

THROUGH **OUR** EYES





**A YEAR
LIKE
NO
OTHER**



“I truly believe that the trajectory of these students’ lives has been improved.” —Eric Randolph, Board Member

THIS YEAR HAS BROUGHT UNIQUE OBSTACLES to our school community and we have been honored to walk alongside our students and their families through this difficult time.

The Foundation Schools has been an educational and therapeutic home for more than 6,000 students in the last 15 years alone. We have shared our students' journeys to overcome their behavioral health challenges and experience success.

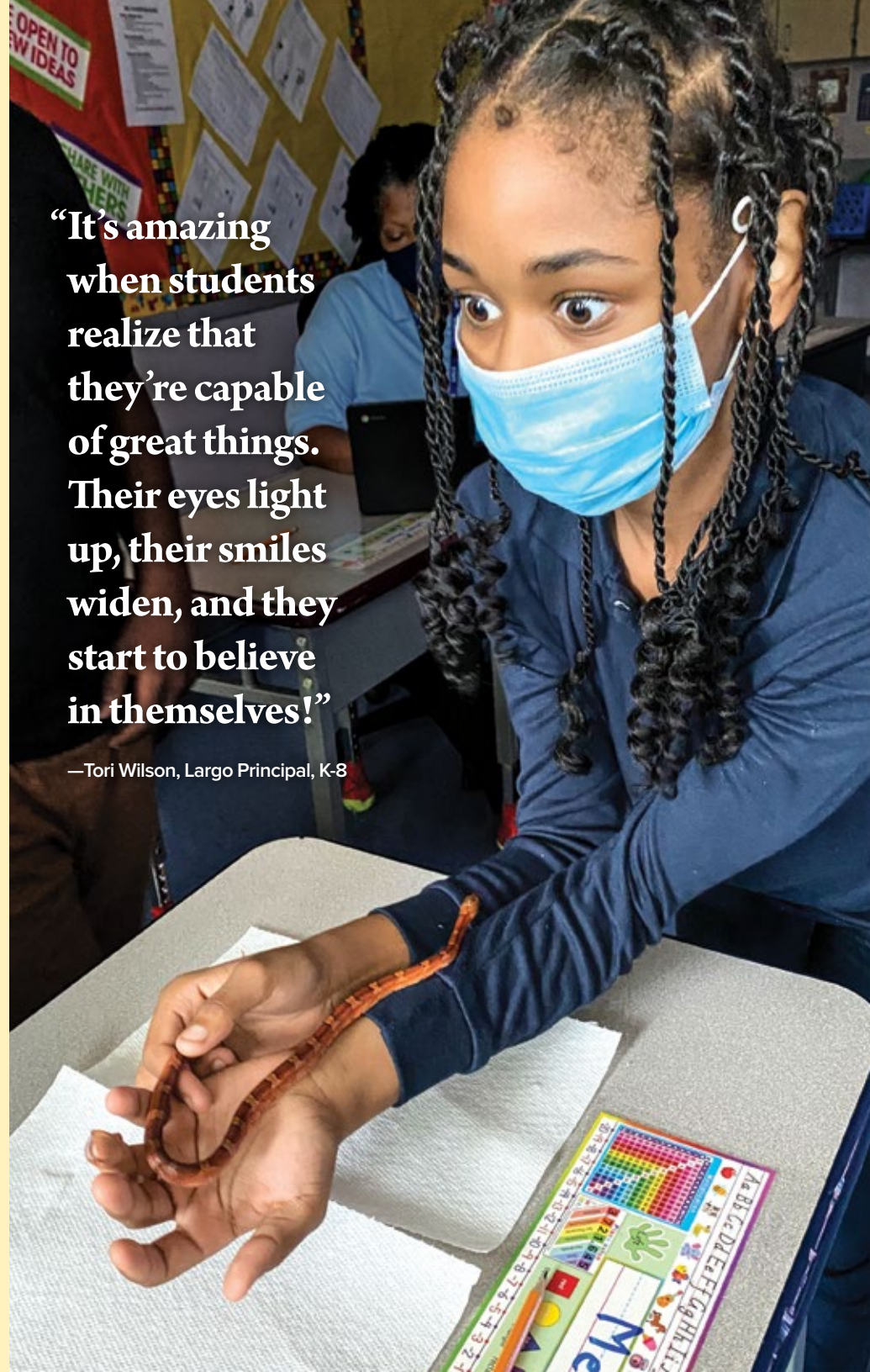
Since 1975, The Foundation Schools has helped students in grades K-12 from throughout the Washington metropolitan area conquer their behavioral, academic, mental health, and social challenges. Today we serve 300+ students a year with emotional disabilities and autism. Eighty percent of our students are economically disadvantaged. Every day, our students show incredible courage as they work to reach their goals.

