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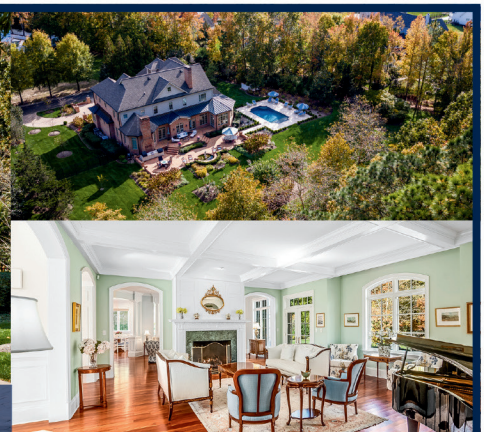
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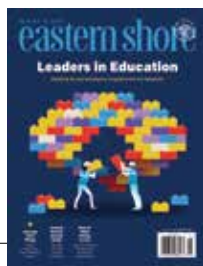
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**W**elcome to 2026! I think it's safe to assume that between the holiday season and the new year, most of us compressed a lot of work and...okay, some play...within a little bit of time. I know I certainly did. And so, within this small strip of space 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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14 EVENTS

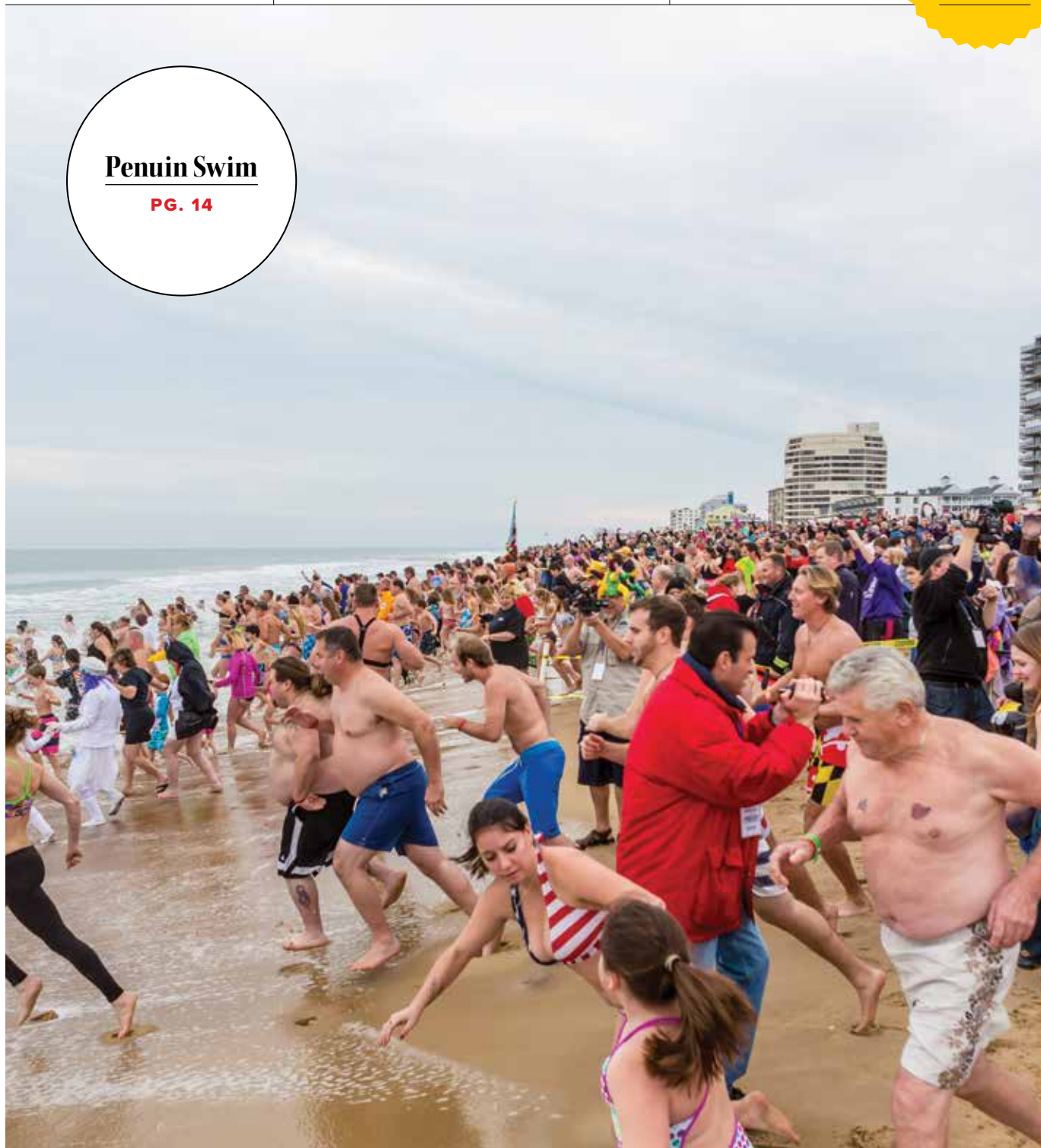
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HIGHLIGHTING  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
COMMUNITY,  
AND EVENTS

## Penguin Swim

PG. 14







### **BRAMPTON 1860 WINTER WEDDING OPEN HOUSE**

Experience the charm of Brampton 1860 at its Winter Wedding and Event Open House on Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 12 to 3 p.m., where guests can tour the historic estate, explore ceremony spaces and guest rooms, meet the event team, and enjoy complimentary bubbly and light refreshments. Whether you're planning an intimate elopement, a full weekend wedding celebration, or a special family gathering, this open house offers an inspiring inside look at what makes Brampton 1860 such a beloved venue. Attendees are entered to win an overnight stay, with exclusive booking discounts available during the event. Limited 2026–2027 dates remain, making this the perfect moment to secure your celebration. More info: [www.eventbrite.com/e/brampton-1860-winter-wedding-open-house](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/brampton-1860-winter-wedding-open-house)

### **Atlantic General Hospital's 32nd Annual Penuin Swim**

Start the new year with a splash at the 32nd Annual Penguin Swim on Thursday, January 1, 2026, as participants gather on the beach at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel (91st Street & the Ocean, Ocean City) for a chilly dive into the Atlantic to support Atlantic General Hospital. This beloved community tradition unites individuals, teams, and local businesses to raise essential funds for the not-for-profit hospital, helping ensure vital health services and quality care across the region. Whether you're taking the plunge or cheering from the shore, the Penguin Swim is a spirited, feel-good way to welcome the new year while honoring the Healthcare Heroes who serve the community year-round. More info: [secure.qgiv.com/event/penguinswim2026](http://secure.qgiv.com/event/penguinswim2026)







## Flowerpot Snack n' Paint Xperience

Add a splash of color to your spring at the Flowerpot Snack n' Paint Xperience on Thursday January 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 2–4 p.m. at 9S Studios (9 South Harrison Street). Guests will unwind, snack, and create their own hand-painted flowerpots inspired by the cheerful glow of sunset daisies, guided by Chroma Pop's vibrant artistic twist. This upbeat workshop blends creativity and relaxation, offering a welcoming studio atmosphere and all the materials you need to craft a personalized, garden-ready piece bursting with personality. Whether you're looking to try something new, enjoy a mindful break, or bring home a creative keepsake, this is the perfect weekend escape. More info: [eventbrite.com/flowerpot-snack-n-paint-xperience](https://eventbrite.com/flowerpot-snack-n-paint-xperience)

## CHOPTANK CHILL & CHEER!

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: [cambridgerotary.org](https://cambridgerotary.org)



## 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 story-book 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](https://www.mdyleball.com)



