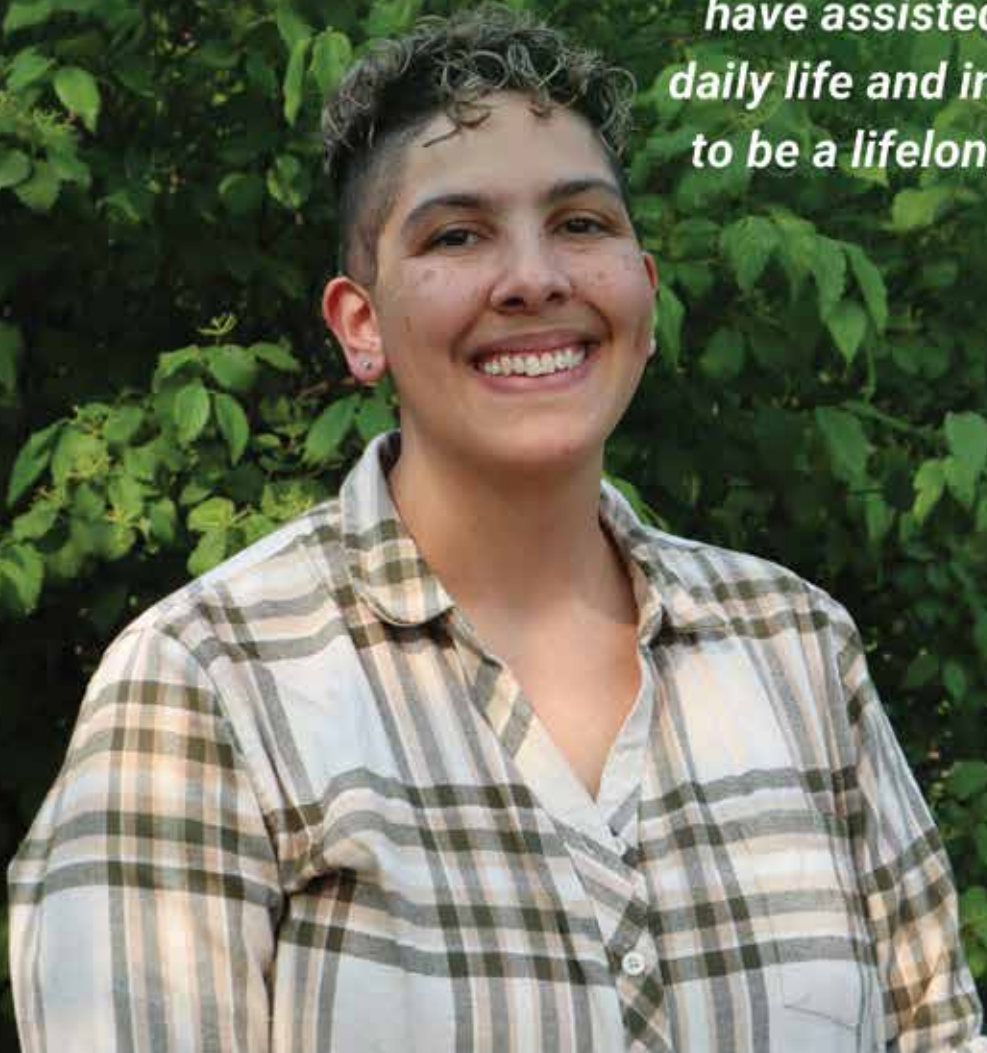
One of our goals in the LC is to provide a space to practice self advocacy skills. Our students are encouraged to speak up for themselves, however we also have a safety net in place to support them as they grow. In addition to developing these essential self advocacy skills, we emphasize planning, organization, and, perhaps most importantly, time management. Our teens lead very busy lives, and while we want them to experience all that high school, and later college, has to offer, we also aim to help them set realistic boundaries that allow for both study and rest.

AMANDA LOPEZ, SUMMIT CLASS OF 2004

U.S. CAPITOL TOUR GUIDE AT THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER IN WASHINGTON D.C.

ASSOCIATES DEGREE OF ART IN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FROM SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

*"The learning strategies I
was taught by the
amazing Summit Staff
have assisted me in my
daily life and inspired me
to be a lifelong learner."*



**SERVING BRIGHT STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES:
BUILDING CONFIDENCE, ACHIEVING SUCCESS.**



THE SUMMIT SCHOOL

VISIT [THESUMMITSCHOOL.ORG](https://thesummitschool.org) TO
LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY! 



2026 PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Welcome to our comprehensive 2026 Private School Guide! Selecting a private school that plays a critical *and* fitting role in your child’s education requires considerable time and research. The format of the guide allows you to easily navigate local private schools’ vital information (tuition, student/teacher ratios, key contacts, etc.) and quickly learn about their education philosophies, affiliations, student clubs, extracurricular programs, sports offerings, and more. **Please note:** This information was provided by each school, either directly by the administration or by researching available school resources. Because some schools have varying data, you may see differing configurations or “N/A” (Not Applicable) for categories that do not apply (or information was unavailable). If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school directly.

Private School

Advertisers in RED

DESCRIPTION

YEAR
FOUNDED

RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

PRINCIPAL/
HEAD OF
SCHOOL

GRADE
LEVELS

ENROLLMENT

GREATER ANNAPOLIS

Annapolis Area Christian School

Lower: 61 Gambrells Road, Severn; 410-846-3505; slsoffice@aacsonline.org Lower: 710 Ridgely Ave, Annapolis; 410-846-3504; alsoffice@aacsonline.org Middle: 716 Bestgate Road, Annapolis; 410-846-3506; mssoffice@aacsonline.org Upper: 109 Burns Crossing Road, Severn; 410-846-3507; upperschooloffice@aacsonline.org

AACS is an accredited K – 12 private, co-ed, school with four campuses in AA county. We provide an excellent, distinctively Christian education.

1971

Christian

Lower: Jennifer Elkins, Lower: Elizabeth Williams, Middle: Benjamin Peddicord, Upper: David Intlekofer

K–12

886

Book of Life Academy

913 Cedar Park Road, Annapolis; 410-263-2600; bookoflifeacademy.com; bookoflifeacademy913@gmail.com

Located in Annapolis, Book of Life offers a Christian education through various daily enrichment programs.

1982

Christian

Rebecca Lemus

K–5

118

Chesapeake Montessori School

30 Old Mill Bottom Road, North, Annapolis, MD 21409; 410-757-4740; admissions@chesapeake-montessori.com; Caroline Duffy (enrollment director): c.duffy@chesapeake-montessori.com

Using Montessori theory and practice of individualized learning in a whole-school community, we create rich and healthy environments that provide intellectual, academic, social, and emotional preparation for life.

1977

N/A

Robert Wirts

18 months–8

150

Chesterton Academy of Annapolis

31 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis 410-855-3216; chestertonacademyofannapolis.org; info@chestertonannapolis.org

We are raising up joyful leaders, educated in the classical tradition and the truths of the Catholic faith. Our rigorous curriculum prepares students to succeed in college and professional life, to excel in service of family, of country, and of Christ our Lord.

2018

Catholic

Thomas Thoits

9–12

43

The Harbour School at Annapolis and Baltimore

1277 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis; 410-974-4248; harbourschool.org; admissions@harbourschool.org

Our mission is to provide a supportive, caring, and individualized education to students with learning disabilities, autism, speech and language impairments and other disabilities.

1982

Non-Sectarian

Linda J. Jacobs, Ed.D.

1–12

358

Heritage Learning Center

1740 Forest Drive, Annapolis; 410-263-6680 ext 105; heritagelearningcenter.org Vickie@HeritageLOVES.com

Quality early learning experience in a loving, safe, inclusive environment where children develop a love for learning

1985

Non-denominational

Vickie Whitley

2 years to PreK 4s and 5s

50

Indian Creek School

1130 Anne Chambers Way, Crownsville; 410-849-5151; indiancreekschool.org admission@indiancreekschool.org

Located on 114-wooded acres, just minutes from Annapolis, this college preparatory school is known for its Evergreen Institute program focused on community engagement, advanced STEM program, outdoor education, and student-focused structure.

1973

Non-Sectarian

Booth Kyle

PreK–12

600

The Key School

534 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis 410-263-9231; keyschool.org

Annapolis families have long recognized Key School for its academic excellence, expert faculty and proven path to top colleges. From ages 2.5 through Grade 12, students develop the intellectual curiosity, leadership, and integrity that define lifelong success—here in the heart of Annapolis.

1958

Non-Sectarian

Matthew Nespole

Kee-Wee (2.5 years)–12

668

Maryland Curiosity Lab

461 College Parkway, Arnold; 303-909-4958; marylandcuriositylab.org

We believe school should spark curiosity and ignite a lifelong love of learning. Our Acton Academy program has grown to ages K-8. It mixes real-world projects with online learning and Socratic discussions in a multi-age classroom. Plus an adventure trip every week!

2022

Non-denominational

Roman Hardgrave

K–8

30

Maven Academy

1908 Forest Drive Suite 2J; 410-216-7070; themavenacademy.com

The Maven Academy is unique among Annapolis Area private schools. We are a small school offering core subjects and electives to students in grades 6 through 12, Tuesday through Thursday. While we strive to adhere to biblical and moral principles, we do not teach religion and we are respectful to all faiths.

2014

Christian

Gina Vogel

6–12

25

Montessori International Children's House

1641 North Winchester Road, Annapolis; 410-757-7789; montessorinternational.org; Kathy Sage, Education Director, ksage@montessorinternational.org

Anchored in Annapolis on Winchester Road, Montessori International Children's House (MICH) is an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) accredited independent private school guiding the complete development of children from Toddler (18 months) through Upper Elementary (Grade 6).

1986

None

Megan Hubbard

18 months–6

150

Naval Academy Primary School

74 Greenbury Point Road, Annapolis 410-757-3090; napschool.org admissions@napschool.com

Naval Academy Primary & Secondary (NAPS) serves the Annapolis area as an independent school for preschool through 8th grade, fostering a nurturing environment for both military and civilian families. We are dedicated to the intellectual and emotional development of our students, providing a consistent, structured educational home for children navigating the unique circumstances of military life.

1946

None

Robyn M. Green

PreK (3 year olds)–8

322

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	15–20 or 18–25	11:1	Lower: \$17,159/year, Middle: \$20,190/year, Upper: \$25,625/year	Tours available at www.aacsonline.org/Visit	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French	Yes	Yes	N/A
	12	6:1	\$7,500–\$8,000/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Yes	0	N/A
	Varies	Varies	Please see website	Please reach out to enrollment director to schedule tour.	Coed	Age dependent	No	Yes	Spanish (Adolescent level)	After school clubs (soccer, dance, arts & crafts)	0	N/A
	10	3:1	\$11,700/year (Offer Sibling Discount)	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Latin, Spanish, Italian	Yes	Soccer, Volleyball, Tennis, Baseball, Ultimate Frisbee	Elective
	8	4:1	\$53,044.00 (200 day school year)	Rolling admissions	Coed	No	Dress code	No	English	Teen and tween clubs, alumni club, outdoor club, textile club, cooking club, performing arts, girls club	Intermural and intramural sports (flag football, basketball), running club	45 service learning hours & 30 senior project hours required
	10–15	6:1 to 10:1	See website for details	Call for Information	Coed	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	15	7:1	PK & K: \$23,550, Grades 1 through 5: \$28,000, Middle School: \$32,850, Upper School: \$33,750	Private tours available upon request	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin, Portuguese (virtual)	30+	25	75 hours recommended
	16	6:1	\$10,565-36,100/year	Come see for yourself why Key is more than just a school. Schedule a private weekday tour of campus.	Coed	Yes	No	Yes.	Arabic, French, Latin, Spanish	60	40	N/A
	10	10:1	\$14,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	13	7:1	\$5,900/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	No	Out-sourced	Varies	0	Encouraged, not required
	Varies	Varies	\$12,725–\$15,040/year	January 10th, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Coed	Yes	No	Current MICH students & siblings eligible for Tuition Assistance	Spanish	Before care, After care (various clubs available during after care: photography club, lego club, textile arts, chess club, art club)	0	No
	12–18	10:1 or 8-12:1	\$9,732–\$15,300, depending on grade and category	January 25th, 1–3 p.m.	Coed	Anyone can apply to NAPS, civilian families are always welcome	Yes	Yes	French (1st–8th). Spanish (6th–8th)	A variety of After School Enrichment Programs are offered throughout the school year	6th–8th Grade Fall: Cross Country and Soccer, Winter: Basketball and Cheer, Spring: Tennis	MS students will complete a of minimum 10 hours/year

Private School

Advertisers in RED

DESCRIPTION

YEAR
FOUNDED

RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

PRINCIPAL/
HEAD OF
SCHOOL

GRADE
LEVELS

ENROLLMENT

Rockbridge Academy

680 Evergreen Road, Crownsville;
410-923-1171; rockbridge.org;
admissions@rockbridge.org

As a classical Christian School, we aim to graduate young men and women who excel both academically and spiritually, discerning what is true, good, and beautiful beyond the classroom, the university, or the office.

1995

Christian

Roy Griffith

PreK, and
K-12

460

St. Anne's School of Annapolis

3112 Arundel on the Bay Road, Annapolis;
410-263-8650; stannesschool.org; Point of
contact: Haley DeMaria, Director of Enrollment
and Advancement, hdemaria@st.annesschool.org

St. Anne's School of Annapolis invests in the intellectual and piritual promise of every child. We are a project-based school, where the social curriculum is just as intentional the rigorous academic curriculum. Our graduates are well-prepared leaders who are highly sought after by all top high schools in the DMV area.

1992

Episcopal

Connie Coker

PreK-8

285

Sts. Constantine and Helen Preschool

2747 Riva Road, Annapolis; 410-573-2078;
sschschool.org; office@sschschool.org

Our mission is to provide a safe and loving Christian environment where children can grow and develop while being introduces to the Hellenic culture and tradition.

2015

Greek Orthodox
(welcome
children of all
faiths)

Gina
Amenta-
Granado,
PhD

PreK

59

St. Martin's Lutheran School of Annapolis

1120 Spa Road, Annapolis; 410-269-1955;
stmartinsonline.org

Our commitment to provide students with Christian instruction, exquisite education, and extracurricular activities to prepare them for God-pleasing and productive lives has not changed since our founding in 1963.

1963

Evangelical
Lutheran

Cyrkle Brent,
M.Ed.

PreK-8

135

St. Margaret's Day School

1605 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis;
410-757-2333, stmargaretsdayschool.org

St. Margaret's Day School is a NAEYC-accredited preschool and kindergarten program that provides children opportunities to explore, experiment, create, and learn, while developing relationships with others in a diverse, safe, and warm learning environment. The experiences we provide encourage children to become self-reliant, self-motivated, and self-assured individuals in our community.

1995

Episcopal

Jennifer
Feeney

2 years-K

125

St. Mary's School

111-113 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis
ES - 410-263-2869; HS - 410-263-3294;
stmarysannapolis.org;
admissions@stmarysannapolis.org

St. Mary's is a faith-centered school community grounded in tradition and excellence. Our caring teachers guide students through innovative programs including STEM, environmental studies, cybersecurity, and dual enrollment with Notre Dame of Maryland University - alongside exceptional athletics and performing arts.

1862

Catholic

ES: Meghann
Cannelli, HS: Melissa
Nisbett, Scool Presi-
dent: Megan Downs
Back, Pastor: Father
Patrick Woods

PreK-12

1,352

SEVERNA PARK/PASADENA

Divine Mercy Academy

8513 St Jane Drive, Pasadena;
410-705-0778; divinemercy.md

Divine Mercy Academy offers a Classical Liberal Arts Education in the Catholic Tradition to children in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. We are incredibly proud to provide this time-tested and highly successful curriculum paired with a thoroughly Catholic ethos at an affordable tuition.

2019

Catholic

Patrick
Sullivan

K-8

148

Severn School

Chesapeake Campus (Lower), Teel Campus (Upper)
1185 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Arnold;
410-647-7700; severnschool.com; Emilyn Chavez,
echavez@severnschool.com, 410-647-7701 x2267

Severn School students are challenged to pursue excellence in character, conduct, and scholarship; to marshal the courage to lead, and to contribute to the world around them.

1914

Non-Sectarian

Douglas
Lagarde

PreK-12

910

St. John the Evangelist School

669 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park;
410-647-2283; stjohnspschool.org;
Lynne Fish, LFish@stjohnspschool.org

Saint John the Evangelist School is a 2024 National Blue Ribbon award-winning school that serves students in preschool through eighth grade. Our school offers a nurturing environment that promotes living faith, academic excellence, leadership, and service within the church community and society.

1959

Catholic

Dr. Glenna
Blessing

PreK-8

549

St. Martin's In-The-Field Episcopal School

375-A Benfield Road, Severna Park;
410-647-7055; stmartinsmd.org

Nestled on eight wooded acres in the heart of Severna Park, St. Martin's Episcopal School offers Preschool through Middle School students a nurturing environment where they grow as learners, leaders, and friends. Rooted in Episcopal values, our community embraces curiosity, compassion, and respect for all.