Our students' successes, large and small, have been our greatest achievements of the past 46 years and we look forward to continuing to witness their triumphs along with you.



**“It’s amazing
when students
realize that
they’re capable
of great things.
Their eyes light
up, their smiles
widen, and they
start to believe
in themselves!”**

—Tori Wilson, Largo Principal, K-8



CHALLENGES FACED, **STRENGTH** FOUND

LOOKING BACK OVER THE LAST YEAR, we have endured so much together to support the school's momentum in educating students virtually and returning our students and staff to in-person learning. Our school community has worked especially hard to make sure each student experienced continuity in their learning and felt safe and welcomed during the health crisis. During the ongoing pandemic, we have been able to successfully remain connected to our students and their families to continually assist in their education and address their special needs.

Our students are great champions of triumphing over adversity. Our staff have experienced and accomplished so much together, walking beside our families to support The Foundation Schools' momentum and its vital educational and outreach missions. While the learning platform changed throughout the school year, we remained deeply committed to our mission to provide a highly specialized educational and therapeutic program for students identified with special needs, preparing them to be lifelong learners. We made the necessary adjustments in our approach to provide the services and support that our students and families required.

The support of our donors is greatly appreciated and we acknowledge the difficult times for many as this health crisis continues to negatively impact institutions, businesses, and workers. To the extent a gift is within your means, it is greatly appreciated. You can donate online at foundationschools.org or simply **scan the QR code**. You can designate your donation to the area that speaks to you. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Kelli Kunert, Director of



Please join us as we embark on our 47th year of service to our exceptional students. Scan the QR code to donate now. Thank you!

Communications & Development at 301-881-0078 x 0105 or kkunert@foundationschools.org.

Thanks to each of you for your efforts and continued dedication to The Foundation Schools. Come with us as we are Moving Forward Together to ensure our students make remarkable gains and continue their journey toward success.

Sincerely,



GINA R. JAMES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



ANDRÉ GINGLES
BOARD CHAIR



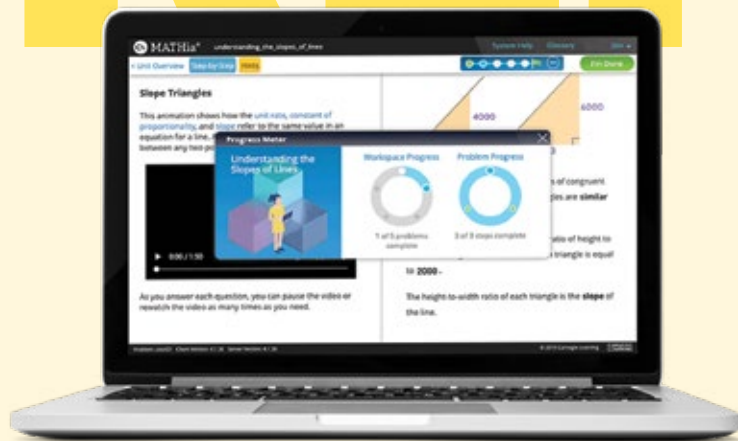
“When we hear the word ‘disability,’ often we think of something physical that we can readily identify. However, many of our students struggle every day with challenges not seen. The students at The Foundation Schools are resilient, brave, and hardworking. I am so happy to support them.”