## Christmas at Gaylord National

Still holding on to the Christmas spirit? You've got a few days left to experience Christmas at the Gaylord, where dazzling displays, festive shows, tempting treats, and holiday activities turn the resort into a winter wonderland. Wander through ICE!, featuring breathtaking scenes from The Polar Express™ carved into towering, colorful ice sculptures, then enjoy all the seasonal magic the Gaylord is known for. Whether you're visiting for the day or making it an overnight escape, it's the perfect way to wrap up the holiday season with unforgettable memories. More info: [www.christmasatgaylordnational.com](http://www.christmasatgaylordnational.com)



## MURDER AT THE LONG BRANCH SALOON

Step into a Wild West parody unlike any other at “Murder at the Long Branch Saloon,” a rowdy murder mystery dinner taking place at Cult Classic Brewery on Friday, January 23, 2026, with doors opening at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and the show kicking off at 7:30 p.m. Guests are summoned to a town hall meeting called by Miss Kitty West, owner of the Long Branch Saloon, where rumors swirl about MarDel-

Va's most notorious outlaw strong-arming locals into giving up their land—raising the question of whether the townsfolk might finally fight back... or consider something far more sinister. The evening includes a full pre-show meal featuring endless soup, salad, and breadsticks, a hearty pasta dinner with your choice of meatballs or sausage with peppers and onions, plus cake and cannoli, along with a drink token good for draft beer or wine. It's a deliciously chaotic blend of comedy, intrigue, and cowboy-style troublemaking that brings the Old West straight to the Chesapeake. Reserved seating is \$54 per person and all sales are final.

## 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](http://www.plungemd.com)



Photo by Steve Ruark





## 8TH COHORT OF FOUNDATION OF HOPE COMPLETES PROGRAM

Joined by a room full of beaming parents, The Foundation of HOPE celebrated the 2025 cohort of its Economic Development and Empowerment Program this past summer. This was the Foundation's 8th cohort, and its largest to date, with 18 girls completing the program. The Foundation has partnered with Easton Middle School since its inception, and last year, they began a new partnership with St. Michaels Middle High School. During the 16-week Economic Development and Empowerment Program, middle school girls learn about a variety of topics, including self-esteem, bullying, social media, workforce development, economic and community development, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and more. At the end of the course, the girls are tasked with creating a vision board, detailing their goals for the future. They are encouraged to dream big. At the ceremony, each girl presented her vision board, completing her final project and receiving her certificate of completion. At the end of the ceremony, Foundation of HOPE founder Keasha Haythe sent the students off with a touching speech, ending on these uplifting words: "Girls, go out and have an amazing summer. Make memories with family and friends. Know that you have a purpose and destiny in this world. Always believe in yourself, because I will always believe in you. Go be great!" Learn more about Foundation of HOPE at [foundationofhopemaryland.org](http://foundationofhopemaryland.org)

## 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](http://crabsailing.org).



## Big Brothers Big Sisters' Celebrates Community

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore (BBSES) hosted its annual Big Celebration this past October aboard the *Dorothy Megan Riverboat* out of Suicide Bridge Restaurant. The event honored mentors, community partners, and leaders who have gone above and beyond to ignite the power and potential of youth across Maryland's Eastern Shore. The nautical-themed luncheon opened with welcoming remarks from Board Chair Terri Mueller and an inspirational message from Pastor Jack Diehl, who reminded attendees that serving others is the true compass that keeps communities moving in the right direction. "Today's event was a celebration of the people who keep our mission afloat—the mentors, partners, and leaders who help us navigate toward brighter futures for the children we serve," said Jessica Mimms, Executive Director of BBSES. BBSES continues to expand its reach across the Eastern Shore, providing mentoring programs and youth support services throughout Cecil, Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, and Talbot counties. Learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore at [shorebiglittle.org](http://shorebiglittle.org).



### This year's honorees included:

**Big Brother of the Year:** *Troy Tilghman* of Wicomico County, recognized for his unwavering mentorship and positive influence on his Little Brother's growth and confidence. (Pictured with Kaitlyn Johnson, Program Specialist.) **Big Sister of the Year:** *Amanda Chaffee* of Wicomico County, honored for her dedication to two Littles and her commitment to building lasting, nurturing relationships.

**Big Dream Fund Awardees:** *Brentley Meyers*, 11, of Caroline County, who

received a gaming system to support his creativity and learning, and *DeAndre Mattison*, 12, of Queen Anne's County, who received an Edge Gym membership to help him pursue his athletic goals. **2024 Board Member of the Year:** *Teresa Smith* of Caroline County, for her leadership, advocacy, and success in expanding outreach, fundraising, and awareness across the Mid-Shore. **2025 Board Member of the Year:** *Terri Mueller* of Beach Bounders in Wicomico County, Board Chair, recognized for five years of outstanding service, leadership on multiple committees, and her role in strengthening board development and agency growth. **Partner of the Year:** *Oak Ridge Church*, honored for its generous school supply drive that equipped local students for a successful school year.



# Meet Dafny Vasquez

**THIS EASTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE IS POISED FOR SUCCESS**

By Tom Worgo



**Y**ou could say that Dafny Vasquez is a coveted athlete at Easton High. Coaches in the school asked Vasquez to play basketball and run for the indoor and outdoor track teams in recent years. She was flattered by the interest yet decided to take a different path than many athletes: play one sport.

That was soccer. It's one of her biggest passions in life. Looking back, Vasquez calls it one of the best decisions she's ever made. Soccer consumes her because so much of her time is spent playing for two teams—the Easton varsity squad and Shore Football Club.

“This is basically her life—playing soccer,” Easton Assistant Girls Soccer Coach Tony Lhotsky says. “And really wanting to progress at it.”

Shore FC competes in the United States Youth Soccer National Premier 1 League and travels as far away as Florida and Colorado for showcase tournaments. Vasquez sees much tougher competition than in high school.

**“THIS IS BASICALLY  
HER LIFE—PLAYING  
SOCCER, AND  
REALLY WANTING TO  
PROGRESS AT IT.”**

Two other things made it hard for Vasquez to play other sports: working on a farm and training at two different gyms. She gets excited working out at Planet Fitness and the Easton Family YMCA for up to two hours a day. It allows her to stay in peak physical condition while elevating her soccer skills. It's all about getting faster and stronger.

“In my free time, I am the person that loves to go to the gym,” explains Vasquez, who took up soccer in elementary school. “If I am not playing soccer, I am at the gym or church.”

Vasquez, a 5-foot-2 striker, hopes for a college scholarship and she may get it. She plans to major in business management with the lofty goal of owning her own real estate company.

Two Division I schools, Fairleigh Dickinson University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and a pair of Division II soccer programs, Emory and Henry College and Holy Family University, have aggressively recruited Vasquez. She will also strongly consider several Division III schools, most notably Washington College in Chestertown.

Whatever college Vasquez, who carries a 3.3 grade-point average, attends, they get a very well-rounded player with superb quickness, a strong soccer IQ, an outstanding and accurate shot, and strong leadership skills. Vasquez finished as Easton's all-time leading goal scorer with 69.



"She is a Division I-caliber player," Shore FC Girls Soccer U19 Coach Mike Leach says. "Her speed is phenomenal—like track star speed. No one can take the ball off her feet. She is technically skilled. She is so good, she was playing on U19 team in eighth grade."

At Easton, Vasquez had a stellar career with plenty of accolades and a whopping 12 overall hat tricks. Not a bad total considering that she missed 14 games during the 2024 season because of an ankle injury.