1957

Episcopal

Kathy Mahar,
Interim Head
of School

PreK-8

234

DAVIDSONVILLE/EDGEWATER

Chesapeake Christian Academy

377 W. Central Ave., Davidsonville, MD
21035; 410-798-1413; ccalions4thelord.org

Our goals at Chesapeake Christian Academy are to partner with your family to provide a faith-based education that exceeds public education standards, foster an environment where students can continue to form their faith in Jesus Christ, and create life-long relationships with their peers.

2020

Non-
denominational

Sherrie
Ridings

K-8

37

Shepherd's Flock Preschool

377 W. Central Ave., Davidsonville, MD
21035; 410-798-1413; ccalions4thelord.org

The goal of Shepherd's Flock Preschool is to equip these young ones so that they may be lights in their homes, communities, and future schools. Here at Shepherd's Flock children will learn how to live for God so that they can take His light from this place into the darkness of the world around them.

2005

Non-
denominational

Lari Brent

Ages 2-4

42

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT	
	15	8:1	\$14,000–\$19,100/year	Family tours available: calendly.com/rockbridge-admissions/family-visit.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Application required	Latin, Spanish	Rockbridge Academy Singers, Annual Musical or Variety Show, Sports, Lego Robotics, (Music, Art, are cocurricular)	Soccer, xc, volleyball, basketball, swimming, track and field, baseball, lacrosse	Service and mentoring built into the day; whole school service projects organized and run by House Leadership teams	
	14	8:1	\$4000–\$27,000/year	Call for private tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes (K–8th grade)	Spanish (PK-Eighth), French & Latin (Sixth-Eighth)	Chess, LEGO, Pokemon, Dance, Theater/Drama, Cooking, Knitting, Book Club	Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse, Tennis	Yes	
	8–12	8:1 (2s), 10:1 (3s), 12:1 (4s)	Half day program \$320–\$525/month (2-5 days); full program \$440–\$920 (2–5 days)	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	No	English and Greek	Music Classes (English & Greek), religion, Greek language class, and STEAM once a week.	No	No	
	13	10:1	\$7,875–15,600/year	January 23rd	Coed	See website	Yes	Yes	Spanish	All kinds of after-school clubs; STEM, Drama, Games, Art	MS students can try out to participate in: G/B Basketball, Co-ed Soccer, Volleyball, Cross-Country Track	20 hours per year (Grades 5-8)	
	Three Years-PreK (17); Twos- (12)	10:1	\$3,500–\$9,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Varies	Yes	Spanish	3–4	Soccer, Basketball, Cheer, Chess, Karate	No	
	20–27	Varies	Full-Day Pre-K – 5th: Catholic: \$10,952, Non-Catholic: \$12,172. 6th–8th: Catholic: \$11,692, Non-Catholic: \$13,276. Half-Day Pre-K: Catholic: \$7,944, Non-Catholic: \$9,129. HS Tuition: Catholic: \$18,784, Non-Catholic: \$21,032	HS Application Deadline: December 10th, ES Application Deadline: January 10th	Coed	HS: HSPT, ES: MAP Placement	Yes	Yes	English	Athletics, After-School Clubs, and Enrichment Programs	15 different sports, and 36 athletic teams	MS and HS students must complete service hours as part of their graduation requirement	
	15	7:1	\$9,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Latin	Dance and Self Defense	0	25 hours	
	15	9:1	\$26,580/year; PS–K varies; Upper: \$33,400/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lower: Spanish; Upper: French, Spanish, Latin	Lower: Multiple; Upper: 50+	Upper: 17 offered (53 teams including Middle School, JV, and Varsity)	10 hours per year (grades 9–12)	
	25	14:1	\$9,290/year	January 27th (advance registration required)	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Student council, bird watching, trivia, choir, band, drama, chess, service club	Soccer, lacrosse, ice hockey, basketball, cheer, cross country	Service projects done in school and parish	
	14–16 in PS & LS, 18 in MS	8:1	PS ranges between \$4,800–\$13,400, LS - \$14,750, MS - \$15,875	Wednesday, January 14th	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Seasonally after school for all grades, including yoga, art, dance, tennis, golf, EcoAdventures, chess, martial arts, coding, community service, high school test prep	Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Lacrosse	PreK–7th grade completed within school, 8th grade independent service projects	
	15	N/A	\$7,650 per year (K-8), \$6750 (Kindergarten)	January 13th, May 14th, June 1st; or call to schedule a tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	No	No	
	N/A	6:1	\$825/month	Call to schedule a private tour	Coed	Must be potty trained	No	No	No	0	0	No	

Private School

Advertisers in RED

		DESCRIPTION	YEAR FOUNDED	RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	PRINCIPAL/ HEAD OF SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	ENROLLMENT
GAMBRILLS/ODENTON	St. Andrew's Day School 4B Wallace Manor Road, Edgewater; 410-266-0952; standrewsum.org	Saint Andrew's Day School is a welcoming community that invites families of all religious traditions to join us in the important work of helping young people grow into responsible, caring young adults. From its founding in 1987 Saint Andrew's has embodied the Methodist credo: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.	1987	United Methodist	Mark Wagner	PreK–8th grade	202
	The Summit School 664 East Central Avenue, Edgewater; 410-798-0005; thesummitschool.org; Nancy Rhodes, nancy.rhodes@thesummitschool.org, 410-343-9273	Our program is specifically designed to educate and empower students with learning differences. When students come to Summit, we see an improvement in academic achievement, but we also see an overall transformation in their confidence and how they perceive school. The effects are long lasting and contribute to their success in high school, college, and life.	1989	None	Dr. Joan A. Mele-McCarthy, CCC-SLP	1–8	116
	Odenton Christian School 8410 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton; 410-305-2380; odentonchristianschool.org	Our purpose is to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures spiritual growth and academic excellence. By integrating faith into every aspect of education, we strive to prepare students to make a lasting impact for God's glory in their communities and beyond.	1977	Baptist	Brian Edmonds, Administrator; John Lacombe, Director	K–12	240
MILLERSVILLE	School of the Incarnation 2601 Symphony Lane, Gambrills; 410-519-2285; schooloftheincarnation.org	School of the Incarnation is a fully-accredited Catholic school that educates nearly 800 students in central Anne Arundel County on a beautiful 26-acre campus. The school is dedicated to cultivating and promoting academic excellence in an environment immersed in Gospel values.	2000	Catholic	Nancy Baker	PreK–8	785
	Elvaton Christian Academy 8422 Elvaton Road, Millersville; 410-647-3224; elvatonacademy.com	Elvaton Christian Academy combines traditional Christian teachings with solid academics to stimulate and inspire young minds in their formative years. Elvaton Christian Academy promotes academic excellence with caring teachers, spiritual leadership, field trips, parental involvement, small classes, affordable tuition, high academic standards, and strong Christian values.	PreK 1982 / K–8 1995	Non-denominational	Pastor Dallas Bumgarner	PreK–8	48
SEVERN/GLEN BURNIE	Archbishop Spalding High School 8080 New Cut Road, Severn; 410-969-9105; archbishopspalding.org	As a Catholic college-preparatory secondary school, Archbishop Spalding High School is committed to challenging our students to grow spiritually, academically, physically, and socially. The school community provides a caring environment that affirms the dignity of the individual and promotes learning.	1966	Catholic	President: Shannon Gilligan, Principal: Regina O'Hara	9–12	1,300
	Calvary Baptist Church Academy 407 Marley Station Road, Glen Burnie; 410-768-5306; cbcaknights.org	Calvary Baptist Church Academy is a Christian school in Glen Burnie, MD that focuses on excellence in education. CBCA has classes from K3 all the way through the 12th grade. Our students test higher than the national average. We have a good balance between teaching Christian principles and having a strong educational base.	1973	Baptist	George Kyrchuk, Administrator	K–12	375
	Granite Baptist Academy 7823 Oakwood Road, Glen Burnie; 410-761-1118; granitebaptistacademy.org	Granite Baptist School was founded as a ministry of Granite Baptist Church, and is located near Route 100 and Route 2.	1975	Baptist	Head of Academy: Pastor C.K. White Administrator: Philip Mahoney	K–12	273
	Monsignor Slade Catholic School 120 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie; 410-766-7130; msladeschool.com	Monsignor Slade is part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and is located in northern Anne Arundel County on a 10.5-acre campus.	1954	Catholic	Cameron Stehle	PreK–8	562
	St. Paul's Lutheran School 308 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie; 410-766-5790; stpaulsgb.org	Located near Route 100, St. Paul's Lutheran School focuses on a Christian-based curriculum.	1950	Lutheran	Ken Coughlan	PreK–8	325
PRINCE GEORGES', HOWARD COUNTIES & BEYOND	Bishop McNamara High School 6800 Marlboro Pike Forestville; 301-735-8401; bmhs.org	As a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School with over 60 years of educating youth in the Washington, D.C. area and a legacy of over 15,000 alumni, we demonstrate our belief in the unique, God-given talents of every young person who walks through our doors.	1964	Catholic	Dian Carter	9–12	N/A
	The Boys' Latin School of Maryland 822 West Lake Avenue, Baltimore; 410-377-5192; boyslatinmd.com	At Boys' Latin, each student is known for who he is today, and all he can be tomorrow. Nearly two centuries of innovation in all-boys education have taught us what it takes to build a foundation of confidence, compassion, curiosity and character.	1844	Non-Sectarian	Christopher J. Post	K–12	635

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	13	8:1	\$10,990–\$15,990/year	Call to schedule a private tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple	4	No
	Varies	5:1	\$37,900/year	February 6th, 9 a.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	English	Crazy 8's Math Club, Financial Literacy Club, Taekwondo, Chess Club, Art Club, Cheer, and Afterschool Music Lessons, Volleyball	Soccer, Cross Country, Archery, and Basketball	No
	15	15:1	\$7,500/year	January 27th, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	French, Latin	STEM, Chess, Choral Club, Drama, Yearbook	Soccer, basketball, volleyball	No
	30	16:1	\$10,000/year	Open House January 24th, 8:30–11 a.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	MS Field Hockey, Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Ice Hockey, Basketball, Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball	Yes
	12	12:1	\$6253/year for PreK4; \$7200/year for K–8	February 1st	Coed	Yes	Yes (K–8th)	Limited	Spanish (grades 7-8)	Multiple	0	No
	20	16:1	\$21,650/year	Cav for a Day is now open - visit our website for more information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin	50+	30	60 hours of community service
	22	K3–K4 10:1; K5–12 22:1	\$8,500 preschool and \$7,200 K5–12th	Private tours-enrollment opens February 15th for next school year	Coed	Yes	Yes	No	Spanish language offered for HS	Art, computer, culinary arts, maths to calculus, band, chorus, ensemble (try outs), *STEM club, sign language club, robotics	6th & up: boys: soccer, basketball, baseball or bowling (depending MACSAC) girls: volleyball, basketball, soccer	No
	Varies	Varies	\$6,800/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	12; Little Braves (K5–6th)	No
	23	14:01	\$8,398/year (Catholic); \$9,302/year (Other Faith); Full Day PreK2 \$11,115; Full Day PreK3 \$9,843	February 2nd	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish (grades 4–8)	17	5	12 hours/family
	17	8:1	P4 (8–11 a.m. 5 days) - \$5,035/year, K–5 - \$9,547/year, 6-8 - \$10,558/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes (grades K–8)	Spanish	7	7	5 hours per family
	N/A	N/A	\$22,840+/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Arabic, ASL, French, Latin, & Spanish	50	35	N/A
	13	7:1	\$25,100–\$37,400/year, boarding \$55,900	Visit boyslatinmd.com/admissions/admissionsevents for upcoming events	Boys	Yes	Dress code	Yes	Latin, Spanish, French	35+	14	40 hours

Private School

Advertisers in RED

	DESCRIPTION	YEAR FOUNDED	RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	PRINCIPAL/ HEAD OF SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	ENROLLMENT	
Calvert Hall College High School 8102 LaSalle Road, Baltimore 410-825-4266; calverthall.com	Calvert Hall College High School is an independent, all-boys Lasallian Catholic college preparatory school attracting students from more than 125 zip codes.	1845	Catholic	Dr. Andrew Moore	9–12	1,275	
The Calverton School 300 Calverton School Road, Huntingtown; 410-535-0216; calvertonschool.org	The Calverton School is an independent school that serves Pre-K3 to 12th-grade day students, as well as 8th-12th-grade boarding students. Boarding is available for 5 and 7 days a week. Calverton offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.	1967	Non-Sectarian	Adrienne Forgette	PreK–12	345	
DeMatha Catholic High School 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville; 240-764-2200; dematha.org	DeMatha High School is a Catholic college preparatory school in the Trinitarian tradition that forms Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars.	1946	Catholic	Dr. Daniel J. McMahon	9–12	850	
Elizabeth Seton High School 5715 Emerson Street, Bladensburg; 301-864-4532; setonhs.org	Elizabeth Seton High School is an all-girls, college preparatory school, and is affiliated with the Archdiocese of Washington.	1959	Catholic	Dr. Lisa Grillo	9–12	550	
Glenelg Country School 12793 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City; 410-531-8600; glenelg.org	Our students discover an abiding sense of self, a deep appreciation for community, and a shared understanding of purpose. Small classes, passionate teachers, and opportunities for growth keep our students engaged.	1954	Non-Sectarian	Matt Walsh	PreK–12	780	
Gonzaga College High School 19 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C.; 202-336-7100; gonzaga.org	Founded in 1821, Gonzaga is a Catholic college preparatory school for boys in grades 9–12. The only Jesuit high school in the District of Columbia, Gonzaga draws inspiration from the spiritual vision of St. Ignatius Loyola and the apostolic and educational tradition of the Society of Jesus.	1821	Catholic	Britney Pugh-Crooks	9–12	960	
Grace Christian School 7210 Race Track Rd., Bowie; gcsbowie.org	This year, Grace Christian School celebrates 50 years as a light in the community where Faith and Learning connect. Grace Christian exists to ensure all enrolled students learn spiritually, academically, physically, and creatively from a biblical worldview.	1975	Christian	Lori Stevens	K–8	300+	
Holy Trinity An Episcopal School Primary School: 13106 Annapolis Road, Bowie; 301-262-5355; htrinity.org, The Daisy Lane School and High School Prep - 11902 Daisy Lane, Glenn Dale; 301-464-3215; htrinity.org	Faithful to our values of academic excellence, spiritual and moral formation, and inclusiveness, Holy Trinity will apply new thinking and best practices in education. Inside and outside the classroom, we will nurture, teach, mentor, coach, and inspire boys and girls of diverse backgrounds and abilities to become their best selves.	1963	Episcopal	DeAndre Calhoun	PreK–8	452+	
Maryvale Preparatory School 11300 Falls Road, Baltimore; 410-252-3366; maryvale.com	Maryvale, affiliated with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, provides an environment in which each student can reach her academic, spiritual, physical and civic potential in a loving, supportive, and diverse community.	1945	Catholic	Tracey Ford	6–12	450	
McDonogh School 8600 McDonogh Road, Owings Mills; 410-363-0600; mcdonogh.org	McDonogh is an independent, coeducational day and five-day boarding school providing life-altering educational opportunities that inspire joy in learning and promote personal and intellectual growth. The School's 800-acre campus provides countless opportunities for exploration, and the private fleet of 21 buses serves Baltimore City and surrounding counties.	1873	Non-Sectarian	David J. Farace	PreK–12	1,460	
Mount de Sales Academy 700 Academy Road, Catonsville; 410-744-8498; mountdesalesacademy.org	Mount de Sales Academy forms young women through a Catholic college preparatory education that nurtures the whole person and promotes academic excellence, lifelong learning, moral responsibility, service to others, and the dignity of the human person.	1852	Catholic	Sister Mary Raymond Thye, O.P.	9–12	460	
Mount St. Joseph High School 4403 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore; 410-644-3300; msjnet.edu	Mount Saint Joseph High School is a Catholic college preparatory school for boys sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers.	1876	Catholic	Brendan Donohue	9–12	800+	

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	17	11:1	\$20,500/year	Call for Information	Boys	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Latin, French, German, Spanish	60+	40	Varies
	14	7:1	\$7,900–\$26,540/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	French, Spanish	Model UN, Robotics, Green Team, Yearbook, Kaleidoscope, MathCounts, Geography, History and Science Bee, Musical Theater, Instrumental and Vocal Performance, Visual Arts, Pottery	10	Yes
	18	8:1	\$23,850/year	Call for Information	Boys	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin, Mandarin, Greek, French	40	15	55 hours
	19	14:1	\$19,077/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin, ASL	31	23	Varies per year
	13	7:1	\$12,710–\$32,630/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish	36	43 teams including 12 middle school	25 hours per year (grades 9-12)
	19	12:1	\$33,530/year	Call for Information	Boys	Yes	N/A	Yes	Chinese, French, Spanish	8	18: Number of sports offered 41: Number of athletic teams	N/A
	17	13:1	\$9,775 K–5, \$9,965 6–8/year	January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Drama, Debate, Cyber Robotics Coding Club	Cross Country, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, Track & Field, Cheerleading	MS - 2 hours Christian service each quarter
	15 (Pre); 20 (K–4); 21 (5–8)	Varies	\$13,429 (3 & 4 yrs old) \$14,686 (K) \$13,901 (Grades 1–4) \$15,713 (Grades 5–8)	January 10th, February 7th, April 4th	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple	6 (Grades 5-8)	15 hours/year (7.5 hours for single-parent families)
	13-14	8:1	Middle: \$22,300/year High: \$22,700/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes HSPT/ ISEE	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French	70+	30	No
	N/A	N/A	\$24,350-\$42,440 (includes transportation and lunch)	Visit mcdonogh.org/admissions	Coed	ISEE	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Latin	Visit mcdonogh.org/asp for more information	Visit mcdonogh.org/athletics for more information	Yes
	16	16:1	\$19,850/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin	35	21	75 hours by graduation
	19	10:1	\$19,495/year	Visit msjnet.edu /visit	Boys	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Italian	50+	17	60 hours