—Adar Howard, Education Director

PREPARE

SUMMER 2020

- We enter our 46th year of service to special needs students
- Distance learning implemented using new academic platforms such as Clever, Freckle, Dreambox, Legends of Learning, MATHia, Lexia, Edgenuity, and Boom Learning
- Technology acquisition is increased to meet pandemic-learning needs
- First virtual auction
- Thermal and perimeter cameras installed in all three schools



“I learned how to be empathetic to what others go through. I can’t speak enough about how that’s shaped my life now, and it really started for me at The Foundation Schools.”

—Marquita, Alumna



THINKING OUTSIDE THE (ZOOM) BOX



THERESA McALPINE
Director of Foundation Links
LARGO LOWER SCHOOL

It is really an honor to be trusted and depended upon. Believe me, I don't take it for granted.

This past school year was full of challenges—in my life and the lives of our students, families and staff—and was a reflection of the greater world around us. My work with the Links program was full of adjustments. Initially, when I, like everyone, was still trying to understand the scope of the pandemic, every day I would check in with parents and encourage students to participate in Zoom classes.

Because I called so much, I really got an opportunity to get to know our families and they got to know me as well. In early spring of 2021, I began to reinstate home visits. Of course, home visits had to be modified and consisted of meeting on the front porch, on the sidewalk, in stairwells, or parking lots. Despite the limitations, parents and students appreciated the effort.

Financial problems escalated during this time and many families found themselves facing unemployment and lacking basic needs like food. Many churches were offering food pantry items so I began to regularly utilize them and gathered groceries for families—a lifesaver for many of them. In addition, several families were facing eviction and needed real practical assistance to remain in their homes. One family in particular was threatened with eviction on a regular basis in spite of the moratorium. On three separate occasions I met and walked with the parent to the property management office to help her advocate for paperwork that she needed, and assisted

her with completing a document which prevented her family from being evicted. This was a challenging process, but a learning opportunity as well. I have the unique opportunity to hear the intimate struggles and desires that our parents express about their children and themselves. The relationships that I have built with our families are mutually respectful and invaluable. A solution-focused approach is needed, as well as empathy and compassion. Many parents need a nonjudgmental, listening ear.



MORGANA FINNEY
Development Assistant
ADMINISTRATION

I am so grateful for our dedicated community of supporters for believing in our students' potential during these difficult times.

I joined The Foundation Schools two months before the pandemic began in March 2020, and have been in awe of the resiliency of our students and staff! Working in the Development Department, I have had the opportunity to see the important work we do for our students and share it with the world to garner support for their emerging needs. This year more than ever, students needed emotional support and basic necessities, and it's been a humbling experience to witness the immense community support we've received to meet their needs. Transitioning all aspects of fundraising to our new virtual world allowed me to think creatively and collaborate with our Director of Communications and Development Kelli Kunert to stay current with the competitive online fundraising field during COVID. I feel so proud of our department for exploring new ways to share the impact we create.

Continues on following spread



“This past school year was truly a challenging period. In spite of it all, we not only survived, we also thrived in the sense that we found out how resilient we really are as a school community.”

—Theresa McAlpine,
Director of Foundation Links

FALL 2020

- The Foundation Links team and staff increase home visits
- Training Institute and new staff orientation goes virtual
- The Foundation Learning Center, our autism program, expands student capacity to 100
- Schools prepare for students' return



“To all the staff, I appreciate all you have done for me. I appreciate you guys encouraging me to keep working and pushing myself. The staff make me feel good, the staff here make me feel welcomed.” —Jacob, Student



“When I struggled with math you took the time to help me understand it. I appreciate you for your kindness and good heart, for teaching me and helping me learn things in life. You have taught me valuable lessons and you made sure that I never fell behind. Thank you for everything you have done for me.” —Middle School Student



ADRIAN MOBLEY
Clinical Intervention Program
LARGO HIGH SCHOOL

This is a top-notch organization that focuses on benefiting our children and I am proud to be a small part of it.