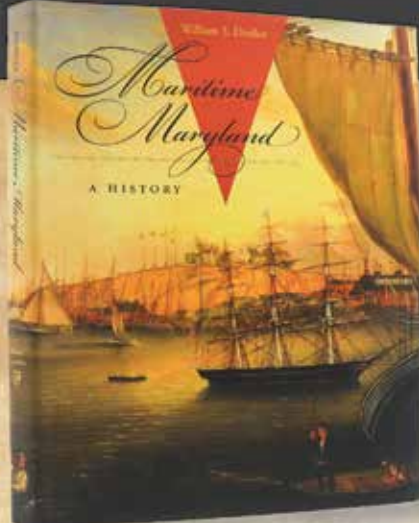
The Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer named the 18-year-old an All-State Player twice and she earned Bayside Conference First-Team three times.

"Arguably, she is the best girls player ever to come out of Easton High School," Leach says of the Easton co-captain.

Vasquez had some unforgettable games last year. She scored a career-high five goals in routs over Cambridge-South Dorchester and Wicomico. Another strength of Vasquez's is her toughness. She has four brothers and consistently played with and against older male players. Many times, she's the only female on the team in pickup games. It helped her develop into an elite player.

"It's a faster pace type of soccer," Vasquez says. "It has made me be more aggressive and play with grit." And made her fearless.





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A HISTORY

William S. Dudley

**Maritime Maryland**  
A HISTORY

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# 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

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; radcliffecreepschool.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



# 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 <a href="http://www.aacsonline.org/Visit">www.aacsonline.org/Visit</a>	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	<b>St. Andrew's Day School</b> 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
	<b>The Summit School</b> 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
	<b>Odenton Christian School</b> 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	<b>School of the Incarnation</b> 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
	<b>Elvaton Christian Academy</b> 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	<b>Archbishop Spalding High School</b> 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
	<b>Calvary Baptist Church Academy</b> 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
	<b>Granite Baptist Academy</b> 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
	<b>Monsignor Slade Catholic School</b> 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
	<b>St. Paul's Lutheran School</b> 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	<b>Bishop McNamara High School</b> 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
	<b>The Boys' Latin School of Maryland</b> 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	
<b>Calvert Hall College High School</b> 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	
<b>The Calverton School</b> 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	
<b>DeMatha Catholic High School</b> 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	
<b>Elizabeth Seton High School</b> 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	
<b>Glenelg Country School</b> 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	
<b>Gonzaga College High School</b> 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	
<b>Grace Christian School</b> 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+	
<b>Holy Trinity An Episcopal School</b> 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+	
<b>Maryvale Preparatory School</b> 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	
<b>McDonogh School</b> 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	
<b>Mount de Sales Academy</b> 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	
<b>Mount St. Joseph High School</b> 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 <a href="http://mcdonogh.org/admissions">mcdonogh.org/admissions</a>	Coed	ISEE	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Latin	Visit <a href="http://mcdonogh.org/asp">mcdonogh.org/asp</a> for more information	Visit <a href="http://mcdonogh.org/athletics">mcdonogh.org/athletics</a> 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 <a href="http://msjnet.edu">msjnet.edu</a> /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	
<b>Notre Dame Preparatory School</b> 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	
<b>Oldfields School</b> 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	
<b>Our Lady of Good Counsel High School</b> 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	
<b>Roland Park Country School</b> 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	
<b>St. Augustine School</b> 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	
<b>St. John's College High School in Chevy Chase</b> 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	
<b>St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School</b> 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	
<b>St. Philip Neri School</b> 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	
<b>St. Pius X Regional School</b> 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	
<b>St. Timothy's School</b> 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	
<b>St. Vincent Pallotti High School</b> 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	
<b>Washington New Church School</b> 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



# 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**





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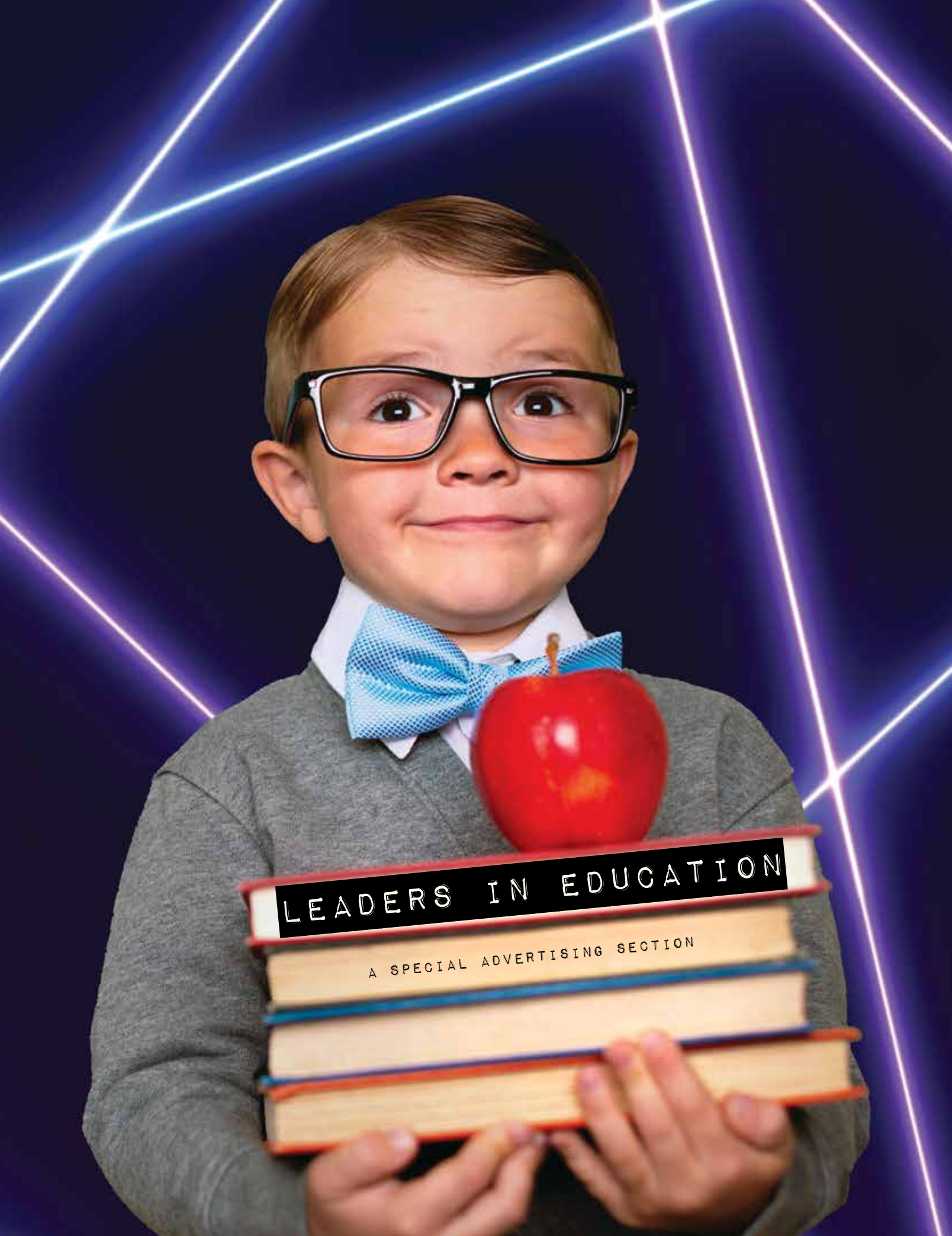
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## QUICK LOOK

### Year Founded:

1955(ES); 1958 (HS)

### Grades:

PreK-3  
to 12th

### Religious Affiliation:

Currently 50% Catholic

### Heads of School:

Scott Wilson (HS)  
Sherrie Connolly (ES)

### 2025-2026 Enrollment:

HS: 190  
ES: 425

### 2025-2026 Tuition:

HS: \$19,430  
ES: \$10,500  
PK: \$8,900

### Entrance/ Admissions Requirements:

Yes

### Uniforms:

Yes

### Financial Aid Availability:

Yes

### Languages Offered:

Spanish, Latin

### Extracurricular Activities:

ES: 13  
HS: 32+

### Interscholastic Sports:

ES: 8  
HS: 18

# Saints Peter & Paul School

ES - 900 High Street, Easton MD 21601 | 410.822.2251 | es.ssppeaston.org

HS - 1212 S. Washington Street, Easton MD 21601 | 410.822.2275 | hs.ssppeaston.org



## Two Campuses - One School - One Mission!

From PreK3 through Grade 12, Saints Peter & Paul educates the mind, strengthens the body, and nurtures the spirit in a faith-based environment rich in the Catholic tradition, transforming students into young adults who think critically, creatively, and globally.