Private School

Advertisers in RED

	DESCRIPTION	YEAR FOUNDED	RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	PRINCIPAL/ HEAD OF SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	ENROLLMENT	
Notre Dame Preparatory School 815 Hampton Lane, Towson; 410-825-6202; notredameprep.com	Notre Dame Prep was founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It is a college preparatory school for girls, located in Towson.	1873	Catholic	Sister Patricia McCarron, SSND, PhD	6–12	813	
Oldfields School 1500 Glencoe Road, Sparks Glencoe; 410-472-4800; oldfieldsschool.org	Oldfields is an all-girls boarding and day school located on 140 acres in Maryland's horse country	1867	Non-Sectarian	Ansley Smithwick	8–12	30	
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School 17301 Old Vic Boulevard, Olney, MD 20832; 240-283-3253; olgchs.org	At Our Lady of Good Counsel, a Catholic high school sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers, we inspire our students to excel, serve, and love.	1958	Catholic	Edward Owusu	9–12	1275	
Roland Park Country School 5204 Roland Avenue, Baltimore; 410-323-5500; rpcs.org	At Roland Park Country School, the paths our students take are as varied and diverse as they are. Our students pursue excellence in their academic endeavors by exploring their passions, cultivating their curiosities and sharpening their analytical and creative abilities in an environment focused on learning, leading and thriving. Endless possibilities start here!	1894	Non-Sectarian	Joan Smith	K–12; coed preschool	600	
St. Augustine School 5990 Old Washington Road, Elkridge 410-796-3040; staug-md.org	St. Augustine School is affiliated with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and is located on the edge of Howard and Anne Arundel counties.	1857	Catholic	Joseph Miller	PreK3–8	265	
St. John's College High School in Chevy Chase 2607 Military Road NW, Chevy Chase; 202-363-2316; stjohnschs.org	St. John's is an independent, Catholic, coeducational college preparatory school in the Lasallian tradition.	1851	Catholic	Ian MacInnes	9–12	1300	
St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School 4610 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro; 301-627-4170; stmaryum.org	St. Mary of the Assumption School is a coeducational Catholic elementary school founded by St. Mary of the Assumption Church in 1925, to serve the Catholic families of the greater Upper Marlboro area.	1925	Catholic	Ashley Lewis	PreK–8	N/A	
St. Philip Neri School 6401 S. Orchard Road, Linthicum Heights; 410-859-1212; spnmd.org	St. Philip Neri School is part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and is located on a 15-acre campus in northern Anne Arundel County.	1965	Catholic	Kate Daley	PreK–8	485	
St. Pius X Regional School 14710 Annapolis Road, Bowie; 301-262-0203; stpiusbowie.org	2016 National Blue Ribbon School St. Pius X Regional School serves four regional parishes in the Bowie area. We seek to support the diversity of student needs and learning styles while nourishing its students' spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth.	1962	Roman Catholic	Ann Gillespie	PreK–8	500	
St. Timothy's School 8400 Greenspring Avenue, Stevenson; 410-486-7400; stt.org	Beyond instilling in each girl a passion for learning, we are deeply committed to the formation of character, spiritual growth, social responsibility, and respect for diversity.	1882	Episcopal	Randy S. Stevens	9–12	165	
St. Vincent Pallotti High School 113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel; 301-725-3228; pallottihs.org	St. Vincent Pallotti High School is a college preparatory school in the Archdiocese of Washington, and serves students from Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.	1921	Catholic	Jeffrey Palumbo	9–12	450	
Washington New Church School 11914 Chantilly Ln., Mitchellville; 301-464-5602; wncschool.org	60-acre campus, hosting two educational gardens, nature trails and outdoor classroom. A Christian school specializing in loving, personalized education. Blends traditional academic rigor with as much project-based learning as possible. Located in Mitchellville/West Bowie.	1970	New Church Christian	Brian Smith	PreK–8	35	

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/ VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	19	9:1	\$21,950/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes; ISEE (MS); HSPT (HS)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Mandarin	50+ (upper level); 12+ (middle level)	15	20 hours a year starting sophomore year
	4	3:1	\$31,000/year Boarding - \$59,000	Visit website for open house dates	Girls	Test Optional Policy	Dress Code	Yes	French, Spanish, Latin	3+	Athletics & Equestrian Program	80 hours required
	20	13:1	\$32,650	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin, English	50+	28	N/A
	Varies	6:1	K -\$30,990; 1-8 - \$32,700-38,400; 9-12 - \$39,400	April 24th	Girls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Seven options	50+	15	Yes
	25	13:1	\$7,300/ year K-8th; \$4,380 Preschool 3 day Program; \$7,300 Preschool 5 day program	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple	4	No
	20	12:1	\$27,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	N/A	Yes	Yes	French, Spanish and Latin	70	29	N/A
	N/A	8:1	\$8,250-11,250/ year	Call for Information	Coed	N/A	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Varies every year	Basketball, Soccer, or Track and Field	Each family is required 20 hours of volunteer work
	22	20:3 (PreK); 24:1 (K-8)	\$7,175/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin	10	3	20 hours per family
	25; PK - 20	12:1; PK - 10:1	K-8 \$10,170, Non-Archdiocese of Washington: K-8 \$11,170, Non Catholic \$12,170, PreK4 Program \$11,200, PreK3 Program \$12,700	January 24th, 1-3 p.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple Clubs	Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country	\$500 Volunteer Service Program Fee or 20 hours of creditable work
	8	8:1	Day Tuition-\$39,900; Boarding \$69,900, Boarding-\$64,200	Call for Information	Girls	No	Yes	Yes	French, Mandarin, Spanish	18	12	Yes
	17	11:1	\$20,100-\$21,500/ year	April 24th	Coed	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Mandarin	20+	20+	80 hours over 4 years
	7	4:1	\$10,000/year	Call for Tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish enrichment	Varies	0	Yes

Private School

Advertisers in RED

DESCRIPTION

YEAR
FOUNDED

RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

PRINCIPAL/
HEAD OF
SCHOOL

GRADE
LEVELS

ENROLLMENT

CAROLINE COUNTY

The Benedictine School
14299 Benedictine Lane, Ridgely;
410-634-2112; benschool.org

The Benedictine School is an approved day and residential school, serving students with intellectual disabilities, autism, or multiple disabilities.

1959

Non-Sectarian

Julie Hickey

K-12

55

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Countryside Christian School
5333 Austin Road, Cambridge;
410-228-0574;
countrysidechristianschoolmd.org

For more than 50 years, Countryside Christian School's purpose has been, and continues to be, providing students with a traditional Bible-based education in an academic environment that is challenging, yet attainable for all.

1974

Christian

Beverly Stephens Herbst

PreK-8

15

KENT COUNTY

Chestertown Christian Academy
401 Morgne Road, Chestertown;
410-778-5855; chestertownchristian.org
and admissions@chestertownchristian.org

We serve students from Kent, Queen Anne's, and Cecil Counties in Maryland as well as Kent County, Delaware. Our mission is to "Awaken a delight in learning by providing an atmosphere of encouragement and academic challenges that inspires students to reach their God-given potential".

1979

Baptist

Lynn Poore

K-12

214

Kent School
6788 Wilkins Lane, Chestertown;
410-778-4100; kentschool.org

Kent School is an independent day school located along the bank of the Chester River. The school incorporates Chesapeake Bay studies into their curriculum.

1967

Non-Sectarian

Nancy Mugele

PreK-8

150

Radcliffe Creek School
201 Talbot Boulevard, Chestertown;
410-778-8150; radcliffecreekschool.org

Radcliffe Creek School is an independent day school dedicated to neurodivergent students with language-based learning differences as well as neurotypical students. RCS provides a personalized education experience, with a focus on small class sizes, specialized instruction using Orton-Gillingham approaches, and a supportive community.

1996

Non-Sectarian

Dr. Jennifer Durham

K-8

72

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

The Gunston School
911 Gunston Road, Centreville;
410-758-0620; gunston.org

The Gunston School offers an intellectually rigorous, highly personalized, and nurturing college preparatory experience focused on environmental leadership and hands-on learning, complemented by a daily athletics program, convenient transportation options, and a generous financial aid and scholarship program dedicated to enrolling a strong, diverse student population.

1911

Non-Sectarian

John Lewis

9-12

257

Lighthouse Christian Academy
931 Love Point Road, Stevensville;
410-643-3034; lcademy.org

Lighthouse Christian Academy is a joyful Classical approach to education on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

2001

Christian

Nathan Bell

PreK-8

133

Wye River Upper School
316 South Commerce Street, Centreville;
410-758-2922; wyeriverupperschool.org

Wye River Upper School is a private, independent school which serves students with learning differences in a small, inclusive and safe environment. Transportation is available for several locations both east and west of the Bay Bridge.

2002

Non-Sectarian

Nicole Sophocles

8-12

50

TALBOT COUNTY

Chesapeake Christian School
1009 N. Washington Street, Easton;
410-822-7600; chesapeakechristian.org

Chesapeake Christian School is conveniently located near Route 50, and offers a traditional classroom setting with Christian values.

1999

Christian

Rhonda Kercheval

K-12

140

The Country School
716 Goldsborough Street, Easton;
410-822-1935; countryschool.org

We offer a challenging, enriching program in a nurturing environment with individual attention and outstanding teachers as our hallmarks. We help develop confident students to realize their highest potential. The Country School offers transportation from Cambridge to Stevensville

1934

Non-Sectarian

Jay Parker

PreK-8

320

Sts. Peter and Paul School
Elementary - 900 High Street, Easton;
410-822-2251; es.ssppeaston.org
High - 1212 S. Washington Street, Easton;
410-822-2275; ssppeaston.org

Saints Peter and Paul School is a Catholic elementary and college preparatory school located on 2 campuses in Easton. Saints Peter and Paul is the only Catholic, PreK through 12th grade school on the Eastern Shore

1955(ES)
1958 (HS)

Catholic

Sherrie Connolly (ES), Scott Wilson (HS)

PreK-12

425 (ES)
200 (HS)

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	5–7	3:1	Varies depending on services required	Tours and interviews available by request	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	No	Multiple	0	No
	15	8:1	\$4,800/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish, ASL	0	0	No
	15	15:1	\$4,690 (PreK and Kindergarten), \$4,990 (1–5), \$5,990 (6–12)	Call for information	Coed	Yes (grades 2–12)	Yes	Yes	Spanish	4-H and others that vary year to year	Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Cheerleading, Baseball, Cross Country	10 hours per academic year (grades 9–12)
	12	7:1	Little School: 4 days: \$9,700, 5 days: \$10,700; K: \$14,950; Grades 1 - 4: \$19,300; Grades 5 - 8: \$20,650	Contact School to schedule personal tour	Coed	Evaluation	Dress code	Yes	N/A	1	9	No
	6	6:1	\$34,580/year for Grades 1–8; \$31,122/year for Kindergarten	Rolling Admissions and Flexibility with "Your Time. Your Tour."	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	No	60 minutes everyday with revolving topics	3	No
	10–12	9:1	\$30,950 (includes tuition and lunch)	January 25th & April 26th, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Coed	Yes	Dress code	Yes	Spanish, others available online	24	21+	45 hours
	12	11:1	\$8,200–\$11,125/year	January 14th, February 11th, March 11th	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Latin	6	4	No
	6-8	5:1	\$36,980/year (Grades 9–12), \$32,130 (Grade 8)	Call School for Upcoming Dates	Coed	No	Dress Code	Yes	Spanish, Sign Language	Music, theatre, recreation, and clubs	Basketball and Cross Country	75 hours
	15	15:1	\$5,000/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	No	Spanish	0	6	100 hours
	15	9:1	PreK \$11,890; K \$18,070; 1–8 \$20,970	email admissions@countyschool.org	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin	10	5	Not required, but part of curriculum
	HS is 14 ES is 18	11 is to 1	PreK \$8,900; K–8 \$10,500; 9–12 \$19,430	January 28th, 5:30 p.m.	Coed	Yes (HSPT for HS)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin	13 (ES); 32+ (HS)	8 (ES); 18 (HS)	80 hours/four years (9–12), 20 hours per school year

WHAT DOES PRIVATE SCHOOL MEAN TO YOU?

We asked parents and students for their perspective and appreciation of private school experiences. Here's what they have to say:

“Roman is learning concrete life skills and we have a whole new perspective on the possibilities for him and his future. He is celebrated and seen at Benedictine!”

—**Parents of student, The Benedictine School**

“The Country School is more than a school; it's a family. The core values are seriously demonstrated by the staff, teachers, students, and parents. When we see the daily excitement in his eyes, it confirms that we made the absolute right decision.”

—**Sheila J., parent, The Country School**

“When my daughter first graduated from Gunston, she walked onto a college campus and was able to organize herself without any stress and enjoy that first semester, [and] she was comfortable advocating for herself, because Gunston had taught her how to be responsible for her work, as they have with all my kids.”

—**Derrika Baughman, parent to five alumni and current students, The Gunston School**

“Choosing Key School was one of the best decisions we've made for our child. As the parent of a recent graduate, I can say without hesitation that Key has exceeded our expectations—not just academically, but in preparing our child for life beyond high school.”

—**Sarah S., parent, Key School**

“There is something about Kent School that allows every child to find the spotlight. It might be academically, in the arts or athletics, at a bee or in an essay contest, or in a leadership role. With so many opportunities to shine, students feel comfortable there so it's a natural progression for them to continue on that path in high school.”

—**Anonymous alumni parent, Kent School**

“Lighthouse Christian Academy represents more than just a school—it's a place that helps me reinforce the values I'm trying to teach at home: faith, discipline, integrity, and compassion. It's comforting to know my son is surrounded by teachers and mentors who not only invest in his education but also in his character and heart.”


—**John Hozik, parent, Lighthouse Christian Academy**

“Severn does a great job of catering to a variety of student interests and passions. It's really easy and encouraged to get involved beyond the classroom, whether that's with a club, sport, or specific leadership position like Senior Prefect. Through different seminars offered each year, there's a focus on knowing yourself well so that you can be yourself and really pursue your passions.”

—**Olivia Jishi, senior student, Severn School**

“Wye River Upper School helped me realize that learning differently isn't a weakness—it's just who I am. Because the teachers focus on my strengths, I've gained so much confidence. I'm actually excited about my future.”

—**Anonymous alumna, Class of 2023, Wye River Upper School**



"Monsignor Slade offers an incredible blend of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and a warm, supportive community. We can't imagine a better place for our children to grow!"

**—Bianca H., current parent and alumna,
Monsignor Slade Catholic School**

"Rockbridge Academy feels like an additional church family to us. It is such a blessing to see people young and old and from various walks of life come together. We have seen the administration and faculty do an amazing job at creating a sense of community that our children can't wait to be a part of on a daily basis."

**—Hannah E., parent of four current
students, Rockbridge Academy**

"From the moment we stepped onto the St. Anne's School campus, we felt something different. There was a genuine sense of belonging, warmth, and intentionality that immediately resonated with our family. Our boys are not just students in a classroom—they are known, valued, and celebrated for who they are."

**—Chriz Rzepkowski, parent,
St. Anne's School of Annapolis**

"When we first decided to enroll our son in preschool, we visited more than a dozen preschools in the area. Something about St. Margaret's felt different than all the rest. They offered STEM classes and promoted green initiatives and understood the value of balancing academics with outdoor play for small children. I often joked that it felt like the Ivy League of preschools."

—Frank Bolinsky, parent, St. Margaret's Day School

"The best decision was sending my son to Sts. Peter and Paul School. The transfer from public school to SSPP was seamless with the support from teachers and administrators. My son has learned academic responsibility and grown in his faith. The caring and safe environment has allowed him to focus on learning with no distractions. Words cannot express the gratitude we have."

—Anonymous parent, Sts. Peter & Paul School

"The school has been a phenomenal experience for both of my children. This school is a family. My children have grown in their education and in their faith, they have also learned to be helpful, kind people. The teachers, staff, and administration are likewise phenomenal."

—Wendy M., parent, School of the Incarnation

"Our two neurodivergent boys (age 8) have truly found their place at Radcliffe Creek School. After two very rough years in a traditional school setting, we knew something had to change, and RCS welcomed us with open arms. The amount of resources and support they offer parents and families is equally impressive as the support they offer their students."

—Anonymous parent, Radcliffe Creek School

"St. John is an incredible school that has helped develop my academic skills and strengthen my faith. Every day the safe, helpful environment allows me to feel secure and engaged while I learn. I used to believe challenges were obstacles blocking the path to success, but my school has taught me to embrace them as opportunities for growth."