BILL PRESTIANNI
Admissions & Professional Development Coordinator
THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Overall, it was a successful year that challenged our students and staff to adapt to a new environment and highlighted their strength, resiliency, and perseverance.

This adaptation made us even more accessible to families and provided the opportunity for our students to enroll and engage in the program more quickly. It was wonderful to finally see all of our students in person when we returned to the building in March 2021. An emphasis was placed on staff professional development with weekly offerings to enhance our overall skill base in

I feel that even though our students face behavioral health challenges, it is vital for us to give them the chance to succeed. The structure we provide is paramount to their continued development. Since joining The Foundation Schools, I've always been impressed with the services we provide to at-risk youth, from the exceptional special education program to the fantastic Foundation Links program.

a variety of special education areas. It was a pleasure to work so closely with my colleagues to develop and present a series of creative, high-quality training opportunities. We also continued our Preventative Services work with Montgomery County Public Schools, providing coaching and consultation for their Social Emotional Special Education Services programs. We provided guidance and support for inservice trainings, data analysis systems, student engagement, behavior management, and program recommendations.



JENNA CHWIRUT
Teacher
THE FOUNDATION LEARNING CENTER

I am proud to be a TWIRLing member of this Foundation Schools team, moving forward together!

When I joined Foundation Schools in January 2020, we could have never anticipated what was to come. My classroom was a new addition to the school, opening up just as we were shutting down in-person learning and our new virtual journey was beginning. It goes without saying that there were some challenges that came along with this transition, however I was astonished by how resilient our families and students have been. As a member of The Foundation Schools team, it is my job to support my students, their families, and my colleagues. Under these new circumstances, creative solutions were needed to meet the individual needs of each party. Even when some of my students found it difficult to communicate via Zoom or had difficulties navigating the digital platform independently, I came to class each day equipped with new solutions to engage and meet each student where they were. No matter what this year threw our way, I and my colleagues were there ready to step up to the plate and put in the extra time to make sure our classes and the entire team were successful and thriving.



“I never knew 14 years ago when I was hired that the kids would literally be able to teach me how to be a better person. And then to watch the resiliency of these kids has been a blessing.”

—James Thompson, Program Assistant

“Your school is something else. You and your staff have been a blessing to this home. Words cannot express enough how I feel. Thank you for everything and thank everyone else for having compassion. Thanks again.” —Parent



Grant received from the Pearl Elegance Foundation, Inc.