The elementary program includes individualized learning, integrated STEM, music, and Spanish. Our college preparatory high school offers 100+ courses, including an Honors Program, Advanced Placement, and global learning. Emphasizing critical thinking, independent and collaborative learning, Saints Peter & Paul students are well prepared for the challenges of higher education.

There are student life opportunities for every grade level, a robust athletic program that includes cross country, sailing, and ice hockey. With over 30 clubs and leadership activities, Sabre students have opportunities to get involved, participate, and make a difference.

Rooted in the Catholic tradition, Saints Peter & Paul encourages students of all denominations to grow in their faith through prayer, retreats, and service. Small class sizes, a dedicated and caring faculty, rigorous academics, diversity of student life, and a commitment to service are the hallmarks of a Saints Peter & Paul education.



## HS:

95% of students participate in extracurricular activities or athletics

14 Average Class Size

16% of 2025 graduating class participates in collegiate athletics

6 Athletic Conference Titles in 2024-25

100% Graduation Rate

## ES:

11:1 Student - Teacher Ratio

20+ Athletic Teams and Clubs

18 Average Class Size



## QUICK LOOK

**Head of School:**  
Nancy Mugele

**Founded:**  
1967

**Grade Levels:**  
Little School (PK3 - 4)  
Lower School (Gr. K - 4)  
Middle School (Gr. 5 - 8)

**Athletics:**  
Grades 5-8

Fall: Field Hockey  
and Soccer

Winter: Boys and  
Girls Basketball

Spring: Boys and  
Girls Lacrosse

**Tuition Range:**  
\$10,700 - \$20,650

**Tuition Assistance:**  
Awarded to Over 40%  
of families

# Kent School

6788 Wilkins Lane | Chestertown, MD | [www.KentSchool.org](http://www.KentSchool.org) | 410-778-4100



Located on the bank of the Chester River in historic Chestertown, Kent School prepares students for active citizenship through joyful and rigorous academics, arts, and athletics in an inclusive community that fosters moral excellence.

At Kent School, students don't just learn—they flourish. They leave our campus prepared to excel academically, lead responsibly, and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

At Kent School, we believe every child deserves to:

- Be seen, known, and valued in a trust-based community.
- Learn from educators who apply research-based best practices in mind, brain and education science.
- Grow through joyful, experiential learning that sparks curiosity and develops confidence.
- Be empowered to contribute, thrive, and succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.



**6:1** Student to teacher ratio

**145** Students PreSchool 3 through Grade 8





## QUICK LOOK

**Head of School:**  
Jay Parker

**Grades:**  
PreK-8th

**2025-2026 Enrollment:**  
332

**2025-2026 Tuition:**  
PK: \$12,995  
K: \$18,795  
1-8: \$21,895

**Open House Dates:**  
email admissions@  
countryschool.org

**Educational Environment:**  
(Co-Ed, All Boys, All Girls): Coed

**Uniforms:**  
Yes

**Financial Assistance:**  
Yes

**Languages Taught:**  
Spanish, Latin

**Service/Volunteer Requirements:**  
Not required, but part of curriculum



# The Country School

716 Goldsborough St, Easton, MD 21601  
410-822-1935 | countryschool.org



What makes The Country School what it is lies in our ethos:

### Do your best always.

From citizenship to academics, we expect this mantra to guide our students in everything they do. With a focus on character building, The Country School instills its 9 Core Values (honesty, respect, responsibility, compassion, generosity, commitment, cooperation, fairness, and moral courage) in students, nurturing confident and compassionate individuals poised to make a positive impact.

The backbone of The Country School is its exceptional faculty, committed to creating a nurturing environment where students thrive. Their passion for teaching extends beyond academics, inspiring a lifelong love for learning. With an average class size of 15, our teachers know every one of their students well and differentiate instruction strategically to bring out the best in them. The Country School is a close-knit community that values diversity and inclusivity. Students build lasting friendships in an atmosphere that encourages individuality and mutual respect.



Students graduating from The Country School have many options for high school, including local public schools, and boarding and day independent schools. With the help of our secondary school counselor who begins working with students in 7th grade, our recent graduates have been accepted into 32 different high schools.

Transportation is available to several areas from Stevensville to Cambridge, making The Country School accessible to children from all over the Mid-Shore. Learn more about us at countryschool.org and schedule a tour with our Admissions Director, Kristy Nkanza.

**9:1** Student to teacher ratio

**15** Average class size

**8** Transportation stops from Stevensville to Cambridge



## 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](http://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](http://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

### Grades:

Preschool – Grade 12

### Total Enrollment

910

### Sports Offered:

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

### Tuition:

Kindergarten - \$24,410

Grades 1-5 - \$26,580

Grades 6-12 - \$33,400

Preschool & PreK  
tuition varies

# 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](http://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."**

**- Marcus '26**

**9:1**

Student to  
teacher ratio

**15**

Average  
class size

**100%**

Matriculation  
Rate



## 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](http://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

### Grades:

Kindergarten - 8

### Head of School:

Dr. Jennifer Durham

### 2025-2026 Enrollment:

Currently 72 with rolling admissions

### 2025-2026 Tuition:

\$31,122 (Kindergarten)  
\$34,580 (Grades 1-8)

### Accreditation:

AIMS Accredited

# Radcliffe Creek School

201 Talbot Blvd, Suite A, Chestertown, MD 21620

410-778-8150 | info@radcliffecreekschool.org

www.RadcliffeCreekSchool.org

## The School They Need. The Peace of Mind You Want.

With 30 years of success on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Radcliffe Creek School has cultivated a caring community and a personalized experience for every K-8 student, both neurodiverse and neurotypical. We utilize research-based methods, such as multisensory instruction, outdoor learning, and small-group instruction, to deliver an individualized educational plan and foster a growth mindset. Our strengths-based teaching, enriched by Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language support, helps us meet students where they are academically, providing an academic challenge while promoting social-emotional learning and resilience, especially for those with ADHD, Anxiety, and language-based learning disorders.



**Discover.  
Create. Thrive.**

**6:1** Student to Teacher Ratio

**8** Counties Served throughout Maryland and Delaware

# 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.



Student to Teacher Ratio **11:1**

Serving families from **4** Counties

### 2025-2026 Tuition:

Pre-K: \$8,200  
Kindergarten: \$9,300  
1-5: \$11,125 | 6-8: \$11,125

# The Benedictine School

14299 Benedictine Ln  
Ridgely, MD 21660  
410-634-2112  
www.benschool.org

The Benedictine School is a co-ed twelve-month school, providing day and residential programming to students with mild to severe intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism. We believe each student's greatest potential is achieved through a collaborative, holistic team approach building on the abilities, strengths and interests of each child.