**—Madelyn G., grade six student,
St. John the Evangelist**

"Pallotti was an awesome choice for my daughter. Their Arts Academy option is top notch. She received a sizable scholarship to the college of her choice due in large part to her academic experiences at Pallotti."

**—Maria H., alumni parent,
St. Vincent Pallotti**

DISCOVER INDIAN CREEK!



Indian Creek is the premier Annapolis-area independent school where kindness is currency, well-being is priority, and excellence in education is relentlessly pursued. Visit our beautiful, 114-acre wooded campus to learn more about our Early Childhood Outdoor Education Program, Middle School Project Based Learning Curriculum, Upper School STEM Program, Center for Community & Well-Being, and more!



INDIAN CREEK SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten 3 through Grade 12

Upper School
(Grades 9-12)

Middle School
(Grades 6-8)

Lower School
(PK3 - Grade 5)

*Schedule your visit or shadow day
and learn why Creek families love coming to school!*

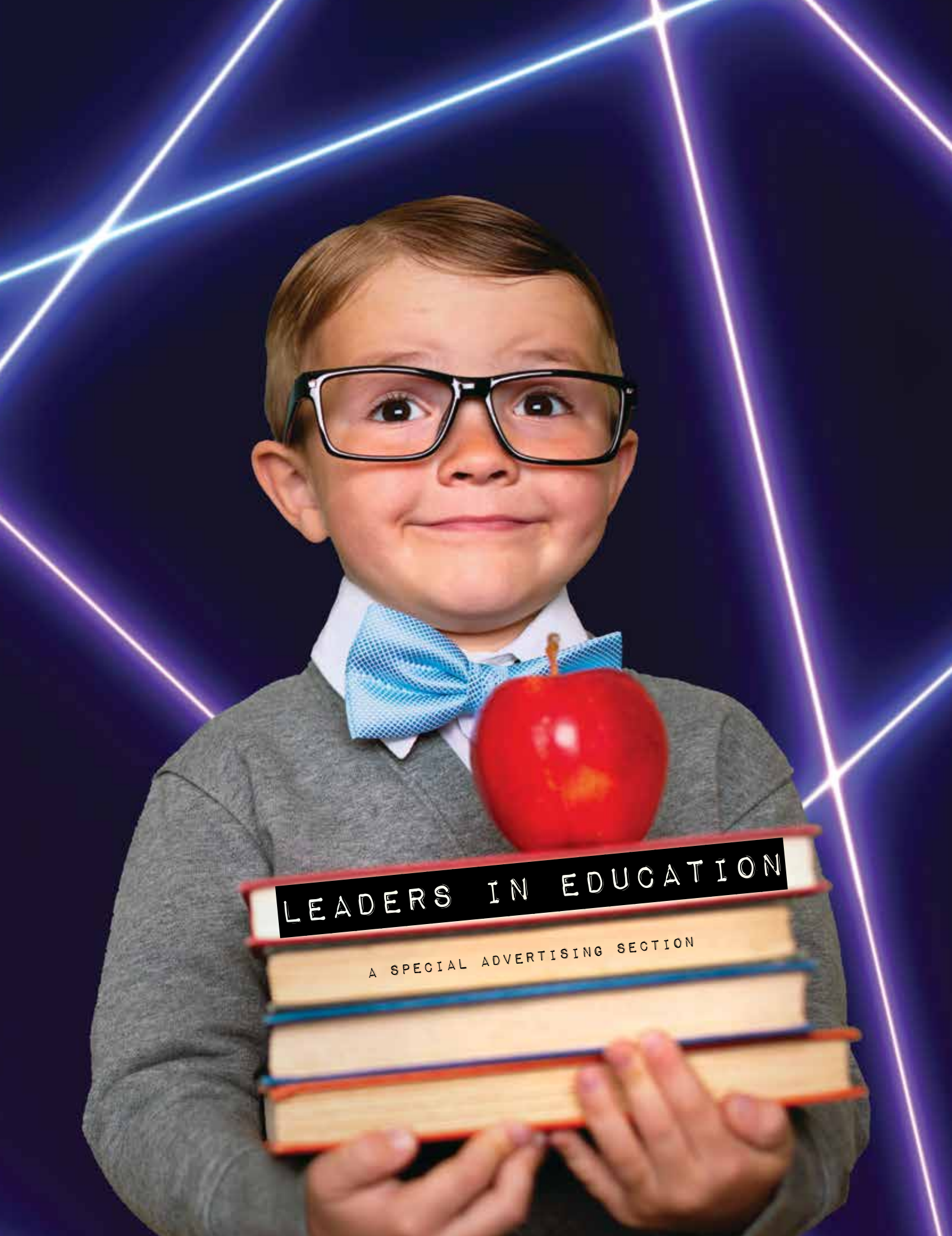
indiancreekschool.org



*Learn
why!*



1130 Anne Chambers Way, Crownsville | 410.923.3660



LEADERS IN EDUCATION

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

2.5 yrs. - Grade 12

Religious Affiliation:

Non-Sectarian

Educational Environment:

Co-ed

2025-2026

Enrollment: 668

Financial Assistance:

Financial Aid & Merit Scholarships Available

Average Financial Aid

Award: \$14,000

Uniforms:

No

Student to Faculty

Ratio: 6:1

Average Class Size:

16

Advanced Courses

Offered: 6 AP,
14 advanced

Interscholastic Teams:

40

Languages Taught:

Arabic, French, Latin,
Spanish

Performance/Creative

Arts Offerings: 35+

Key School

534 Hillsmere Drive | Annapolis, MD 21403 | keyschool.org

Instagram & Facebook @thekeyschool | 410.263.9231

Families have long recognized Key School for its academic excellence, expert faculty and proven path to top colleges. From ages 2.5 through Grade 12, students develop the intellectual curiosity, leadership, and integrity that define lifelong success—right in the heart of Annapolis.



More Than a School. The Key to What Comes Next.

At Key, students don't just prepare for college; they prepare for life. Through a blend of rigorous academics, relational teaching, and real-world learning, they develop purpose, confidence, and compassion. It's an education that shapes thinkers, doers, and problem-solvers ready to make an impact on the world.

That journey begins with curiosity. Academic mastery at Key is driven by students who ask bold questions, connect ideas across disciplines and pursue understanding that lasts far beyond a test or transcript. And learning doesn't stay confined to the classroom. From exploring the Chesapeake Bay to engaging in meaningful community service, students experience the world in ways that broaden their perspectives and strengthen their character.

Key graduates don't just check boxes—they chart their own course.

Experience the Key difference for yourself. Schedule a private weekday tour with one of our admission counselors today.



Creating opportunities for experiential learning through outdoor education is an integral part of the Key experience.



Key's Fusco Athletic Park is a 70-acre state-of-the-art facility that is home to the fields, courts and training spaces that fuel championship teams.



Key is renowned for its rigorous academic program, which emphasizes inquiry-based learning and interdisciplinary study.



#1

Private High School
in Anne Arundel
County

#1

Private K-12 School
in Anne Arundel
County

#4

K-12 Private
School in
Maryland



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Twos - Grade 8

2025-2026

Enrollment:

285

Tuition Range:

\$6,000-\$28,000

Student to

Teacher Ratio:

8:1

Average Class Size:

13



St. Anne's School's podcast series, *The Satellite*, dives into today's most relevant educational conversations—from the outcomes of phone-free schooling and the Science of Reading to civic-minded learning and the transformative power of the arts.

Scan the QR code above to tune in and discover more about St. Anne's School, our academic approach, and the meaningful research and innovation shaping teaching and learning on our campus.

St. Anne's School of Annapolis

3112 Arundel on the Bay Road | Annapolis, MD 21403 | stannesschool.org
Instagram and Facebook @stannesschool | 410.263.8650

St. Anne's School is a research-informed, independent school that specializes in educating students through the Wonder Years: two-years-old through Eighth Grade. This small, progressive school makes a big impact and has an even bigger heart.



You Belong Here.

St. Anne's School is a caring community of educators with a guiding mission to invest in the intellectual and spiritual promise of each and every student.

Here, teachers learn alongside students, sparking joy in learning while also challenging students to think critically and creatively. Here, we celebrate diversity and foster belonging by upholding the dignity of every human being. Here, we stand for respect, responsibility, honesty, and kindness—core values that we uphold daily both on and off campus. Here, we inspire our students to lead lives of purpose, to fully know themselves as learners, and to govern their lives with confidence, compassion, and integrity. Here, we also know it's not just what students learn, but how they learn it, that makes a difference. All faculty is trained in Mind/Brain Education, Responsive Classroom, and Individualized Instruction, and everything we do is backed by research.

Families come for our small class sizes, personalized instruction, and research-informed curriculum; families stay for our warm and connected community, social/emotional and project-based learning, and signature service and leadership programs...all of which open doors to top Mid-Atlantic high schools.



Piquing curiosity through hands-on application is a key component of a St. Anne's School education and our project-based learning allows students to dive deeper into their areas of interest.



Education doesn't just occur in the classroom at St. Anne's School. Here students learn about the world around them and how they can be stewards of change from our Fourth Grade Oyster Harvesting Unit to our Seventh Grade Costa Rica Trip.



In our Reggio Emilia-inspired Program for Young Children, our youngest learners are viewed as protagonists in their educational journey and are encouraged to express themselves through words, movement, art, music, and more.



Nurturing minds and hearts are equally important at St. Anne's School. Social/emotional learning and both leadership and service opportunities are built directly into the curriculum.

\$750,000+

in high school scholarships awarded (2018-25)

30%

of our student body identifies as diverse, representing 28 zip codes

3

Science Labs

10

Outdoor Learning Spaces Including a Ropes Course



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Preschool – Grade 12

Total Enrollment: 910

Matriculation Rate:
100%

Student to Teacher Ratio: 9:1

Average Class Size: 15

Sports Offered:

17 (54 teams total including Middle School, JV, and Varsity)

Year Founded: 1914

Tuition:

Kindergarten: \$24,410;
Grades 1-5: \$26,580;
Grades 6-12: \$33,400;
Preschool & Prekindergarten tuition varies

Financial Aid Awarded:

\$4 Million

Severn School

Chesapeake Campus (preschool through Grade 5): 1185 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Arnold, MD

Teel Campus (Grades 6 thru 12): 201 Water Street, Severna Park, MD

PH: 410-647-7700 | www.severnschool.com



Severn is more than just a school. It's a vibrant learning community where discovery, curiosity, and perseverance are celebrated in equal measure to academic success and where every student has the potential to be a leader. Here, students learn that education isn't solely about the facts you know but about discovering who you are and how you can make a difference with that knowledge.

“As a Severn student, I’ve been able to step out of my comfort zone and try new things that I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to do and wouldn’t have had the courage to try if I wasn’t here. It’s a welcoming, close-knit community.”

– Marcus '26

At every grade level, the curriculum is thoughtfully designed to prepare students for the next step, while also inspiring a love of learning. In addition to building a strong academic foundation, every student has unlimited opportunities to create their own Severn experience by getting involved in athletics, the arts, clubs, independent projects, and more.





QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Pre-K through
Grade 12

Year Founded:

1973

2025-2026

Enrollment:

595

2025-2026 Tuition:

\$23,550 - \$33,750

Campus Size: :

114 acres

Signature Programs:

Nature-based Early
Childhood

PK-12 Outdoor Learning
Curriculum

Middle School Gold-
Standard Project Based
Learning Curriculum

Upper School S.T.E.M.
Program

Evergreen Institute for
Leadership

Voros Thesis in the
Humanities



Indian Creek School

1130 Anne Chambers Way, Crownsville, MD 21032

410-923-3660 | indiancreekschool.org



Visit Indian Creek's beautiful 114-acre wooded campus, just minutes from Annapolis, and you will see why ICS families love coming to school. You may come across our youngest students exploring the campus trails in the Nature-Based Pre-K Program, observe Middle School students building roller coasters through their gold-standard Project Based Learning curriculum, discover Upper School S.T.E.M. students monitoring bat boxes, cheer for Creek athletes competing on the fields, dome, and courts of the Eagles Athletics Complex, and enjoy the music all around campus created by our performing artists. Everywhere you go, you will experience the sights and sounds of Indian Creek students discovering passions through authenticity, connection, and curiosity. We invite you to visit and learn what your pursuit of excellence can look like at a school where kindness is currency, well-being is priority, and excellence in education is relentlessly pursued!



16 Average class size

7:1 Student to teacher ratio

100% College Placement



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

PreK – 8

Religious Affiliation:

Catholic

Year Founded:

1959

2025-2026
Enrollment:

549

2025-2026 Tuition:

\$9,290



St. John the Evangelist School

669 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, MD 21146 | 410-647-2283 | stjohnspschool.org



Saint John the Evangelist School is a 2024 National Blue Ribbon award-winning school that serves students in preschool through eighth grade. In a community of faith, our faculty and staff work together to make sure each child develops to the best of their ability spiritually, artistically, socially, and physically. Our school offers a nurturing environment that promotes living faith, academic excellence, leadership, and service within the church community and society.

Saint John offers clubs and activities that allow our students to explore their unique talents and personalities. In addition to weekly art, Spanish, technology, and music classes, students have the opportunity to participate in various clubs and activities, such as musical theater, chess, birding, and more. Students may also participate in a variety of sports through our athletic association, including ice hockey, soccer, cheer, and basketball.

We encourage our students to be active in their learning experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom. As a Certified Maryland Green School, Saint John emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship in classroom lessons and throughout our 30-acre campus. Through outreach, leadership, prayer, and service projects, Saint John promotes service to others. Inquire today to learn how we merge faith, academics, and technology to create responsible citizens and future leaders.



Faith, Family, Academics

14:1

 Student to
Teacher Ratio

26

 Extracurricular
Activities

30+

acre campus

2

 time National Blue
Ribbon Award winner
(2008 & 2024)



QUICK LOOK

President:

Shannon Gilligan

Religious Affiliation:

Catholic

Year Founded:

1966

2025-2026 Tuition:

\$21,650

Varsity Sports:

30 competing in the MIAA and IAAM

Archbishop Spalding High School

8080 New Cut Road | Severn, MD 21144 | 410-969-9105
archbishopspalding.org

Archbishop Spalding is a Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school that has been committed to serving our students in a caring environment since 1966.

Spalding not only offers core academic courses but also embraces religious studies, fine arts, STEM education, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, and physical education. This reflects the school's dedication to providing an environment in which students are encouraged to reach their potential academically, spiritually, and physically. Where each student will be cared for and recognized for the person they are and not the number they represent. Outside the classroom, our students participate in numerous award-winning athletic, fine arts, and co-curricular programs; each designed to inspire growth in the individual.



16:1

Student to teacher ratio

60,654

Service Hours completed by the class of 2024-2025



QUICK LOOK

Head of School:

Kathy Mahar

Grades:

Preschool - 8

2025-2026 Enrollment:

234

Average Class Size:

Preschool - 4th: 13-16
5th - 8th: 15-18



St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School

375-A Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD 21146 | 410-647-7055 | stmartinsmd.org

St. Martin's is located on an 8-acre campus in the heart of Severna Park. We are proud to educate and nurture students in Preschool through 8th grade to be learners, leaders, and friends. We seek to create a welcoming educational environment, encouraging each individual to grow in Confidence, Compassion, and Character. In our inclusive community, every child is known and supported.

We offer an academically rigorous curriculum allowing for individualized instruction. Creativity and problem solving are fostered through active hands-on learning. Students participate in Music, Spanish, PE, weekly Chapel Services, Technology, Library, Art, Sacred Studies, and Service Learning. We offer after-school clubs and activities at all grade levels in addition to interscholastic sports teams and musical theater in Middle School.

Contact Kira Dickson, Director of Admissions to schedule a private tour or register for our January 14th Open House: kdickson@stmartinsmd.org.



Join us at our
Open House

January 14th at
10:00 am-12:00 pm



QUICK LOOK

Religious Affiliation:
Christian

Grades:
Junior K-12

Churches Represented: 90

2025-2026 Tuition:
\$14,000-\$19,100

Average Class Size: 15

Enrollment: 460

Rockbridge Academy

680 Evergreen Road, Crownsville, MD 21032
410-923-1171 | rockbridge.org

Distinctively classical, unwaveringly Christian, Rockbridge Academy has been a nationally leading school in classical Christian education for 30 years. The proven classical methodology we practice works with a child's developmental framework, preparing them to excel by all academic measures (GPA, college acceptances, etc.). Yet, the vision guiding our methodology extends beyond academic excellence; we ultimately seek to nurture a child towards lifelong Christ-following, compassionate living, and thought leadership among their generation. Throughout a child's scholastic journey, we partner with parents to secure an unparalleled education so a child can navigate the world humbly and graciously everywhere — at school, work, or the home.