WINTER 2021

- Selected to receive training on Collaborative & Proactive Solutions

- Community Food Giveaway Event

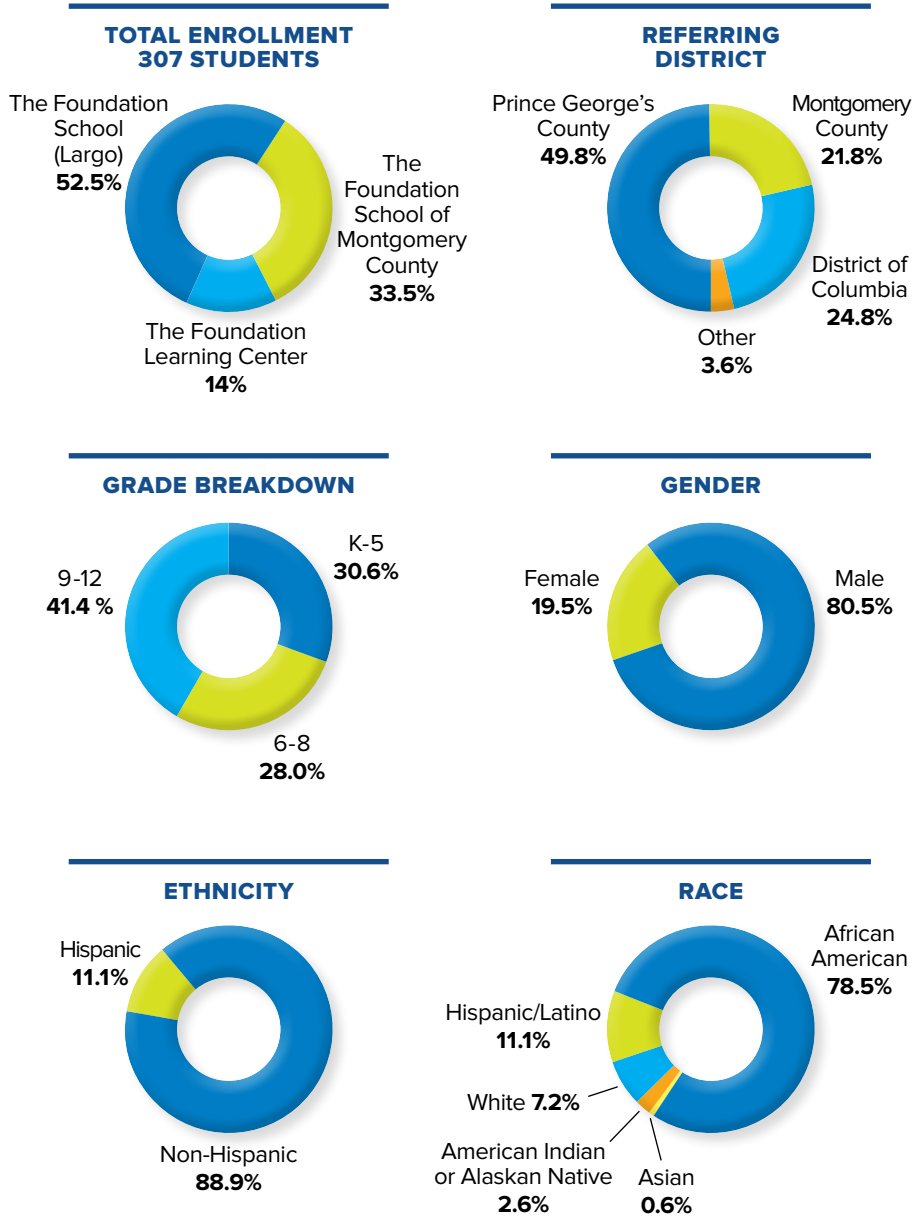
- Return to school in hybrid model on March 15, 2021



“My staff is there for me all the time no matter what. She is like a mom to me. She will always have a space in my heart.” —Anthony, Student