**Founded in 1959**

**NCASES accredited**

**Non-Sectarian**

**Tuition varies depending on services required**

**Tuition assistance is available**

**Tours and interviews are available by request!**

**6** Average class size **1:1** Support available



**QUICK LOOK**

**GRADES:**  
PreK-8

**FINANCIAL AID:**  
Available

**2025-2026 ENROLLMENT:**  
133



**QUICK LOOK**

**GRADES:**  
Supports K-12;  
Ages 5-21

**ENROLLMENT:**  
50

Serving students from throughout Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region



CHESAPEAKE TRADITIONS ARTICLE SERIES

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# WILD FOWL *carving*

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Celebrating one of Maryland's  
cherished cultural traditions

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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](http://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](mailto:kclattenburg@wardfdn.org). [wardfdn.org](http://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](mailto:president@decoymuseum.com). [decoymuseum.com](http://decoymuseum.com)





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# Home & Garden

58 TRANSLATING THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

60 ULTIMATE VACATION DESTINATION

**Color Trends  
2026 Edition**

**PG. 54**





# 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 9005 (2015)



White Snow  
SW 9001



Cream and Sugar  
SW 9002



Lemon Cheffin  
SW 9003 (2015)



House Shale  
SW 6503 (2015)



Dark Auburn  
SW 6504 (2015)



Limestone  
SW 7001



Garden Gate  
SW 6401 (2015)



Teagan  
SW 6402 (2015)



Honey  
SW 6403 (2015)



Special Walnut  
SW 1401

## 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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# Translating the Language of Flowers

## HOW TO INTERPRET WHAT YOUR PLANTS ARE SAYING

By Janice F. Booth

**W**e'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.





# Ultimate Vacation Destination

By Lisa J. Gotto

**A**n away-on-vacation state of mind prevails in this 1,660-square-foot single family waterfront home with cabin-like feel in Rock Hall. Great views of Gray's Inn Creek and a mature wooded lot provide a scenic and serene oasis for those who seek escape from the everyday with proximity to the Chesapeake Bay.

While built in 1967, this home has been updated with many modern amenities over the years

**Primary Structure**  
**Built:** 1967

**Sold For:**  
\$799,900

**Original List Price:**  
\$799,900

**Bedrooms:**  
5

**Baths:** 3  
Full

**Living Space:**  
1,660 Sq. Ft.

**Lot Size:**  
.66 acres





to include a pristine yet rustic exterior and a roomy open plan layout in the main living area. This airy space is filled with natural light from a series of large picture windows overlooking the water.

The spacious family room is trimmed with a beachy wood accent wall and enhanced with an attractive wood-burning fireplace. This space flows into a spacious water-facing dining room and a smart two-toned kitchen with gorgeous custom wood cabinetry. An efficient prep island with butcher block top and an attached coffee bar with shelving takes center stage.

The main floor provides two of the home's five bedrooms. Both are generous in size and share a full bath on that level. The primary bedroom is located on the second floor and features sweeping, expan-



sive views out to the water. The second-floor bath offers a large, walk-in shower and a spacious, custom wood vanity with stone top and lots of storage space.

Another bedroom on this level boasts wood floors, great light, and an attractive gas fireplace.

Back downstairs, a large, covered deck off the main living area overlooks the expanse of the creek and is ideal for evening meals and family gatherings with its cozy, integrated outdoor kitchen, perfect for boiling up a pot of steamed crabs and grilling some steaks. A butcher block-topped island and granite countertops lend the space great utility.



Outside, the dwelling has charming landscaping and plantings with sculpted paver stone paths and a handy shed accessorized with a quaint pergola. Snuggled amongst the large trees, the property boasts several places to situate an outdoor patio area and offers direct access to the water, just a few steps to the home's private pier with its picturesque and expanding creek vista.



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# Health & Beauty

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**66** CLEARING UP CONFUSION ABOUT “CLEAR PROTEIN”

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**68** IS IT TIME FOR A DIGITAL DETOX?



The Science of  
Moisturizing

**PG. 70**





# Clearing Up Confusion About “Clear Protein”

By Dylan Roche

**W**hen 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.

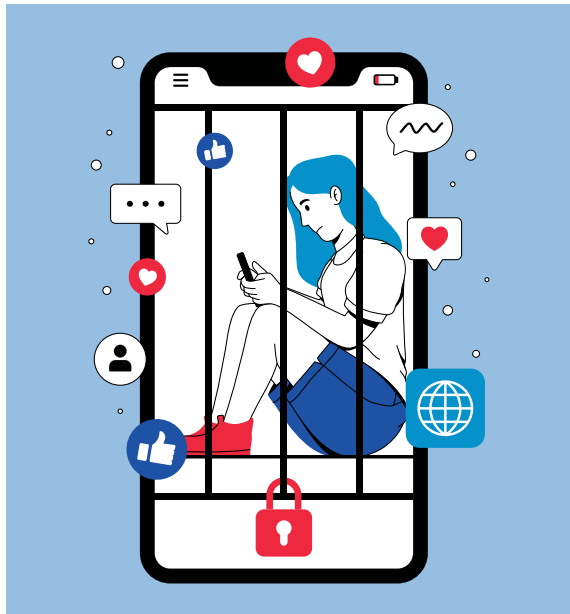
**Gray works well for layering**—whether you're pairing it with other shades of gray or with a bold color, you can't go wrong when you're layering up for a winter event.



**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

**T**o 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

**A**s 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.

# Food & Dining

72 EXQUISITELY DELICIOUS

74 READERS' DINING GUIDE



**BBQ Scallops  
at Hunters'  
Tavern**





# Exquisitely Delicious

By James Houck

**W**ith a “heart of town” location, bespoke ambiance that feels “upscale lodge,” and top tier menu with plate presentations to match, it’s small wonder why Tidewater Inn’s Hunters’ Tavern has been a favorite dining destination for Easton locals, and visitors alike, for more than 15 years. The pedigree of the Inn—in which the tavern has resided as the dining centerpiece since extensive renovations in 2009—actually dates back to 1947 when the concept of the Tidewater property was conceived and built by A. Johnson Grymes. Nearly 80 years later, we paid a visit to experience this hallmark restaurant, situated at the corner of Harrison and Dover streets.



## HUNTERS’ TAVERN

101 E. Dover Street, Easton • 410-822-4034 • [tidewaterinn.com/hunters-tavern](http://tidewaterinn.com/hunters-tavern)



First impressions are important, and Hunters’ hit the bullseye, as we (just my wife and I for this visit) were welcomed by the hostess and led to our patio table where we’d enjoy an early dinner fireside on a brisk autumn day. With a sprawling courtyard and outdoor fireplace, guests may enjoy dining al fresco, weather abiding. And when it’s too cold (or searing in summer) to sit outside, the cozy confines indoors are just as charming with touches of brick and beadboard surrounding a modern dining room of wooden tables, black leather-back chairs, and a few high-tops in the adjacent, nautically-themed Skipjack Bar area. There’s also wood paneling overhead and flooring underfoot, plus walls painted in hues of white and gray that complement the entire look. It’s an impressive space.

The kitchen is presently helmed by Executive Chef Hampton Turner, who served for several years as sous chef prior to taking the leading role about twenty months ago. He’s making his mark on the menu with special recipes such as his signature meatloaf, and ensures that time-honored favorites, like the famed snapping turtle soup, remain true to tradition and taste. But it’s the kitchen’s elevated approach to such a wide variety of offerings that’s sure to please parties both large and small. We certainly were.