#1 Best Christian High School in Anne Arundel County

#2 Best Christian High School in the Baltimore Area

1284 5-Year Average SAT

8:1 Student to Teacher Ratio

83% of Upper School Teachers with Advanced Degrees



QUICK LOOK

Grades:
PreK4 - 8th

Religious Affiliation:
Catholic

Principal:
Ms. Nancy Baker

Year Founded:
2002

2025-2026 Tuition:
\$6,250-\$10,000

School of the Incarnation

2601 Symphony Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054
410.519.2285 | schooloftheincarnation.org

School of the Incarnation is a fully-accredited Catholic school that educates over 750 students in central Anne Arundel County on a beautiful 26-acre campus. School of the Incarnation is officially associated with the five Catholic parishes St. Joseph Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Fields, Holy Family Catholic Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. The School of the Incarnation embraces an inter-parish community of children with differing gifts. Through collaboration amongst the faculty, parents, and other professionals, the School is dedicated to cultivating and promoting academic excellence in an environment immersed in Gospel values. This commitment is woven seamlessly into the academic program and student life. We seek to provide a distinctive educational experience to a diverse body of learners and to cultivate our students' ability to think globally and behave ethically.



2025 Open House

Saturday

January 24th
8:30-11:00am

26 Average class size

16:1 Student to teacher ratio



QUICK LOOK

Head of School:

John Lewis

Grades:

9-12

2025-2026 Enrollment:

257

Average Class Size:

10-12

2025 Tuition:

\$30,950 (includes tuition and lunch)

Year Founded:

1911

The Gunston School

Centreville, Maryland | gunston.org | 410-758-0620

Situated on 75-acres along the Corsica River, Gunston offers students a highly personalized and rigorous academic experience, a strong community, a focus on the balanced development of mind, body, and spirit, and an emphasis on leadership.

Programs of note include Chesapeake Bay Studies, 20+ AP courses including AP Cybersecurity, and a financial literacy program for seniors. Gunston offers 21 sports teams, including rowing and sailing, with athletics incorporated into the school day, which ends at 4:30p.m. Bus service available. Personal tours and shadow days available by appointment with in-person open houses held annually in January, April, October, and November.

We understand that a private school education is a major investment for families, which is why we're committed to making a Gunston education affordable for any motivated and talented student who meets our admissions criteria. More than \$2.2M in financial aid and merit scholarships are awarded to 70% of our students each year!



9:1 Student to Teacher Ratio

24 Extracurricular Activities

21+ Interscholastic sports

Open House or admissions event dates:

January 25 & April 26, 2026
from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



QUICK LOOK

Program Director:

Brad Hirsh

Grades:

11th, 12th & Post Grads

Day Student Tuition:

\$21,075

Boarding Student Tuition:

\$24,275

Year Founded:

2016

Financial Aid:

Available

Chesapeake Watershed Semester at The Gunston School

Centreville, Maryland | chesapeakewatershedsemester.org | 410-758-0620

Now in its seventh year, the fully accredited, single-semester Chesapeake Watershed Semester (CWS) at The Gunston School offers high school juniors and seniors a rigorous, place-based academic experience. CWS uses the Chesapeake Bay as its living laboratory and cultivates environmental leaders by promoting deep understanding of the scientific, social, cultural, and political systems affecting regional and global sustainability. This experience is open to students from any school and is ideal for those seeking advanced academic rigor and real-world environmental action. Boarding, transportation, and financial aid is available.

**15-week program
with 5 weeks in the field**



1:6 Student to Teacher Ratio

13 Average Class Size

Open House:

Join us on April 1, 2026



QUICK LOOK

Student to faculty ratio: 5:1

Students schoolwide: 50

Counties that students come from: 11

Average class size: 8



Wye River Upper School

316 S Commerce Street | Centreville, MD | 410.758.2922 | wyeriverupperschool.org

Educating Students from Grade 8 through Grade 12

Founded in 2002, Wye River Upper School, changes the lives of students who think and learn differently through a flexible and individualized program, celebrating each unique student. The school serves students diagnosed with learning differences, ADHD, anxiety, or those who seek a small, caring environment. Our comprehensive program provides a tailored curriculum which recognizes and develops the strengths of each student. Wye River Upper School offers a holistic and positive approach that bolsters social, emotional, and executive functioning while focusing on authentic and experiential learning. Please call our Admissions Office to schedule a personal tour of our campus.



QUICK LOOK

Before & After Care:

PreK3-8th:
7:10 to 8:10am

PreK3:
Noon to 3

PreK3-8th:
3 to 6PM

*Care is also provided on select half days!



St. Martin's Lutheran School of Annapolis

1120 Spa Road Annapolis, MD 21403 | 410-269-1955 | stmartinsonline.org

St. Martin's Lutheran School of Annapolis is Annapolis's Best Kept Secret! While we may look like only a chapel, we are a full PreK3-8th grade school where faith, learning, and creativity thrive. Our caring, inclusive community celebrates each child's unique gifts through exceptional academics, engaging electives, and a variety of athletic opportunities. Students learn art history and showcase their creations at The Night of the Arts, one of the many exciting events that bring our families and community together.

Since 1963, we've been Learning Today & Leading Tomorrow. Come take a tour and discover the St. Martin's difference!



13

Average class size

Middle School

House System that fosters teamwork, positive behavior, and belonging. Competitive High School Prep. Small class sizes that help every student reach their full potential.

Join us at an
Open House
January 23rd, February 20th,
March 13th
(9AM-2:30PM)

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Day School

4B Wallace Manor Road,
Edgewater, MD 21037
410-266-0952
school.standrewsum.org



Challenging Academics
Small Class Sizes
Maryland Certified Green School



Saint Andrew's United Methodist Day School is a warm, engaging community where children are encouraged to learn with confidence and curiosity. We focus on educating both heart and mind, fostering strong character, kindness, and respect. Every student is known, supported, and challenged, helping them grow into their best selves each day.

14 Average class size **9:1** Student to teacher ratio **202** Enrollment



QUICK LOOK

GRADES:
PreK3-8

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:
United Methodist

2025-2026 TUITION:
\$10,990 - \$15,990



QUICK LOOK

GRADES:
PreK-8

FINANCIAL AID:
Available

2025-2026 ENROLLMENT:
133

Lighthouse Christian Academy



931 Love Point Rd.
Stevensville, MD 21666
410-643-3034
lcacademy.org



Lighthouse Christian Academy is a Classical Christian school with an Eastern Shore flavor - where timeless truth meets the beauty of coastal life. We cultivate virtue, curiosity, and a sincere love of learning within a joyful, purpose-filled community, where hearts and minds grow together in wisdom and wonder.

2025-2026 Tuition:

Pre-K: \$8,200

Kindergarten: \$9,300

1-5: \$11,125 | 6-8: \$11,125

Student to Teacher Ratio

11:1

Serving families from

4 Counties

Saint Margaret's Day School

1605 Pleasant Plains Road
Annapolis, MD 21409
410-757-2333
stmargaretsdayschool.org



SMDS offers children opportunities to explore, create, and build relationships in a diverse, safe, and welcoming environment. As a NAEYC-accredited, MD EXCELS Level 5, MAEOE-certified preschool and kindergarten, we nurture children to become self-reliant, self-motivated, and confident members of our community who are prepared for lifelong learning and success ahead.

After School Enrichments

Art, Ballet, Basketball,
Cheer, Chess, Soccer
Shots and Karate

Weekly Classes:

Spanish, Library, Jump
Bunch, Chapel & Music

17 Average class size **1:8** Student to teacher ratio



QUICK LOOK

GRADES:
Preschool and Kindergarten

ENROLLMENT:
124

2025-2026 TUITION:
\$3,800-\$9,300

**LEADERS
IN EDUCATION**

For more information
visit whatsupmag.com



CHESAPEAKE TRADITIONS ARTICLE SERIES

WILD FOWL *carving*

Celebrating one of Maryland's
cherished cultural traditions

BY LISA A. LEWIS

When Rich Smoker started making decoys to use for hunting along the Susquehanna River when he was in high school, he probably couldn't have imagined how wildfowl carving would impact his life. His father, who instilled in him a love of the craft, was an industrial arts teacher at the school and was well versed in woodworking. Smoker and his father would often work together in the woodshop. Throughout the years, Smoker, his father, and his younger brother, Ross, taught themselves how to carve decoys, and wildfowl carving became a beloved family tradition.

Although Smoker made decoys to hunt, he also admired the artistic aspect of the carvings. He later developed a greater appreciation for the aesthetics of wildfowl carving when he worked as a taxidermist. In this role, he learned about the anatomy of birds, which helped him improve his carving skills. During this time, Smoker continued to carve decoys for hunting while also expanding his work to include decorative carvings.



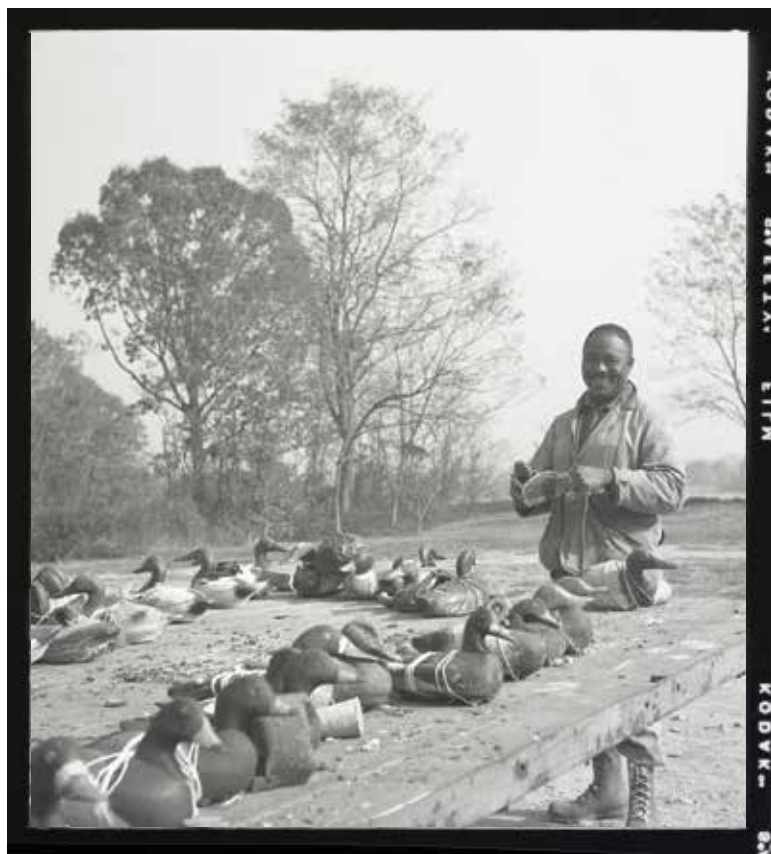
Rich Smoker carves intricate wildfowl decoys in his Eastern Shore shop. Photographs courtesy Rich Smoker.



“I love wildfowl carving; it’s my life,” Smoker says. “Making decoys is so rewarding because it involves two distinct disciplines: sculpture and painting. I start with a visual of the bird and draw it on paper before beginning to carve, which helps produce a truly realistic likeness. I have carved more than 5,000 birds, and I’m still plugging away. Using my hands to carve a piece of wood and create a bird is the most gratifying feeling. I never want to retire.”

A master carver and teacher, Smoker—now a resident of Marion Station, Maryland, near Crisfield—has participated in numerous competitions as both a contestant and a judge and has won several accolades. He has served on the board of directors for 29 years, including five years as chairman, and currently holds the title chairman emeritus at the Ward Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 1968 that is “dedicated to promoting wildfowl art and preserving the legacy of Eastern Shore decoy carvers, Lemuel and Stephen Ward.” He has also been a volunteer at the organization for 43 years. In addition, Smoker is a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow, which is the highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

A guide prepares a decoy rig for hunting in Kent County Maryland, 1953. Photograph by Constance Stuart Larrabee. Collection of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, 927.748.



From Humble Beginnings

Like Smoker, avid Maryland wildfowl carvers are passionate not only about the historical significance of decoys but also the artistic contributions to our State’s cultural heritage. A centuries-old tradition, the craft of making decoys was passed down through the generations—beginning as utilitarian tools used for hunting and evolving into decorative, collectible folk art. Today, decoys are prized among collectors for their artistic value.

Decoy making also connects people to the land and water. Maryland is a critical part of the Atlantic Flyway, a major route for migratory waterfowl, and the Chesapeake Bay is a significant stopover area for a variety of species, such as canvasbacks, mallards, and redheads.

“The Atlantic Flyway funnels through the Chesapeake Bay, which abounds with marshes, grassy shallows, and [similar] environments that provide food and shelter for migratory waterfowl,” says Chief Historian Pete Leshner, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM). “That abundance of migratory birds attracted—and still attracts—thousands of hunters. And one of the essential tools for waterfowl hunting is a rig of decoys. The Chesapeake

Bay region fostered hundreds of decoy carvers who produced staggering quantities of decoys.”

According to CBMM, decoy-making traces its origins back to the early-19th century with its history rooted in distinct cultures of hunters, market gunners (commercial hunters who hunted waterfowl to sell for profit to restaurants and city markets), sport, industry, and, eventually, folk art. Early decoys were rudimentary in nature and served one purpose: to lure waterfowl within hunters’ range. Carvers were influenced by indigenous culture and traditions.

The rise of market gunning in the late-19th century created a high demand for decoys. However, this increase—along with sportsmen’s concern for the decimation of bird populations and advocacy for conservation laws—brought an end to market gunning in the early-20th century. By the 1950s, carving decoys from wood became less popular due to the mass-market production of paperboard, Styrofoam, and, ultimately, plastic decoys. At the same time, decoys were increasingly recognized as folk art, and many carvers began creating the decorative, more realistic decoys that are so popular today.



Master Carvers and Styles

At the height of its popularity, wildfowl carving dominated certain regions in Maryland, which became recognized as hubs for decoy making. As a result, prominent carvers emerged at the forefront of the tradition and gained acclaim for their work. Today, they are internationally renowned and celebrated for their contributions to decoy making.

Significant areas for decoy making abound throughout the Chesapeake Bay region, and especially the Susquehanna Flats located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Havre de Grace, known as “the Decoy Capital of the World,” is home to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, a private, non-profit institution established in 1986 “to preserve the historical and cultural legacy of waterfowling and decoy making on the Chesapeake Bay.” Other noteworthy areas for decoy making include Cecil County and Crisfield on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

Steve Ward carving the body of a decoy in his shop, 1972. Photograph by Peter C. Chambliss. Collection of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, 1296.82.

“Waterfowling and decoy making are woven into the cultural fabric of the Susquehanna Flats and the communities that surround it,” says Mike Tarquini, president of the board of directors, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. “The lore of this region is rich with history that should not be lost. Those within our community need to be aware of the folk art of [creating] decoys.”

Since Maryland’s close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and its strong ties to waterfowl hunting created a need for decoys, some carvers developed their own unique styles and established a legacy that is still revered today by carvers and collectors.

According to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, John “Daddy” Holly (1818–1892), who is considered a pioneer of wildfowl carving, is credited with creating the Harford County or Havre de Grace style of decoy in the mid-to-late 19th century. His son, James (1855–1935), refined the style, and it was made famous by R. Madison Mitchell (1901–1993), who is known as the most prolific decoy maker in Havre de Grace.

“John ‘Daddy’ Holly gets much of the credit for the development of the body design used for almost two centuries by decoy makers on the Harford County side of the Susquehanna Flats,” Tarquini says. “John B. Graham (1822–1912) [one of the most famous decoy makers of the Upper Chesapeake Bay], gets similar status relative to the decoy body style used on the Cecil County side of the Flats. The bodies

of Harford County decoys tend to have a rounded bottom with an upswept tail and lack a neck shelf to mount the head. Cecil County decoys tend to have bodies with flat paddle tails and a raised neck shelf where the head is mounted onto the body.”

According to the Ward Foundation, Lemuel T. Ward, Jr. (1896–1984) and Stephen Ward (1895–1976)—collectively referred to as the Ward Brothers—are considered pioneers of the Crisfield style of wildfowl carving (ca. early 1900s). In particular, they are known for their work in making the transition from utilitarian hunting decoys to highly realistic, decorative works of art.

Unlike the Harford County or Havre de Grace style, Crisfield style decoys have flat bottoms, carved heads that exaggerate the bird’s features, and are often oversized. This particular style resulted in a highly visible, lifelike decoy that rode upon the water. The brothers’ father, L. Travis Ward, Sr. (1865–1926), was also a pioneer of the Crisfield style.

Smoker says he met the Ward Brothers and was greatly influenced by their work. In fact, they made a significant impact on his own wildfowl carvings.

“When someone is at the top of their game, they will be imitated,” Smoker says. “You can see the Ward’s influence in so many of the more than 80 recognized carvers in Crisfield. Their influence has spread to every part of the country. And many carvers and artists often include that they were influenced by the Ward Brothers in their bios.”

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum conveys the cultural significance and experience of wildfowl carving and decoys to visitors. Photographs by Mike Tarquini.





The annual Waterfowl Festival in Easton held each November offers exhibits of decoys, hosts renown artists, including painters, sculptors, and photographers, and features the World Waterfowl Calling Championship Competition, Dock Dogs, food and beverages, children's activities, and much more. Photographs courtesy Academy Art Museum, Ron Haddaway, Susan Fay Schauer, Pete Lupo, and Ross Smoker.

Wildfowl Carving Exhibits

Whether Marylanders are interested in decoys from the perspective of a carver, collector, artist, birder, or nature enthusiast, they can visit museums or festivals to view decoy collections and exhibits.