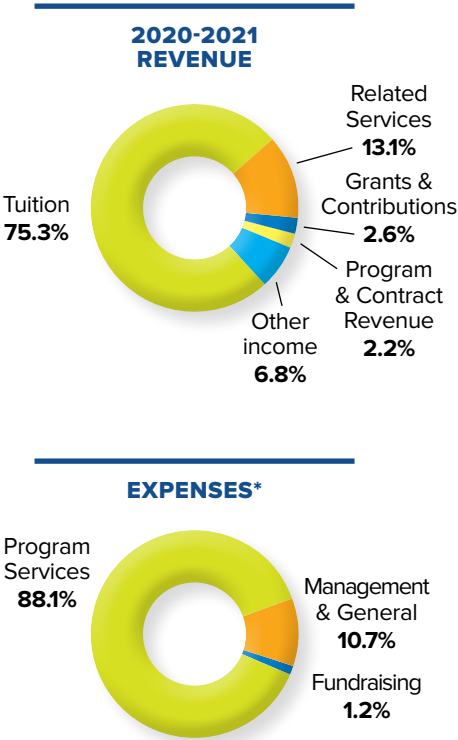
STUDENT BODY



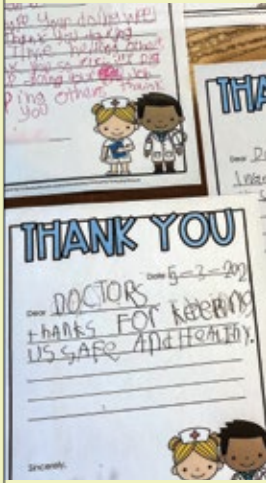
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOLS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is committed to transparency through annual audits and 990 reporting while providing the highest level of service to our students. The organization's primary revenue comes from tuition and related services paid by state and local jurisdictions. These funds do not cover the supplemental programs our students require to succeed in school. Community support in the form of grants and contributions from our partners and donors enables us to further our mission of preparing students to be successful contributing members of society.

Our continuing challenge has been to meet the intensive educational, clinical, and behavioral needs of our students. With 80% of our student population living in poverty, the needs are great. Outreach services such as in-home interventions and linking families to outside resources are vital to our students' success and supported primarily by grants and donations.



***According to the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, a charity must spend 65% or more of its expenses to directly fund programs to achieve accreditation. At The Foundation Schools, 88.1% of revenue is spent on programs and direct services for our students.**



SPRING 2021

- Successful bid to launch Type II program in a Montgomery County public school for students in need of an Individualized Education Program
- The Foundation Learning Center becomes a 12-month program in July 2021
- More than 3,000 home visits made during the pandemic

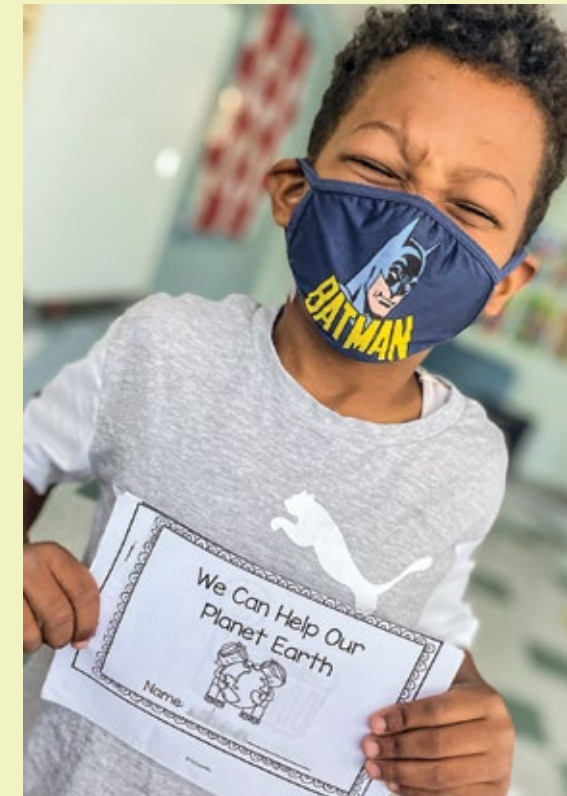


“The Foundation School is a place where our students come to feel safe, nurtured, and supported. Once students feel safe and supported, they are in a better place where they can be ready to learn.”

—Cheryl Roberts-Samsingh, Therapist

“My therapist is so nice. She has done a lot of nice things for me, such as taking me for walks and getting me food. She has made me feel happy because she has always been there for me. She is very kind, sweet, loving, and caring.”