Our foray into the Hunters' Tavern dining experience began with several shared starters. The Tavern Brawl was a bivalve brew of steamed mussels, clams, and oysters in a chardonnay broth accented with diced tomatoes, shallots, and garlic. If this wasn't enough to make one salivate, the dish was punctuated with a massive dollop of crème fraîche. Served with slices of grilled baguette, the delicious concoction offered a balanced briny 'n luscious mouthfeel. Continuing a seafood forward start, we shared a plate of BBQ Scallops—a novel take on bacon-wrapped scallops that incorporated pumpkin spice, apples, Brussels sprouts, and jicama as a slaw atop the two jumbo morsels set within an acorn squash puree. This rich beginning to our meal was buoyed by Chris' Flatbread with mozzarella and parmesan cheeses anchoring pepperonis to a pillowy-yet-crisp crust base, fresh tomato sauce, and chiffonade-cut basil. Each bite was this pizza-lover's dream come true.

To wash down this first pass through the menu, we enjoyed fresh iced teas. But if you crave a little more zing—something to warm up your senses and whet your whistle—then the creative signature cocktails will do you well (e.g. "Fall From the Tree" mixes Koval cranberry gin, apple cider liquor, lemon juice, cranberry juice, and champagne). So, too, will the robust selections of wines, single-malt scotch, rye, bourbon, port, and cognac. The drink menu is lengthy and very tempting. From morning rise to evening respite, the tavern's barkeeps have your comfort in mind.



Dinner entrees show off the kitchen's talents (which are equally impressive during breakfast, lunch, and Sunday brunch). Our selections hit high marks. The Duck Ravioli boasted a duck breast confit in a marriage of sautéed butternut squash, chanterelles, caramelized onions, and a couple large ravioli medallions, all bathed with a sage blanc sauce. The dish was pure harmony from fork to mouth. Likewise, the Iberico Pork Chop was a hefty cut of the iconic, premium swine seared, grilled, and plated with maple bacon Brussels sprouts, mac and cheese (interesting!), and laced with a citrus gastrique. Again, a dance of flavors with each bite.

With intriguing options aplenty for dessert, you may want to leave room. We overindulged with the first two courses, but my eyes were drawn to the likes of the Strawberry Pretzel Salad Bomb, Orange Dreamsicle Cheesecake, and Kagan's Baked Alaska (how often do you see a baked Alaska on a menu?). Alas, dessert will be had on our next visit, which may come sooner than later. With an experienced kitchen, fine service, and exquisite cuisine, Hunters' Tavern has ample reasons to return.





# 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](mailto:editor@whatsupmag.com) and let us know! And for the full guide, visit [whatsupmag.com](http://whatsupmag.com).

## Advertisers Listed in Red

### Avg. Entrée Price

\$ 0-14

\$\$ 15-30

\$\$\$ 31 and over

- Reservations
- Full bar
- Family Friendly
- Water View
- Outdoor Seating
- Live Music
- Grab and Go

## Queen Anne's County

### 18Twenty

500 Kent Manor Drive, Stevensville; 410-643-5757; [kentslandresort.com/dining](http://kentslandresort.com/dining) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ● ●

### Amalfi Coast Italian & Wine Bar

401 Love Point Road, Stevensville; 443-249-3426; [amalficoastki.com](http://amalficoastki.com) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ● ●

### Bark Barbecue Café

371 Log Canoe Circle, Stevensville; 443-618-3676; [barkbarbecue.com](http://barkbarbecue.com) \$ ●

### Bay Shore Steam Pot

111 E. Water Street, Centreville; 410-758-3933; [bayshoresteampot.com](http://bayshoresteampot.com) \$\$\$ ● Seafood

### Big Bats Café

216 St Claire Place, Stevensville; 410-604-1120; [bigbats.com](http://bigbats.com) \$\$ ● ●

### The Big Owl Tiki Bar and Grill

3015 Kent Narrow Way S, Grasonville; 410-829-9546; [thebigowl.com](http://thebigowl.com) \$\$ ● ● ● ● ● Seasonal

### Bridges Restaurant

321 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville; 410-827-0282; [bridgesrestaurant.net](http://bridgesrestaurant.net) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ● ●

### Café Sado

205 Tackle Circle, Chester; 410-604-1688; [cafesado.com](http://cafesado.com) \$\$ ● ●

### Cult Classic Brewing

1169 Shopping Center Road, Stevensville; 410-980-8097; [cultclassicbrewing.com](http://cultclassicbrewing.com) \$\$ ● Events, Beer

### Doc's Riverside Grille

511 Chesterfield Ave, Centreville; 410-758-1707; [docsriversidegrille.com](http://docsriversidegrille.com) \$\$ ● ● ● ● ●

### Dock House Restaurant

110 Piney Narrows Road, Chester; 443-446-4477; [dockhouserestaurant.com](http://dockhouserestaurant.com) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ●

### Fisherman's Crab Deck

3032 Kent Narrows Way S, Grasonville; 410-827-6666; [crabdeck.com](http://crabdeck.com) \$\$ ● ● ● ● Seasonal

### Fisherman's Inn

3116 Main Street, Grasonville; 410-827-8807; [fishermansinn.com](http://fishermansinn.com) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ● ●

### Frix's Fire Grill

1533 Postal Road, Chester; 410-604-2525; [frixsfiregrill.com](http://frixsfiregrill.com) \$ ● ● ●

### Harris Crab House and Seafood Restaurant

433 Kent Narrow Way N, Grasonville; 410-827-9500; [harris crabhouse.com](http://harris crabhouse.com) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ●

### The Jetty Dock Bar and Restaurant

201 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville; 410-827-4959; [jettydockbar.com](http://jettydockbar.com) \$\$\$ ● ● ● ● ●

**Libbey's Coastal Kitchen and Bar**

357 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 410-604-0999; libbey-scoastalkitchen.com \$\$\$ ●●●●●

**Love Point Deli**

109 Main Street, Stevensville; 410-604-2447; lovepointdeli.com \$ ●

**Kent Point Marina, Bait House and Seafood**

107 Short Road, Stevensville; 410-753-2330; kent-point-marina.square.site \$\$\$ ● Seafood

**The Kentmorr Beach Bar and Grill**

910 Kentmorr Road, Stevensville; 410-643-2263; thekentmorr.com \$\$ ●●● Seasonal

**Knoxie's Table**

180 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 443-249-5777; baybeachclub.com \$\$ ●●●

**Mamma Mia Italian Bistro and Sports Bar**

219 E Water Street, Centreville; 410-758-2222; mammamia-centreville.com \$\$ ●●

**The Market Gourmet Cafe**

180 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 410-604-5900; bay-beachclub.com \$, Locally Sourced

**Mr. B's Seafood Market**

114 State Street, Stevensville; 410-643-5536; mrsseafood.com \$\$ ● Seafood

**The Narrows Restaurant**

3023 Kent Narrows Way, Grasonville; 410-827-8113; thenarrowsrestaurant.com \$\$\$ ●●●●

**Phat Daddy's BBQ**

205 Spring Avenue, Chestertown; 443-282-0028; phatdaddybbq.com \$ ●

**Pour House Pub**

205 Tackle Circle, Chester; 443-249-3242; pourhouseki.com \$ ●●

**Rams Head Shore House**

800 Main Street, Stevensville; 410-643-2466; rams-headshorehouse.com \$\$ ●●●

**Red Eye's Dock Bar**

428 Kent Narrow Way N, Grasonville; 410-304-2072; redehyesdb.com \$\$ ●●●●● Seasonal

**Rolph's Wharf: The Sandbar**

1008 Rolph's Wharf Road, Chestertown; 410-778-6347; rolphswharfmarina.com \$\$ ●●●●● Light Fare

**Señor Chile**

2142 Didonato Drive; Chester, MD 21619; 410-204-9444; senorschile.com

**Stevensville Crab Shack**

116 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 410-604-2722; stevensvillecrabshack.com \$\$, ● Seafood