Every November, the community gathers in Easton for the Waterfowl Festival, a three-day celebration of the heritage, sporting traditions, and artistic expression of the Eastern Shore. The popular festival features exhibits of decoys—from traditional works to decorative, artistic carvings, which are on display and available for sale—as well as live demonstrations.

“For over 54 years, the celebration of our shared waterfowling heritage has been the cornerstone of the festival, which offers several opportunities to see carvers and their work and also promotes conservation,” says Deena Kilmon, executive director, Waterfowl Festival, Inc. “Every year, a grant program gives generously to local, regional, and national organizations that submit projects that will support wetlands restoration or promote con-

servation education. Our program has donated over \$100,000 in 2025 alone to specific projects through this program and about \$6 million since 1971.”

In addition to wildfowl carvers, the festival also features artists from around the world, including painters, sculptors, and photographers, the World Waterfowl Calling Championship Competition, Dock Dogs, food and beverages, children's activities, and much more.

Tarquini says the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum collects, documents, preserves, and interprets waterfowl decoys as a unique folk art that is a distinctive element in the cultural landscape of the Lower Susquehanna River and the Upper Chesapeake Bay. The museum focuses primarily on working decoys that supported the hunting activities that took place on the famed Susquehanna Flats. The works of prominent local decoy makers are featured, including both vintage and contemporary decoys.

“The museum highlights the stylistic differences between decoys made in Cecil County and Harford County,” says Tarquini. “These two counties surround the Susquehanna Flats, and residents

fashioned the majority of decoys that were used there. The earliest decoys likely started out in a similar vein in terms of size, style, and construction. But over time, the carving styles on the two sides of the river diverged—not markedly so, but enough to be distinguishable. The exhibits contain decoys that represent the styles that were characteristic of the regions from where they originated.”

Although the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, which was located near Salisbury University, closed in 2022, items from the collection can be viewed at the Museum of Eastern Shore Culture at Salisbury University (museumofeasternshorecultureatsu.org).



And CBMM is excited to open a new exhibit, *Stories from the Shoreline*, in July 2026. Located in the Welcome Center, the exhibit will showcase the local perspectives and connections to the Chesapeake Bay. Inspired by oral histories, manuscripts, memoirs, and documentary and historic photographs, as well as tools, fine art, and folklife artifacts, the exhibit will provide an understanding of several beloved cultural traditions. In addition, *Stories from the Shoreline* will feature the museum’s world-class decoy collection.

“Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum boasts a comprehensive collection of more than 200 waterfowl decoys from all parts of the region—representing the breadth of carvers and carving styles,” Leshner says. “Since waterfowl hunting is just one of the many ways that people interact with the Chesapeake Bay shoreline—along with trapping, recreational fishing and crabbing, dining, beachcombing, artmaking, and more—the tools for these activities, including decoys, feature prominently in the forthcoming exhibition.”

Carrying on a Legacy

Wildfowl carvings—whether they are created as hunting tools or decorative works of art—underscore the importance of passing down cultural traditions to the next generation. Not only do the carvings preserve Maryland’s rich history and cul-

ture by leaving a record of the past, but they also establish an enduring legacy for pioneers, such as Holly, the Ward Brothers, and many others. Their work inspired a new generation of carvers who took up the mantle and carried on the tradition.

Whether decoy making is passed down from one family member to another or taught by a master carver to a student in an apprenticeship or classroom setting, wildfowl carving keeps Maryland's cultural heritage and identity alive for all generations to appreciate and enjoy.

"In today's increasingly digital world, hands-on [opportunities], such as the Waterfowl Festival, bring our traditions to life in an engaging and entertaining way," Kilmon says. "The [wildfowl carving] community is supportive, positive, and committed to helping the next generation of carvers and waterfowl enthusiasts learn in an accessible and friendly atmosphere. You can't replace that interaction with a video, a book, or a website. Keeping our traditions alive involves human-to-human relationships that transmit emotion and joy across the generations."



UPCOMING WILDFOWL *festivals*

55th Annual Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition & Art Festival

April 24, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., April 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,

**April 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Roland E. Powell Con-
vention Center, Ocean City.** Presented by the Ward

Foundation, the Ward World Championship is the most prestigious wildfowl carving competition in the world.

In addition to the competition, the event features a festival with exhibits showcasing a variety of decoys—from functional hunting decoys to highly decorative works of art. About 1,200 different wildfowl carvings representing more than 150 species from around the world can be viewed. The event also features seminars and classes by master carvers, vendors, and children's activities. For more information, call Kristie Clattenburg, director, Ward Foundation, at 410-339-0668 or e-mail kclattenburg@wardfdn.org. wardfdn.org

44th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

**May 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., May 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. STAR
Centre, Havre de Grace. Honorary Chairman: Chad
Tragakis.** The festival, which is expected to attract

approximately 1,000 attendees, features 50–60 exhibitors, including decoy makers, decoy resellers, decoy collectors, wildfowl artists, and collectibles resellers, from the New England area to the Carolinas. In addition to exhibits and children's activities, the event also includes three distinct carving competitions: • Floating Working Decoys Competition (hunting decoys) • Decorative Decoys Competition (decoys not designed for hunting) • Old Decoy Competition (vintage decoys, generally 50 – 75 years old or older). Festival tickets include admission to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and its world-class collection of decoys and wildfowl art. For more information, call Mike Tarquini, president of the board of directors, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, at 410-459-8487 or e-mail president@decoymuseum.com. decoymuseum.com

LA-CROSSING

A photograph of two lacrosse sticks and a ball on a grassy field. The stick on the left has a yellow and red mesh head, while the stick on the right has a red, white, and blue mesh head. An orange lacrosse ball sits on the grass between the two sticks. The background is a lush green lawn.

THE POND

**THE CHARACTER-BUILDING EXPERIENCE
OF THE CROSSE OVER LACROSSE PROGRAM**

BY CALI SCHWERDTFEGER AND MADELINE SCHALLMOSER

It's a misty July day, as so many midsummer days are in the suburbs of Manchester, England. A coach bus towing the 23 athletes that comprise Anne Arundel County Crosse Over's roster cruises toward the Stockport Lacrosse Club. Its arrival is highly anticipated by Stockport-based club and Crosse Over sister team MetroGirls, whose athletes and their families gather in the parking lot. Rhinestone Stars and Stripes dance with St. George's Crosses on hand-made welcome signs as the group of young women, ages 13–15, await a reunion 29 years in the making.

Some wait to embrace old friends, while others anticipate the arrival of a new companion. For the next two weeks, MetroGirls families will open their hearts and homes to Crosse Over athletes, just as returning Crosse Over families did the summer before in Anne Arundel County.

The Stockport Lacrosse Club, the oldest club of its kind in England, will serve as Crosse Over's home base during the Americans' two-week tour of England. The on-field energy between Crosse Over and MetroGirls lies somewhere between a friendly competition and a deep-seated international rivalry. Fortunately, the values of community and empowerment that underscore the experience make it possible for cunning competition and lifelong friendship to coexist. The tour's motto, "Friendship through lacrosse," reveals that Crosse Over's values transcend sport.



The Crosse Over Girls' Program was founded by Steve Willett and Steve Barry in 1996. Program co-directors Jeff Bunker and Kelly Scott have been involved with Crosse Over for over a decade, each serving as directors for the past six years. In addition to co-directing, Bunker is the team's head coach. In even-numbered years, the Metros visit Maryland. In odd-numbered years, Crosse Over travels to England. Since the program's founding, more than 1,500 Anne Arundel County youth lacrosse players have "crossed the pond" to compete abroad.

Rather than traditional tryouts, Crosse Over players are selected through recommendations from recreation league commissioners, coaches, former players, and their families. This approach ensures that participants are selected for more than their athletic ability. They're chosen for their attitude, maturity, and character, as these qualities are essential for participating in the two-year experience which includes international travel. The program shapes well-rounded young adults through new experiences, community engagement, and a global view of the game.

By creating a culturally immersive experience that prioritizes relationships, the Crosse Over program leaves a mark that extends far beyond the field.

"It was a great opportunity that gave me my best friends," second-year Crosse Over athlete Madilyn Stevenson said. "It's something I always remember—it was a really important time for me. It changed my life."





Stevenson has noticed increased confidence in social settings, a higher lacrosse IQ, and more motivation to improve athletically since joining Crosse Over. Her teammate, fellow second-year athlete and team captain Alyssa Berg, says the biggest lessons Crosse Over taught her are accountability and responsibility, and that the experience made her a more understanding person.

"It expanded my view of what the lacrosse world could be, because I've played lacrosse with the same groups of people since fifth grade," Berg said. "Being able to play against and with people from a completely different country made me realize lacrosse is so much bigger than what it used to be and what I think it is, which also helped me realize there are so many other things in this world that are bigger than what I know."

Year after year, Bunker observes that Crosse Over athletes return from tour with more confidence and maturity. This may, in part, be attributed to Crosse Over's numerous team traditions. The melody of one such tradition rings through the air at Stockport Lacrosse Club in the form of an off-key rendition of Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline. That's the sound of the Crosse Over team taking its first warm-up lap of the 2025 tour. Make no mistakes; these kids are athletes, not singers. But there is a method to all of Crosse Over's madness.

For ten weeks leading up to the tour, the team practices twice a week in Annapolis. The program's lacrosse curriculum prepares players for the different style of play they will encounter overseas. Per program tradition, Bunker adds unique assignments, such as acapella renditions of The Star-Spangled Banner to be performed before games in England, song lyrics to be memorized for warm-up laps, and homework assignments to prepare players to respect and engage meaningfully with English culture.

A favorite team tradition is the silly hat practice, where various hats and costume items, each with a specific meaning, are bestowed upon Crosse Over players. You've got to keep the hat on for the duration of the training session, no matter how impractical. Bunker believes in building team chemistry by reminding athletes not to take themselves too seriously, a value instilled in the program by late founder Steve Willett.

"[The traditions] are meant to bring teams together, to create a situation where we're all comfortable being uncomfortable," Bunker said.

Though the program is steadfast in its values, each tour takes on a life of its own, and each team finds a unique identity. When asked to describe the 2025 Crosse Over team in one word, "Huggy mom" Jenn Beall grinned. "They were goofy," she said.

"Huggy moms," or welfare moms, attend training sessions, travel with the team, and are available for any of the players' needs on tour. Beall sent each of Crosse Over's 23 athletes a check-in message daily throughout the tour. She took the "huggy" part of her title seriously. A scientist by trade, she aimed for one twenty-second hug daily with any player who wanted one, as data suggests that an embrace of that length reduces stress.

Beall believes that the confidence-boosting effects of the tour are largely the product of the two-week stay with a host family, where athletes must self-advocate, make compromises, and adjust to a different lifestyle.

“The first couple days, they’re deer in headlights. They’re afraid getting something out of the refrigerator, you know, this and that, and by day ten, man, the moms have gotten them housecleaning and they’re helping themselves to whatever they need,” Beall said jokingly. “I jest, but yeah, they’re treating them just like one of their kids, and they really are getting that whole family experience.”

“Friendship through lacrosse” doesn’t end with the players. Crosse Over families often form their own transatlantic connections and stay in touch long after the tour.

“We talk throughout the year. We send Christmas presents, we send birthday presents for both of the kids,” Stevenson’s mom, Stephanie, said. “It’s just kind of like we’re one big family.”

This upcoming summer, MetroGirls will travel to the United States, stepping into a new chapter of the ongoing exchange. Rosters shift from year to year, but the anticipation remains the same. Players look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces, welcoming new teammates, and continuing the friendships that make this experience so meaningful.

Each summer brings new lessons, new connections, and new memories that stay with the players well beyond their time abroad. What begins as a simple exchange quickly becomes something deeper, and the excitement they express about returning speaks to the community they’re proud to be part of.



For prospective Crosse Over parents, Berg’s mother Jessica has a message.

“Don’t think, just do. Like, just go for it. It’s the best experience for your girls at a reasonable cost,” Berg said. “Just that comfort level of knowing that she’s in good hands, and the experience that they’re going to get out of it—just do it.”

To learn more about Crosse Over, inquire about a roster spot, or recommend an athlete, visit crosseoverlacrosse.com or scan this QR code





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Home & Garden

88 TRANSLATING THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

90 TWO CENTURY GEM

**Color Trends
2026 Edition**

PG. 82



Color Trends 2026 Edition

By Lisa J. Gotto

G

et out your fabric swatches, paint samples, and mood boards! It's a new year and a fresh collection of hues and palettes has dropped for your interior design pleasure.

What's most surprising about this year's crop of colors is the one that seems to be leading the way—Brown. Not since the 1990s have we leaned toward this Earth Mother of all colors. But with sensibilities still trending to richer, more grounded colors and away from cooler impersonal shades, it does make sense.



THE CASE FOR WARM, GROUNDED NEUTRALS

It is anticipated that we will be seeing mid-tone browns like chocolate and walnut everywhere from furnishings, to paneling, to accent pieces, as part of the popularity of a warm, grounded neutral palette.

And when we say everywhere, we're even including kitchens in that statement. Why? Experts say that brown is the color that is currently bringing the depth, warmth, and a sense of lived-in comfort that people are craving right now. Brown's earthy qualities link us back to the natural world in a manner that feels restorative. Conveniently, brown is also a classic color that can work its way into many styles of interiors, as well. As a result, we're seeing iterations of the hue popping up in annual forecast palettes including that of paint manufacturers like Sherwin-Williams, who this year bestowed Universal Khaki with its Color of the Year designation.

Interiors experts recommend a color such as this (which is described as a sun-warmed, mid-tone tan) be used as the



foundational neutral backdrop to which complementary hues can be added by way of furniture, rugs, and artwork.

Among the complementary colors in the coordinating Universal Khaki palette are Henna Shade, a creamy rust, Tarragon, a dense neutral with a blue undertone, and Dark Auburn, the warming brown in this palette.

Experts suggest finishing your room by layering in natural materials such as wood floors, woven textiles, and warm metals, such as bronze and brass.



Universal Khaki
SW 9001 (2015)



White Snow
SW 9001



Cream and Sugar
SW 9002



Lemon Cheffin
SW 9003 (2015)



House Shale
SW 9004 (2015)



Dark Auburn
SW 9005 (2015)



Limestone
SW 9006



Garden Gate
SW 9007 (2015)



Terracotta
SW 9008



Honey
SW 9009 (2015)



Special Walnut
SW 9010

Application tips for the new neutrals

It's not just about which colors we are choosing but how we are using them and where we are applying them. Case in point, the no-contrast trim trend in interior painting. The smartest application approach for your new earthy colors and creams is to carry them through from base board to ceiling trim and molding—for one continuous look and visual line. This is all a part of the new “drenching” practice in color application. Note, while this practice is becoming increasingly popular, it works best with these neutral applications. For darker colors, experts recommend rooms and spaces with generous amount of natural light for the best results.

Experts suggest sampling the neutrals you are considering under differing light conditions to see how they work throughout the day in morning, afternoon, and even artificial light. Each shade will have a specific undertone that you will want to consider.

When applying to open-plan spaces, you will want to carry your neutral shade throughout to create flow, and then you can anchor individual areas with deeper accent colors.

THIS YEAR'S ACCENT & OTHER HOT COLORS

In every year's palette there is a smattering of colors with which you can imbue personality in not large, sweeping ways, but in targeted applications, such as color treatments for ceilings, built-ins, feature walls, and alcoves.

This year the experts are loving these shades for those special spaces:

- ◆ Velvety plums and rich purple shades which offer a luxurious, moody touch
- ◆ Poppy reds that exude energy and boldness
- ◆ Dusty teals and atmospheric blues that help create calming yet statement-making spaces



THE GREENS GRABBING THE SCENE

If a color can indeed have a moment, the winner this year would go to a couple of shades in the green family: pistachio and avocado skin green. These greens range in vibe from evocative to playful for the innate connection they conjure with nature.

Behr paints has chosen a smoky jade version of the later green as their Color of the Year remarking that it embodies an air of mystery and sophistication.

Pistachio, or more playful green, actually began creeping into palettes late last year but continues to come into its own in fashion, fabric, and as a stand-out, stand alone color for homeowners of distinction in 2026.



When it's time to let go

Alas, all good things must come to an end but who's to say that the one-dimensional gray walls we've been seeing for the better part of the last decade are officially over. The experts actually are saying that. In fact, a majority of designers say this color's lack of warmth and layering makes a room feel too dated and sterile for 2026.

Also on the downward trend are bright, overly saturated primary colors—unless they are being used intentionally—as the shift is toward nuanced, layered color rather than bright and flat colors.

In closing, it is always prudent to note the following when it comes to color trends: Always consider your space's textures, materials, and light scenarios before applying any trending color, lest you be mistaking what is popular for what is proper.