—Elementary Student



THANKS TO YOU, WE ARE THRIVING

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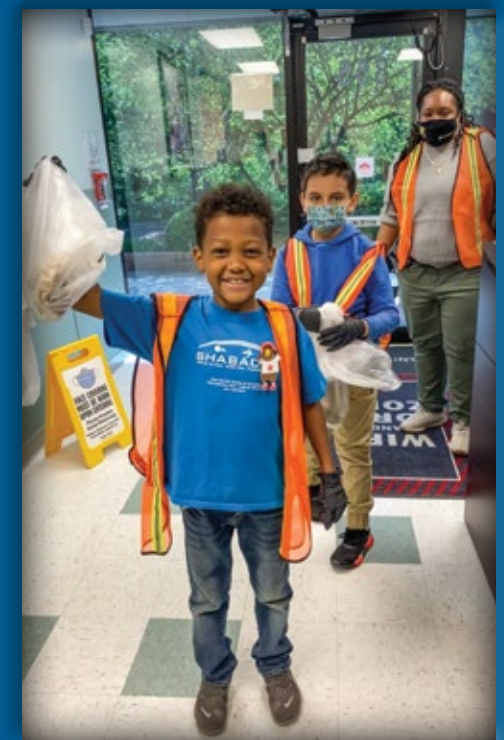
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“Thank you for helping me with my schoolwork, helping me calm down when I’m upset and giving everyone a raise.”

—High School Student



SUMMER 2021

- Graduation
June 2021
- Extended hybrid
model to include
more time for
in-person instruction
in July 2021
- Goal achieved of
two computers
(home and school)
for every student
- Summer Graduation
August 2021
- Host two COVID-19
vaccination clinics
at our Largo campus



“I definitely got some life-long lessons from The Foundation Schools that now, 17 years later, are still instilled in me.” —Arné, Alumna

“The biggest joy I have every day is making an impact on the students’ lives. They are amazing. They show us their potential every single day. I am proud to be a part of their lives.”

—Ebonye Young, Largo Principal, 9-12

SUCCESS

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SCHOOLS

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL
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Largo, MD 20774

Grades K-8
Tori Wilson, M.A., Principal

Grades 9-12
Ebonye Young, M. Ed., Principal

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
220 Girard Street, Suite 300
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Grades 1-12
Tamiko Lobaugh, M.A., Principal

THE FOUNDATION LEARNING CENTER
855 Brightseat Road, Suite 855
Landover, MD 20785

Grades K-8
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SCHOOL STAFFING FOR 2020-2021

The Foundation Schools is fully accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education and the District of Columbia and meets the curriculum requirements of each student's local school system. Our dedicated interdisciplinary team is committed to making a difference in our students' lives. Our staff includes:

Teachers

Program Assistants

Program Therapists

Principals

Education Directors

Clinical Directors

Psychiatrist

Diagnostic-Prescriptive Teachers

IEP Professionals

Directors of Behavior Management

Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Behavior Coordinators

Behavior Specialists

Dedicated Aides

Links Program Staff

Transition Program Coordinator

Administrative Assistants

Admissions Coordinators

Library and Media Center Specialist

Occupational Therapists (OT)

Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP)

All of our teachers are certified by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Our program therapists all hold master's degrees, are licensed, and have an average of 13 years of clinical experience.

40% of our employees have been with The Foundation Schools for five years or more, 24% for more than 10 years.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:
mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410
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OUR GOAL

To inspire, uplift, and motivate our students to strive for a bright future and believe they can achieve their dreams.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide a highly specialized educational and therapeutic program for students identified with emotional disabilities, as well as those with social, emotional and learning challenges, preparing them to be lifelong learners.

OUR VISION

All Students Experience Success

OUR CORE VALUES

TEAMWORK
WORK ETHIC
INTEGRITY
RESPECT
LEADERSHIP

OUR PLEDGE

I will **LEAD** by example and **WORK** hard to achieve my goals.

I will be a **TEAM**mate today so that I can be a **LEADER** tomorrow.

I will show my own **INTEGRITY** to earn the **RESPECT** of others...

Because these are my **CORE VALUES**!

“What drew me to The Foundation Schools was the opportunity to work with emotionally disabled kids in an academic setting. What kept me there all those years was to see the positive effect that highly trained teachers, therapists, and support staff have on the ability to transform the lives of these kids.”

—Andy Adler, past CEO, The Foundation Schools



Your generosity is vital to our mission. Many thanks in advance for supporting our amazing students! Scan the QR code or donate online at



FoundationSchools.org

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THE
FOUNDATION
SCHOOLS

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to learn how you can help!**



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