**Yo Java Bowl Café**

800B Abruzzi Drive, Chester; 410-604-0000; yojavabowl.com \$ ●

**Talbot County****Anthony's Italian Restaurant**

26342 Oxford Road, Oxford; 410-226-1118; anthonyoxford.com \$\$, ●●

**Ava's Pizzeria & Wine Bar**

409 Talbot Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-3081; avaspizzeria.com \$ ●●●

**Bas Rouge**

19 Federal Street, Easton; 410-822-1637; basrougeeaston.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Bistro St. Michaels**

403 South Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-9111; bistrostmichaels.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Blu Miles Seafood and Grill**

305 Mulberry Street, St Michaels; 410-745-8079; theblumiles-restaurant.com \$\$ ●●●●

**The Blue Crab**

102 S Fremont St, St Michaels; 410-745-4155; the-blue-crab-shop.square.site \$ ●●● Daily Breakfast

**Bombay Tadka**

508 Idlewild Ave, Easton; 410-746-2135; bombaytadkamd.com \$\$ ●●

**Café 401**

401 S Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-3323; thecafe401.com \$\$ ●●

**Capsize**

314 Tilghman Street, Oxford; 410-226-5900; capsizexmd.com \$\$ ●●●●● Seasonal

**Carpenter Street Saloon**

113 S Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-511; carpenterstreet-saloon.com \$ ●●

**The Coffee Trappe**

4016 Main Street, Trappe; 410-476-6164; coffeetrappe.com \$\$, ●●●●● Daily Breakfast

**Corah's Corner**

105 N Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-8008; corahs.com \$\$ ●●●

**Crab Claw Restaurant**

304 Burns Street, St Michaels; 410-745-2900; thecrabclaw.com \$\$ ●●●●

**Doc's Downtown Grille**

14 N Washington Street, Easton; 410-822-7700; docs-downtowngrille.com \$\$ ●●●

**Doc's Sunset Grille**

104 W Pier St, Oxford; 410-226-5550; docssunsetgrille.com \$\$ ●●●●

**Eat Sprout**

335 N. Aurora Street, Easton; eatsprout.com \$ ●

**Eat Sprout**

114 S. Talbot Street, St. Michaels; eatsprout.com \$ ●

**The Fool's Lantern and Taproom**

310 South Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-888-7379; thefoolslantern.com \$\$ ●●

**Foxy's Harbor Grille**

125 Mulberry Street, St Michaels; 410-745-4340; foxysharbor-grille.com \$\$ ●●●● Seasonal

**The Galley**

305 South Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-200-8572; the-galleysaintmichaels.com \$\$ ●●●

**Gina's Café**

601 Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-6400; ginascafemd.com \$\$ ●●

**Hot Off the Coals BBQ**

8356 Ocean Gateway, Easton; 410-820-8500; hotoffthe-coals.com \$ ●●

**Hunter's Tavern**

101 East Dover Street, Easton; Tidewaterinn.com; 410-822-4034 \$\$ ●● Daily Breakfast

**Limoncello Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar**

200 South Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-3111; limoncellostmichaels.com \$\$ ●●

**Lowe's Wharf**

21651 Lowes Wharf Road, Sherwood; 410-745-6684; loweswharf.com/restaurant \$\$ ●●●●● Seasonal

**Momma Maria's Mediterranean Bistro and Bar**

4021 Main Street, Trappe; 410-476-6266; mommariasbistro.com \$\$, ●●●●● Daily Breakfast

**Osteria Alfredo**

210 Marlboro Street, Easton; 410-822-9088; osteriaalfredo.com \$\$, ●●

**Out of the Fire**

111 South Washington Street, Easton; 410-205-2519; outofthefire.com \$\$ ●●

**Pho Van Restaurant**

219 Marlboro Avenue, Ste. 44, Easton; 410-443-0206; phovaneaston.com \$\$ ●●

**Piazza Italian Market**

218 North Washington Street Suite 23, Easton; 410-820-8281; \$ \$ ● Beer and Wine

**Ruse**

209 N Talbot Street, St Michaels at the Wildset Hotel; 410-745-8011; ruserestaurant.com \$\$\$ ●●

**San Miguels**

100 S Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-8955; sanmiguel-md.com \$ \$ ●●

**Scossa Restaurant and Lounge**

8 North Washington Street, Easton; 410-822-2202; scossarestaurant.com \$ \$ ●●●

**Sugar Buns Cafe**

29137 Newnam Road, Easton; 410-820-4220; sugar-buns.com \$ ●

**Sunflowers and Greens**

11 Federal Street, Easton; 410-822-7972; sunflower-sandgreens.com \$ \$ ●

**T at the General Store**

25942 Royal Oak Road, Easton; 410-745-8402; tatthegeneralstore.com \$ \$ ●●

**Talbot St. Tavern**

209 S Talbot St, St Michaels; 410-745-8005; Talbotsttavern.com \$ \$, Full Bar, Live Music ●●



**Theo's Steak, Sides, and Spirits**

407 South Talbot Street, St Michaels; 410-745-2106; theosteakhouse.com \$\$\$ ●●●

**Tickler's Crab Shack and Restaurant**

21551 Chesapeake Houe Drive, Tilghman in the Wylder Hotel; 410-886-2121; wylderhotels.com \$\$\$ ●●●

**Tiger Lily**

206 N Washington Street, Easton; 410-690-4602; tigerlily-easton.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Tilghman Dining at The Tilghman Island Inn**

21384 Coopertown Road, Tilghman Island; 410-886-1170; tilghmandining.com \$\$\$ ●●●●● Seasonal

**Two if by Sea**

5776 Tilghman Island Road, Tilghman; 410-886-2447; twoifbysearestaurant.net \$●●

**Kent County****Blue Bird Tavern**

512 Washington Avenue, Chestertown; 410-778-2885; Facebook \$●●

**Blue Heron Oyster House and Inn**

20658 Wilkins Avenue, Rock Hall; 410-639-4374; blueheronoysterhouseandinn.com \$\$\$ ●●●●

**Café Sado**

870 High St, Chestertown; 410-778-6688; cafesado.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Chester River Seafood**

4954 Ashley Road, Rock Hall; 410-639-7018; chesterseafood.com \$\$\$ ●

**Deep Blue at Kitty Knight**

14028 Augustine Herman Highway, Georgetown; 410-648-5200; deepbluerestaurant.com \$\$\$ ●●●●●

**Dockside Café on Rock Hall Harbor**

21906 Chesapeake Avenue, Rock Hall; 410-639-2478; theblackduckinn.com \$, Seasonal

**Fish Whistle**

100 George Street, Georgetown; 410-275-1603; fishhandwhistle.com \$\$\$ ●●●●●

**Flying Decoy Bar + Grill**

21270 Rock Hall Ave, Rock Hall; 410-639-2000; flyingdecoy24.com \$\$\$ ●

**Ford's Seafood Inc**

21459 Rock Hall Ave, Rock Hall; 410-639-2032; fordsseafoodrockhall.com \$●

**Harbor Shack**

20895 Bayside Avenue, Rock Hall; 410-639-9996; harborshack.net \$\$\$ ●●●●●

**Java Rock**

21309 E Sharp Street, Rock Hall; 410-639-9909; Facebook \$● Coffee and Breakfast

**The Jefas Mexican Grill**

100 West Cross Street, Galena; 410-648-7182; thejefas-mexican-grill.business.site \$●●

**The Kitchen at the Imperial**

208 High Street, Chestertown; 410-778-5000; imperialchestertown.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Luisa's Cucina Italiana**