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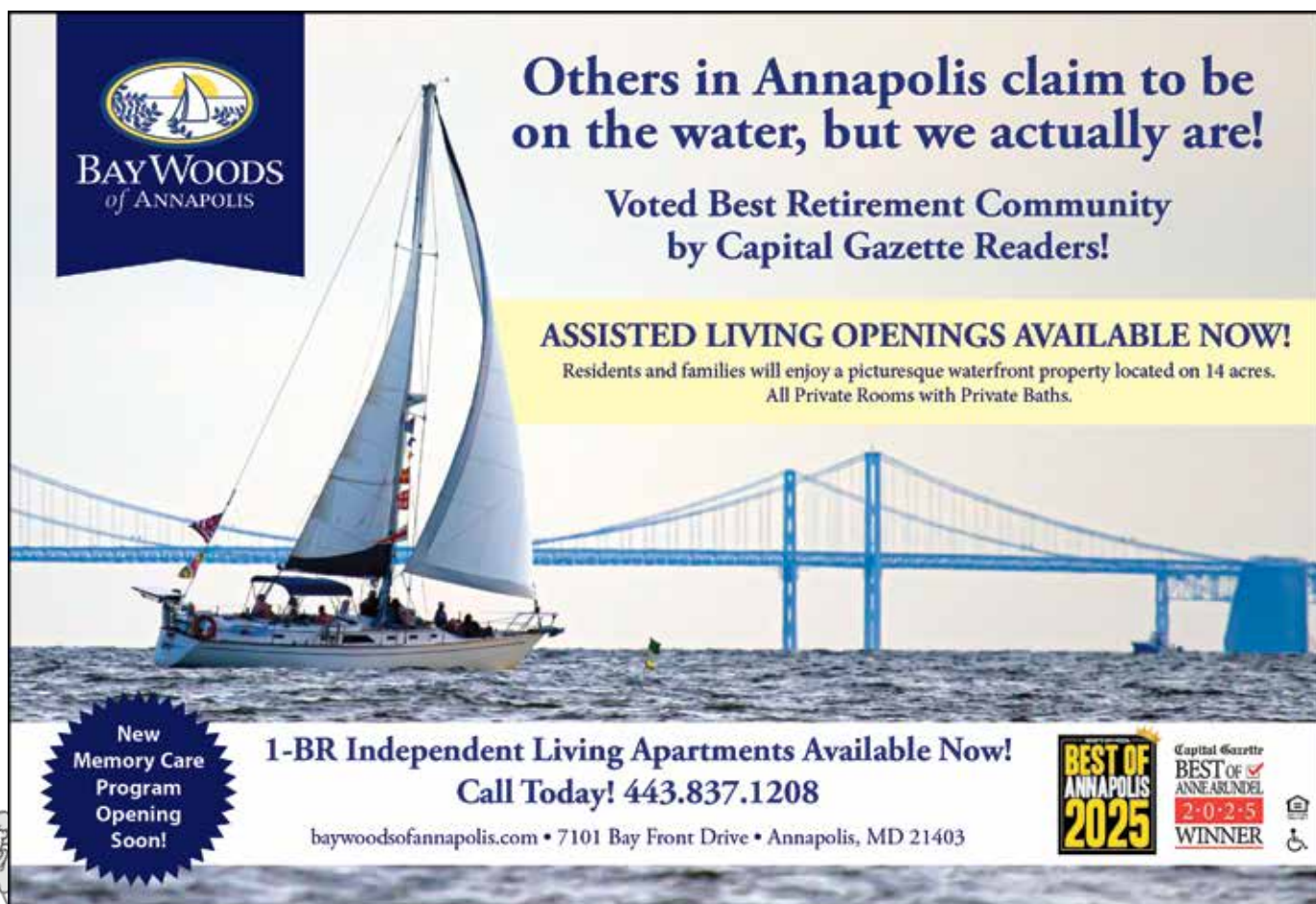
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Translating the Language of Flowers

HOW TO INTERPRET WHAT YOUR PLANTS ARE SAYING

By Janice F. Booth

We've all heard of the Victorian's fascination with "the language of flowers," *floriography*. Carnations speak of "mother's love," irises are "wisdom," and roses say "I love you."

Perhaps they're not merely mirroring our feelings but expressing their own. Maybe our flowers and plants may have something to say for themselves. Let me review with you 12 important messages your plants may be communicating, if we pay close attention.

There are three common problems we gardeners usually look for: (1) Dryness or Overwatering, (2) Aphids, and (3) Excessive or Insufficient Sunlight. Whether we're looking at our houseplants or the flowers in the garden, we are accustomed to watching for these problems. But, how do we figure out that our begonia is getting too much sunlight or our peace plant needs less water?

HERE ARE SOME BASIC PLANT-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION TOOLS:

If a plant begins to **drop leaves** or the **leaves may curl and darken**, and the **soil may appear gray and arid**—the message may be "Give me a drink." (Be careful not to drown the dear; a good soaking and more regular waterings are probably needed.)

If the plant's **leaves wilt**, perhaps **turn yellow**, and the **soil is spongy** or even soggy, **root rot** usually caused by **overwatering** or poor drainage may be the problem.

Looking at the underside of a plant's leaves, if you see something resembling **white powder** (the aphids' secretion) and/or you might see **webs**, or if a plant has tiny spots on the leaves, **Aphids** have attacked your plant. The old home remedy of a few weeks of regular wipe-downs with **soapy water**, particularly on the underside of the leaves, usually gets rid of them.

If your plant in the garden or house seems to **shrivel** and the **soil feels hard** to the touch, the message may be "I'm getting sunburned; give me a bit of **shade**." Start digging.

Does the **foliage appear pale and dull** or are the leaves displaying **pale patches**? That plant is asking for **more sunlight**.

Following are other useful messages you can discern from reading the leaves of your plants.

Over time, if a particular plant seems to **stop growing** or appears smaller than would be expected, the problem may be **stunted growth**. Loosen the soil, give the plant a bit of gentle fertilizer, and consider whether the light satisfies this plant's needs.

Are your plant's leaves looking like someone took a hole punch to them? Lots of **holes and tears in the leaves** may mean **pests** are having this poor plant as a buffet lunch! Look for beetles, slugs, or caterpillars. You can simply pick off the bugs, or if you're a bit squeamish, apply some gardener's **Neem Oil**.





If your plant is waving its leaves laden with **white powder**, even on the tops, the plant's probably suffering with **mildew** caused by our region's high humidity and crowding of your plants. Try **pruning** the plant to give more air and room to breathe. (Don't leave the mildewed cuttings in the garden.) If you've been sprinkling these plants, switch to a **soaker hose** to keep the water off the leaves.

If there is **mold** forming on the soil around the plant, **overwatering** and/or **poor drainage** may be the culprits. You will probably need to **remove the top half inch of soil** around the affected plants, then adjust the drainage and watering plan.

You can recognize an even more specific plant message if you take a close look at your plant's **curling leaves**. If the leaves are **curling UP**, the plant is probably suffering from **heat-related stress** or an **infestation** of bugs, such as aphids. However, leaves **curling DOWN** is usually due to **chemical damage**, perhaps over-fertilizing or the wrong fertilizer mix.

Are your marigolds and daisies **failing to flower** or flowering less? Your plant may be telling you of one or more problems. Check sunlight first; is there a **lack of sunlight**—always essential to showy flowers? Another problem may have been some heavy-handed **pruning** that cut off the buds and stunted the plant's development.

The third problem could be incorrect fertilizer. **Too much nitrogen** will give you lots of green but few flowers. Treat that sweetie to a good dose of phosphorus-rich fertilizer.

Finally, if your favorite columbine or that clump of echinacea you love seems to suddenly collapse, like a fainting Victorian lady, the problem may be moles or voles—those furry, little varmints. The best remedy I've found for these little critters is diluted castor oil—yup, that icky, gooey stuff. Pour some of the castor oil into any little holes in the lawn or garden. You can also spray the mixture around and beneath plants and shrubs. Close to the ground is best. The advantage of this remedy, unlike those horrid spikes and gassing pellets, is that the voles and moles will leave! You're not really killing them, only insisting they leave your garden!

So, we can try to apply our skills in observation to the garden's residents. The language of flowers requires some translation, but the effort is worthwhile.

Two Century Gem

By Lisa J. Gotto

This stunning and recently updated historic townhome in the heart of downtown Annapolis offers one of the best upsides a home in the city can have, private parking!

Built in 1800, this 1,800 square-foot residence exudes historic charm and a pride of place among homes of its stature with its prime location within walking distance to the seat of government and a wealth of cultural and recreational pursuits.

Three stories of colonial curb appeal combine with refined preservation on the interior to create a truly distinctive place to call one's own. A classic, nautically-themed foyer alludes to what guests can expect to experience throughout the home.

Primary Structure Built: 1800

Sold For: \$1,150,000

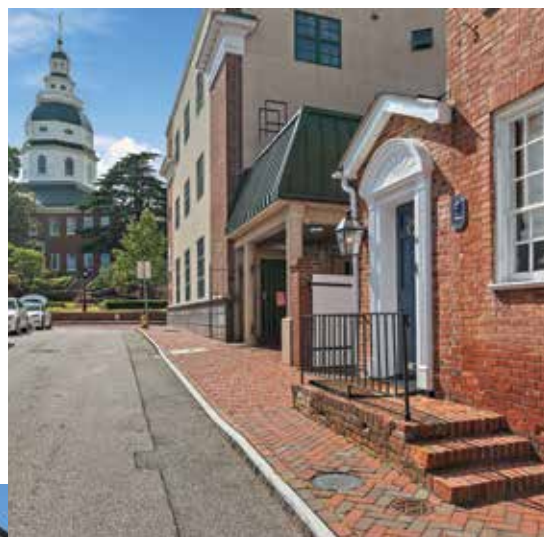
Original List Price: \$1,100,000

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 3
Full, 1 Half

Living Space: 1,806 Sq. Ft.

Lot Size: .3 acres





A set of charming antique parlor doors conveys entry to the home's lovely living room and extended dining space. This area is sunny and bright from the light of two large front-facing windows. A handsome central fireplace with Federal style mantel is flanked on either side with classic built-ins and original hardwood floors flow throughout.

This space is adjacent to the home's sunny eat-in kitchen with custom cabinetry painted in a rich deep sea blue and an integrated center peninsula gas cooktop with prep space and breakfast bar seating for two. The charming eat-in area has an incredible wall of custom built-ins and an integrated desk for anyone working from home. A lovely brick courtyard is accessible from this room, and perfectly situated for a family's outdoor grilling pleasure.



The second floor of the home features two bathrooms and two, large bedrooms, including the primary suite which also has those awesome original knotty wood floors. This room offers custom built-in cabinetry and a gorgeous all-white primary bath with a huge walk-in shower and gorgeous stone vanity.

The third floor is a midshipman's paradise with a triple bunk bed and an additional bed for sleeps-four convenience, as well as a full bath, completing this quintessential Annapolis-centric living experience.

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ASK THE DOC

ASK THE DOC



Lisa Beagan, DVM
Mobile Pet Vet

Q:

How Cold Is Too Cold for Dogs and Cats?

A:

Cold winter weather can be dangerous for pets, and most dogs and cats begin to struggle once temperatures drop near freezing. Short-haired breeds, seniors, kittens, puppies, and pets with medical conditions chill even faster. Frostbite can affect ears, paws, and tails, and hypothermia becomes a risk when a pet is shivering, slowing down, or searching for warm places to hide. Keep walks shorter in very cold weather, and check paws for ice buildup. De-icers or antifreeze can be highly toxic, so keep them away from pets. All pets should have access to warm indoor shelter, and none should be left outside for long stretches in below-freezing temperatures. For outdoor or community cats, provide a small, insulated shelter with a cat-sized entrance and straw (not blankets, which hold moisture). Make sure water doesn't freeze and always check under car hoods—cats often climb in for warmth.

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Lucy Guevara, MD, MPH
Optimal Longevity MD

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Health & Beauty

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The Science of
Moisturizing

PG. 100



Clearing Up Confusion About “Clear Protein”

By Dylan Roche

When you think of protein powder, what comes to mind? You probably think of a supplemental powder that you mix into liquid to create a thick, creamy vanilla- or chocolate-flavored shake packed with the nutritional building blocks of muscle. But not everyone has the appetite (or the digestive tract) for a chocolate shake every day.

This explains why clear protein has become the latest trendy nutrition supplement, even though it's hardly a new product. For many years, health care professionals have used so-called clear protein in hospitals to help patients get enough protein when their food intake is limited. Now the supplement has entered the mainstream, and people are searching for clear protein products they can incorporate into their regular diet.

Why? Clear protein's benefits over typical protein supplements is pretty clear:

- ◆ As the name suggests, it's clear. And it's a lot thinner and more easily drinkable. When you mix it with water or juice, that **liquid keeps its same color and consistency** instead of becoming the thick (often chalky) drink you'd get with other protein powders. This is because typical protein powders are often made from whey protein concentrate, whereas clear protein is made from whey protein isolate, which is processed even further to remove more of the fat and carbohydrates that give whey protein concentrate its thicker consistency.
- ◆ Removing the fat and carbohydrates doesn't just change the consistency—it also changes the nutritional makeup (clearly). About 80 percent of the calories in whey protein concentrate usually come from protein, with about 20 percent coming from fat and carbs. With clear protein, there are fewer calories from fat and carbs, and sometimes as much as **all of the supplement's calories come from protein**. For somebody watching their calorie intake, getting the same amount of protein with fewer calories from fat and carbs could be helpful.
- ◆ **Some people just find it more palatable.** It's lighter, and usually comes in fruitier flavors like lemon-lime or strawberry instead of chalky vanilla and chocolate.

BUT DO I NEED TO SUPPLEMENT MY PROTEIN INTAKE?

That's the big question—and for most people, the answer is no. Although the health trend of “protein-maxing” encourages people to consume as much protein as possible (and to get most of your calories from protein), this is unnecessary and can leave you deficient of other nutrients.

The average adult needs only **0.8–1 gram of protein per kilogram of bodyweight** per day. So, if you're 150 pounds, that's only about 54–68 grams of protein. Athletes, especially those engaging in heavy strength training, need more and will likely need to supplement, but most people get plenty of protein from whole food sources.

And speaking of whole foods, they can provide a nutritional balance that you don't get from a protein powder. Your body needs carbs, fats, vitamins, and minerals—which you'll get in addition to protein from a balanced, varied diet. To get the same 20 grams of protein you'd get from a protein powder, you could also have one of the following: 2 eggs • 1 cup of Greek yogurt • 1 cup cooked lentils, or • 3 ounces chicken breast

To be clear: Clear protein could help you supplement your protein if you have unique needs, but for most people, protein-rich food is still the best option.

Make It Gray

ANY SHADE OF THIS NEUTRAL IS PERFECT FOR WINTER

By Dylan Roche

It's not quite stately black, nor is it bright winter white, but gray can be both a subtle and distinctive choice for your winter wardrobe—and with a full range of shades, from dark charcoal to pale smoke, you can find the right gray for any occasion during this cold time of year. It's both versatile and sophisticated without ever being overwhelming.



If you need three solid reasons to wear gray this winter, consider this:

Gray reflects the natural colors of winter—it's subdued and cool, just like the cloudy skies, the bare trees, and the snowy landscapes.

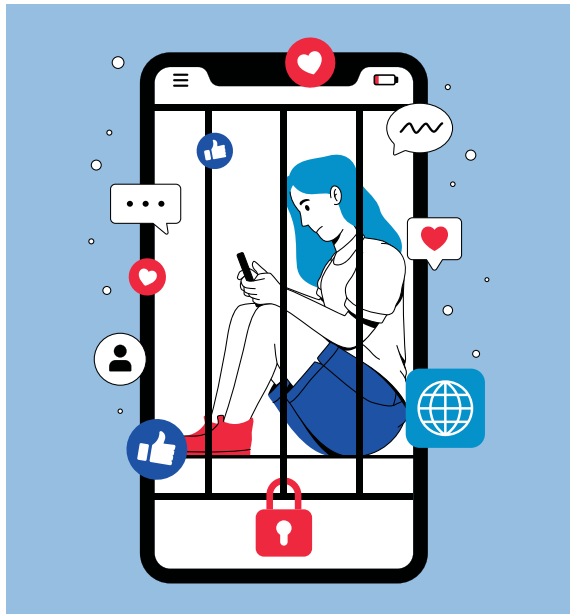
Gray highlights texture beautifully—when you're wearing those cozy winter fabrics like cashmere and wool, the texture of your clothes stands out best in shades of gray.

Gray works well for layering—whether you're pairing it with other shades of gray or with a bold color, you can't go wrong when you're layering up for a winter event.



SO, HOW DO YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THIS WINTERY COLOR? HERE ARE SOME STYLE TIPS ANYONE CAN PULL OFF FOR ANY OCCASION:

- ◆ Pair one brightly colored piece of clothing with an otherwise all-gray outfit, whether it's a vest, a scarf, a jacket, or something else entirely. The gray background will make the bright color pop.
- ◆ Layer your shades from darkest to lightest or lightest to darkest. Of course, you don't have to layer this way—your shades can be in whatever order you want them to be. But going darkest to lightest or lightest to darkest gives your outfit a sense of depth.
- ◆ Don't feel the need to go all gray. When you pair a colorful outfit with a single gray element—especially something in a striking shade of gray, like silver—you give the gray its chance to stand out.
- ◆ Wear metallics, whether its jewelry, statement buckles on jackets or belts, or buttons. Silver or white-gold metallics will enhance gray's cool undertones, whereas yellow-gold or rose-gold will warm it up.
- ◆ Wearing leather, like shoes or a belt? Black or brown leather works equally well with all shades of gray. (Just make sure your leather elements match!)



Is It Time for a Digital Detox?