849 Washington Avenue, Chestertown; 410-778-5360; luisasrestaurant.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Modern Stone Age Kitchen**

236 Cannon Street, Chestertown; 410-996-4776; modernstoneagekitchen.com \$\$\$ ●

**Muskrat Alley Café**

5877 Coleman Road, Rock Hall; 410-708-0057; carriagehousemd.com \$● Breakfast

**Osprey Point**

20786 Rock Hall Ave, Rock Hall; 410-639-2194; ospreypoint.com \$\$\$ ●●●●

**The Retriever Bar and Oysters**

337 ½ High Street, Chestertown; theretrieverbar.com \$\$\$ ●●●

**The Shanty Bar**

21085 Tolchester Beach Road, Chestertown; 410-778-1400; tolchestermarina.com \$●●●●●

**Watershed Alley**

337 High Street, Chestertown; 443-282-9797; thewatershedalley.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Dorchester County****Ava's Pizzeria & Wine Bar**

305 High Street, Cambridge; 443-205-4350; avaspizzeria.com \$●●

**Bay Country Bakery**

2951 Ocean Gateway, Cambridge; 410-228-9111; baycountrybakery.com \$● Daily Breakfast

**Blackwater Bakery**

429 Race Street, Cambridge; 443-225-5948; blackwaterbakery.com \$●●

**Blue Point Provision Company**

100 Heron Boulevard, Cambridge; 410-901-1234; hyattregencychesapeakebay.com \$\$\$ ●●●

**Blue Ruin**

400 Race Street, Cambridge; 410-995-7559; blueruinbar.com \$\$\$ ●●

**Bombay Social**

413 Muir Street, Cambridge; 443-515-0853; bombaysocialmd.com \$\$\$ ●

**Carol's Kitchen**

5263 Bucktown Road, Cambridge; 443-225-5889; Facebook \$\$\$ ●

**Emily's Produce**

2214 Church Creek Road, Cambridge; 443-521-0789; emilysproduce.com \$\$\$ ● Market and Lunch, Beer, Wine and Mead

**Lil' Bitta Bull**

520 Race Street, Cambridge; 443-205-2219; Facebook \$\$\$ ●●

**The Neck District Grill**

1042 Hudson Road, Cambridge; 410-228-3052; Facebook \$●

**New York Style Deli & Pizza**

106 Market Square, Cambridge; 443-477-6630; order-nystyledeli.com \$●

**Ocean Odyssey and Crab House**

316 Sunburst Highway, Cambridge; 410-228-8633; toddseafood.com \$\$\$ ●●● Seasonal

**Old Salty's**

2560 Hoopers Island Road, Fishing Creek; 410-397-3752; oldsaltys.com \$\$\$ ● Locally Sourced

**Paul's Pub**

1200 Goodwill Ave, Cambridge; 410-901-1212; choptankbowlwing.com \$●●

**Portside Seafood Restaurant**

201 Trenton Street, Cambridge; 410-228-9007; portsidemaryland.com \$\$\$ ●●●●

**RAR Brewing**

508 Poplar Street, Cambridge; 443-225-5664; rarbrewing.com \$\$\$ ● Beer

**Suicide Bridge Restaurant**

6304 Suicide Bridge Road, Hurlock; 410-943-4689; suicide-bridge-restaurant.com \$\$\$ ●●●●●

**Vintage 414**

414 Race Street, Cambridge; 410-228-4042; vintage414.com \$\$\$ ● Light Fare

**Caroline County****Bullock's Deli, Grill, and Ice Cream**

422 N 6th Street, Denton; 410-479-0270; bullocksdeli.com \$●

**Caroline's**

406 Market Street, Denton; 410-490-4495; carolinesindenton.com \$\$\$ ●● Seasonal

**Craft Bakery and Café**

12 S 3rd Street, Denton; 410-934-7519; Facebook \$●

**Denton Diner**

42 Denton Plaza, Denton; 443-448-7258; dentondiner.com \$\$\$ ● Daily Breakfast

**Earth Tones Café**

5 N 3rd Street, Denton; 443-448-4355; earthtonescafe.com \$\$\$ ● Beer and Wine

**Market Street Public House**

200 Market Street, Denton; 410-479-4720; marketstreet.pub \$\$\$ ●●●●

**Ridgely Pizza and Pasta**

204 6th Street; Ridgely; 410-634-9600; ridgelypizza.com \$●

**Shore Gourmet**

512 Franklin Street, Denton; 410-479-2452; carolinecullinaryarts.org \$● Locally Sourced

A graphic with a dark blue background filled with small white stars. At the top, a red banner with white text reads "WHAT'S UP? MEDIA'S". Below this, the words "BEST OF" are in large, white, 3D block letters with red outlines. Underneath "BEST OF" is the year "2026" in the same style. At the bottom, another red banner with white text reads "VOTING".

# WHAT'S UP? MEDIA'S BEST OF 2026 VOTING

**Ballots are open January 1 - February 28**

Vote for your favorite health and wellness providers, veterinarians, restaurants, beauty salons, gyms, realtors, home contractors, retailers, and professional services.

**[WHATSUPMAG.COM/BESTOFVOTING](https://whatsupmag.com/bestofvoting)**



Results will be revealed in our June 2026 issues of What's Up? Annapolis and What's Up? Eastern Shore and our July issue of What's Up? Central Maryland. What's Up? Media reserves the right to eliminate the least-voted categories, as needed, in the final published results.



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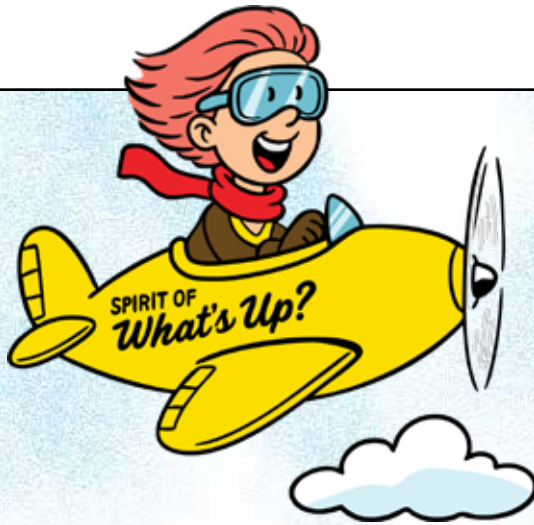
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# Where's Wilma? ➤

## FIND WILMA AND WIN!

Brrr! Even though the Chesapeake Bay region is experiencing it's chilliest weather of the year, our fearless flying mascot Wilma still soars the skies in search of the best dining, shopping, and pampering. Where will she land next? Here's how the contest works: Wilma appears next to three different ads in this magazine. When you spot her, write the names of the ads and their page numbers on the entry form online or mail in the form below and you'll be eligible to win. Only one entry per family. Good luck and don't forget to submit your restaurant review online at [whatsupmag.com/promotions](http://whatsupmag.com/promotions) for another opportunity to win a prize.

**Congratulations to Doris R.** of Easton, who won a \$50 gift certificate to a local business.

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Entries must be received by January 31, 2026. Winner will receive a gift certificate to a local establishment and their name will appear in an upcoming issue of What's Up? Annapolis. **Mail entries to:** Where's Wilma? Eastern Shore, 900 Bestgate Road, Ste. 202, Annapolis, MD 21401 or fill out the form at [whatsupmag.com/promotions](http://whatsupmag.com/promotions).

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