By Dylan Roche

To some extent, we're all aware that we spend too much time on our phones, tablets, and computers. It's just a reality. Sure, some of us are worse than others, but very few people in the modern era can say they aren't overly reliant on some kind of device that beeps. (And if you're one of those people who can say that—congrats!)

But when is it actually a problem? When is our digital dependence so overwhelming that we need to address it in some way? Or even if it's not a problem (yet), how do we cut back on our screen time so we can live better lives?

Because even though most of our modern lives revolve around being connected via digital devices, they take a toll on our mental and emotional well-being. Taking some time off by doing a digital detox could be the healthiest thing you can do.

If you've notice that you...

...have trouble focusing ...aren't "present" or enjoying the moment ...feel stressed out because you're constantly fielding notifications

...then it might be time for a digital detox. According to the Cleveland Clinic, the average American spends about seven and a half hours a day on digital devices. Wouldn't it be great to reduce that number?

WHAT IS A DIGITAL DETOX?

A so-called *digital detox* is the intentional choice to step away from all your electronics for a set period of time. That means no smartphones, no computers, no tablets, no smartwatches. You don't browse social media, you don't check your email, and you don't have to worry about notifications 24/7. If you need a calendar, clock, or newspaper, you rely on their analog counterparts.

For some people, this isn't always practical—for example, most of us work jobs that demand we use digital devices. A detox will therefore vary based on the intensity or duration, and you can set the stipulations of your detox. The overall goals? 1. Reduce your stress 2. Improve your mental clarity 3. Focus on your relationships with the people who are around you in person Speaking of which...

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A DIGITAL DETOX?

The full benefits of a digital detox will depend on the stipulations of how you're detoxing. If you have the luxury of taking a week off from your devices because you're on vacation, you might get the full benefits. If you need to stay online for work and your only option is to be offline in the evenings when you go home, that's okay, too!

Benefits of a digital detox include:

Better mental health: According to the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges, social media can trigger a hit of dopamine, putting us through a cycle of highs and lows throughout the day—not great for our mental health. Additionally, being constantly connected makes us less productive, more stressed out, anxious, and feeling as if we aren't good enough. Getting away from our devices helps us move away from all of that.

Better self-care: When we give everything we have to our digital presence, we're less likely to take care of ourselves. If you let yourself

close your laptop, you'll have the chance to prepare a nutritious meal, get a nice workout, or go to bed at a reasonable hour.

Better socializing: We think of our phones as a social outlet because we're constantly messaging people or interacting with them on social media. The online world isn't a replacement for real-life interactions though. Not having this crutch will encourage you to get out and do more, enjoying uninterrupted face-to-face time with deeper, more meaningful conversations.

WHAT ARE MY WARNING SIGNS?

We all like to think we're not susceptible to digital dependence. "Being on your phone all the time isn't good, but I'm not that bad," we tell ourselves. But if you've seen one of these warning signs, it might mean you're due for a detox:

- ◆ You've gotten angry or upset about something you've seen on social media
- ◆ You've been the victim of cyberbullying and let it affect you
- ◆ You've engaged in cyberbullying
- ◆ You've felt lonely or isolated because you're comparing your life to what you see on social media
- ◆ You've neglected a responsibility because of work (or fun) you've been having on a device
- ◆ You feel an overwhelming urge to check notifications when you aren't looking at your device

Most of these situations will feel relatable to the vast majority of people—and they're all a sign that being digitally engaged is having negative effects on you.

TIPS & TRICKS FOR A GOOD DETOX

Your digital detox will depend on your personal needs and goals, but here's how you can get started.

Set your rules: Figure out exactly what you're giving up and for how long. Maybe it will be every evening after work for a full month. Maybe it will be the entire week you're out of town on vacation. You could give up all or some combination of: scrolling social media, reading the news, watching TV or other videos, checking email, or sending messages.

Find an accountability partner: Although this could be somebody who is doing a detox with you, it doesn't have to be—it just needs to be somebody who will remind you of your goals if you're having trouble staying offline throughout the process.

Be mindful of how you feel: Check in with yourself every day to assess your mood. Keep a journal or write down your reflections if you need to. Pay attention to what you've accomplished or what you've enjoyed in your time away from the digital world.

Change the rules if necessary: Maybe you need to be more relaxed or stricter in your rules. If it's just not practical to ignore emails after 5 p.m., give yourself grace to check at designated times (for example, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.). On the other hand, if you swore off social media but find yourself replacing your scrolling with playing Candy Crush, you're not achieving the goals you set—and it's time to set stricter rules.

WHAT DOES THE LONG TERM LOOK LIKE?

After your detox is over, you might be tempted to go back to your old habits. Don't. Obviously, it's not practical to be removed from your devices for the rest of your life, but you *can* go back to them with a much healthier relationship to them. Consider implementing the following long-term rules after a digital detox:

- ◆ Put your phone on airplane mode when you're with family or friends, especially if it's someone you haven't seen in a while.
- ◆ Give yourself a "digital curfew" to get off your devices in the evening, possibly one hour or two hours before bed.
- ◆ Take care of yourself first. Tell yourself it's acceptable to scroll if you've already prioritized exercise, a nutritious meal, or a mentally rewarding activity like reading a book or doing a puzzle.
- ◆ Plan sporadic but specific times for more digital detoxes, such as a Sunday afternoon or on holidays.

Happy detoxing!

The Science of Moisturizing

By Dylan Roche

As you read this, winter's cold, dry air might already be taking a toll on your skin. But don't settle for simply lathering up on lotion and hoping for the best—there's a specific science to moisturizing that can help you get the most out of this self-care practice.



HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SCIENCE OF MOISTURIZING:

- ◆ Yes, winter air can be drying—but so can a hot shower. If it's your preferred way to warm up on a cold day, try to keep it short and not too warm. Hot water strips natural oils out of your skin. Use mild soaps, avoiding any cleansers that contain alcohol, which can remove even more oil from your skin.
- ◆ After a shower, always pat your skin dry instead of rubbing it. Rubbing will strip more oil and moisture from your skin.
- ◆ This isn't to say that cleansing isn't important. It is! Cleansing, such as during a shower, is an important first step that removes dirt and dead skin cells, so your moisturizers can penetrate the top layer of skin. You just want to make sure you replenish and lock in moisture immediately after cleansing.

◆ As soon as possible after cleansing (within three minutes), apply a **serum** for antioxidants your skin needs to be healthy, followed by a **humectant** substance, such as glycerin, hyaluronic acid, or lecithin, which will attract moisture and replenish the skin. Look for a moisturizer that contains these ingredients (Cetaphil, Pond's, and CeraVe are popular options). Finish up with an **occlusive** ingredient, such as petroleum jelly or lanolin, for serious locking in of moisture.

◆ On that note, remember the occlusive ingredient might protect your skin from drying out further, but it won't replenish your skin's moisture the way the humectant will. Hence, the order of application is important.

◆ It's not just about what you apply to your skin. Using a humidifier to moisten the air and drinking plenty of water will go a long way toward protecting you from drying out, no matter how cold and harsh the winter gets.



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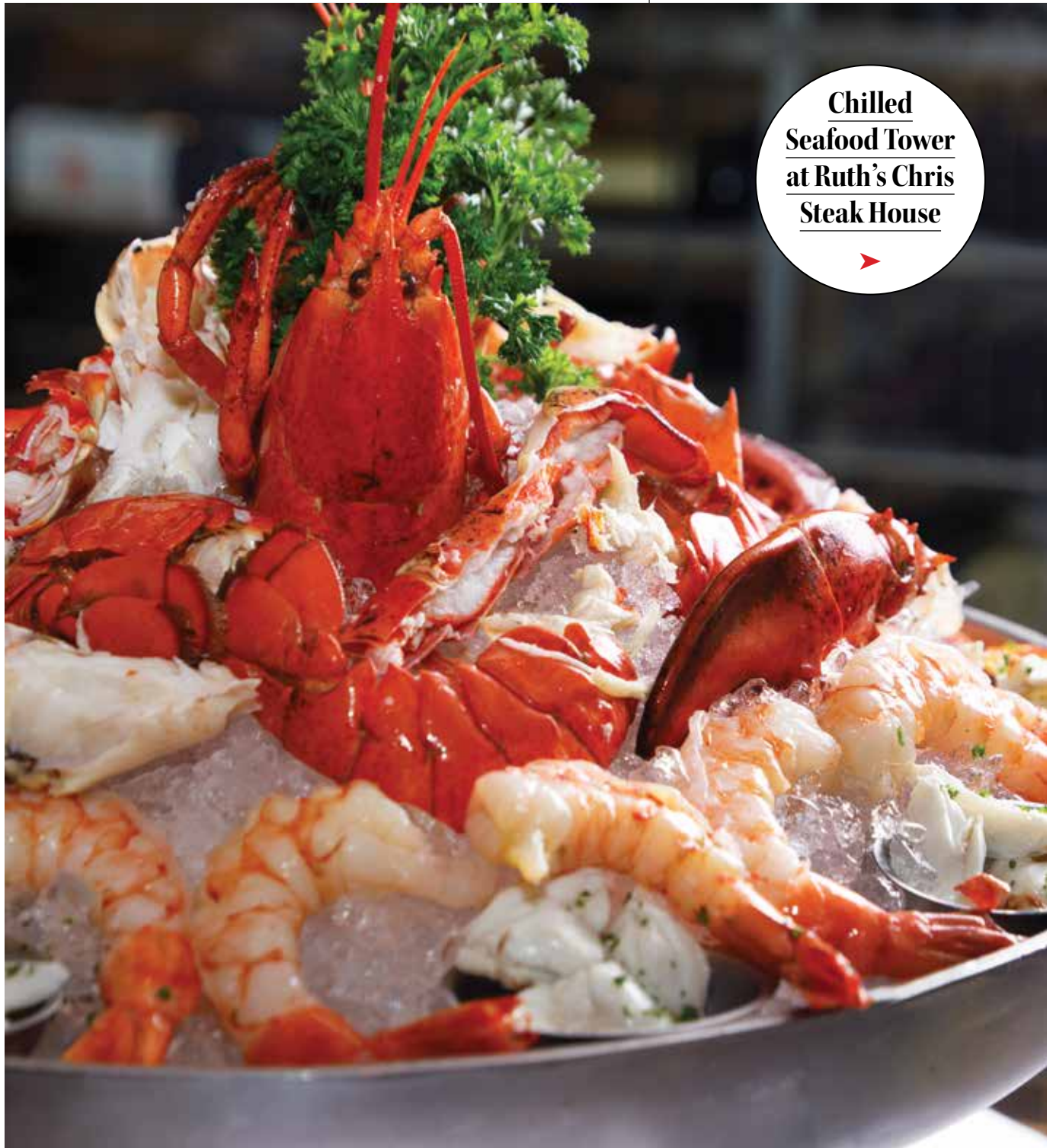


Food & Dining

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Chilled
Seafood Tower
at Ruth's Chris
Steak House



Delicious Steaks and Warm Hospitality at Ruth's Chris

By Lisa A. Lewis

Founded in 1965 by Ruth Fertel, Ruth's Chris Steak House boasts a reputation as one of the most respected and popular steak house chains in the United States. The restaurants specialize in offering premium steaks broiled to perfection, friendly service, and a welcoming atmosphere.

"Every Ruth's Chris location strives to deliver unparalleled service, surpassing our guests' expectations by providing what we call 'plus one service,'" says regional General Manager Andre Bennett. "Simply put, we exceed what would be considered normal restaurant behaviors. What is normal for Ruth's Chris would be considered going the extra mile or above and beyond by most industry standards."

A family-owned and operated franchise, Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis is neatly tucked in the Eastport maritime neighborhood. The restaurant group also operates the Odenton location.

To learn more, we recently talked to Andre.



RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE

301 Severn Avenue, Annapolis • 410-990-0033 • ruthschris.com

What makes Ruth's Chris Steak House different from other steak houses in the area? Based on what our guests say, what sets us apart is the pure ambiance of our restaurant. When you walk through the front doors, the first thing you see is the beautiful host stand, where our hosts are waiting to greet you. The hosts invite you to walk toward the bar, where you can feel the energy of our guests as they enjoy cocktails and conversation. When you turn each corner, you notice the unique artwork and photography on display. As you continue walking, you pass large, luxurious booths and intimate dining spaces.

Tell us about your background in the restaurant industry. My experience dates back more than 25 years. I started as a short order cook for a small mom-and-pop Italian restaurant. I have since worked for and/or managed several well-known casinos, hotel chains, and celebrity chef restaurants. Some of those casinos include Harrah's, Caesars Atlantic City, and Tropicana Atlantic City. The restaurateurs include Steven Starr, Wolfgang Puck, and Tilman Fertitta, to name a few.

What are some of your most popular dishes? By far, the most popular items on the menu are our steak options. Whether it's the 16-ounce ribeye—juicy and broiled to perfection—or the petite filet—lean, tender, and prepared to your preference—most guests choose to complement these options with our Maryland-style crab cake, Chesapeake style. This dish is prepared with lump crab meat and asparagus and topped with hollandaise sauce. Another popular entrée complement is one of our 8–10-ounce juicy lobster tails.



Tell us about your premium cuts of steak and your unique broiling method. We are known for our USDA prime beef. Our premium cuts are of the highest quality and are known for their exceptional marbling, tenderness, and flavor. Although we offer a wide range of beef selections, one cut towers above the rest as our showstopper: our Tomahawk Ribeye. The Tomahawk isn't just a steak; it's an event. Weighing in at 40 ounces, it's carved with the rib bone left extra-long and French trimmed for dramatic flair. Its bold presentation demands attention, while its intoxicating aroma—sizzling from our 500-degree plates—sets the stage for an unforgettable first bite and dining experience.

All of our steaks are seasoned with salt and pepper and topped with butter. Our unique broiling method intensifies the flavor, texture, and presentation. This method not only sets us apart from all other steak houses, but it's also a big part of the elevated experience. The signature 1800-degree broiler locks in the juices instantly, searing the outside of the steak with a perfect caramelized crust. Broiling creates complex layers of flavor that other cooking methods can't match. Ruth's Chris isn't just about cooking beef; it's about creating an experience.

What is a popular seafood dish? While you can't go wrong with staples like our calamari or our spicy shrimp appetizer, one of our most popular seafood dishes is the spicy salmon entrée, an 8.5-ounce salmon filet broiled. It's topped with our spicy salmon sauce, which includes honey, ginger, soy sauce, Thai chili sauce, jalapeños, and green onions. These ingredients create a sweet, mildly spicy sauce that complements the filet.

Tell us about your selection of beverages. We offer a wide range of high-end scotches and bourbons, multiple handmade craft cocktails, a variety of wine options, and ice-cold beer. We only use freshly squeezed fruit juices and house-made simple syrup, which give our cocktails a distinct mouthwatering, refreshing flavor.

Describe the dining experience. At Ruth's Chris, we provide the dining experience you expect. We are well-versed at reading our guests. Whether you're celebrating a special milestone, entertaining clients, or enjoying dinner with friends and family, we offer a dining experience like no other.



SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

Makes 4 Servings

Ingredients

Crust Mixture:

3/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup flour
3/4 cup chopped nuts
(pecans preferred)
1/4 cup melted butter

Sweet Potato

Mixture:

3/4 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups mashed
sweet potatoes
1 egg, well beaten
1/4 cup butter

Process

Combine Crust Mixture in mixing bowl and put to one side. Combine Sweet Potato Mixture ingredients in a mixing bowl in the order listed. Combine thoroughly. Pour Sweet Potato Mixture into buttered baking dish. Sprinkle Crust Mixture evenly onto surface of Sweet Potato Mixture. Bake for 30 minutes at 350F. Allow to set for at least 30 minutes before serving.



Readers' Dining Guide



Welcome to your regional dining. We include many restaurants for many tastes and experiences. Don't see your favorite on the list? Email editor@whatsupmag.com and let us know! And for the full guide, visit whatsupmag.com.

Advertisers Listed in Red

Avg. Entrée Price

\$ 0-14

\$\$ 15-30

\$\$\$ 31 and over

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- Family Friendly
- Water View
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IFC = Inside Front Cover
 IBC = Inside Back Cover
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Winter Concert:

Aries & Orion Youth Orchestra

Jan 11, 2025 | Maryland Hall
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Legends

Jan 30 & 31, 2026 | 7:30 pm Maryland Hall
Feb 1, 2026 | 3 pm Music Center at Strathmore

Echoes of Heritage

Sponsored by The Peter Evans Group

Feb 27 & 28, 2026 | 7:30 pm Maryland Hall
Mar 1, 2026 | 3 pm Music Center at Strathmore

School Field Trip Concert

Mar 18 & 19, 2026 | 10 am & 11:30 am Maryland Hall

Family Concert

Mar 21, 2026 | 11 am Maryland Hall

Cecilia Wyatt Honors Recital

Mar 22, 2026 | Temple Beth Shalom, Arnold
Free and Open to the Public

Rhythm to Revolution

Apr 10 & 11, 2026 | 7:30 pm Maryland Hall

Mozart & Cookies:

A Chamber Orchestra Concert

Apr 26, 2026 | 3:30 pm Byzantium Event Center

Shostakovich №5

Jun 1, 2026 | 8 pm Joseph Meyerhoff
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