

**23-24**

**MAGGIE L. WALKER  
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT**



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# YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

## Dragon Nation,

Since our first class of students crossed the stage and collected their diplomas 30 years ago, donors like you have been an integral part of their education. Your generous support has allowed us to augment a stellar Maggie L. Walker Governor's School academic experience with lots of meaningful "extras" that set our school apart.

Each year, the Foundation receives an increased number of grant requests, starting with funding student travel across the country and around the world, as well as professional development for our stellar faculty. Requests for smaller grants are just as important, such as easels for Senior Seminar presentations and prom tickets for students who might otherwise not attend.

You make all that happen—and so much more.

In these pages, see how your dollars are broadening academic opportunities for our highly motivated and gifted students. Through unique educational opportunities and cultural experiences, we make learning even more personal and enriching for each successive class. Put more simply, your gifts provide a critical margin of excellence for everyone at this incredible institution.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and welcome your continued generosity. Your gifts carry forward as our alums advance through college, begin their careers and make meaningful contributions to society. Your investment may happen today, but our community reaps benefits for years to come.

Ginger O'Neil  
Executive Director

## MLWGS Mission

To provide comprehensive educational opportunities that advance gifted students' understanding of world cultures and languages. Our diverse and supportive community develops students' character and ability to contribute, collaborate and lead.

## MLWGS Foundation

### Our Mission

The Governor's School Foundation cultivates resources to enhance the educational experience of ALL students at MLWGS.

### Our Vision

All MLWGS students have access to educational resources to reach their full potential.

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## 2023–24 MLWGS Foundation Board of Directors & Staff

### Officers

Stinson Mundy, *Chair*  
Beth Simms, *Vice Chair/*  
*Events Committee Chair*  
Karen Setzer '99, *Treasurer*  
Jewel Caven, *Secretary*  
Erin Ortiz '06, *Alumni*  
*Steering Chair*  
Adam Powers '10, *Finance*  
*Committee Chair*  
Emily Stegmaier Winbigler '00, *Governance Committee Chair*

Barrie Bowers  
Veronica Chornodolsky  
Brad Ewald  
Tyler Gibson  
Jonathan Huyard  
Monique Johnson  
Cynthia Kostelecky  
Julie Seabury

### Ex Officio

Robert Lowerre, *Ex-officio*  
*MLWGS Director*  
Veronica Chornodolsky,  
*President MLWGS PTSA*  
Kenneth Pritchett, *Regional*  
*School Board Chair*

### Members

Lakshmi Algappan  
Neil Amin '96  
Brian Baird

# ABOUT MLWGS



2023 graduates Umesh Gunendran and Ryan Marks.

## Class of 2024

- 176 graduates / Average GPA: 4.29
- Performed 33,063 community service hours
- Received nearly \$10 million in scholarship offers
- Attending 59 different colleges, with one appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.
- 16 National Merit Finalists, with 30 additional commendations in National Merit Program.
- Recognized collectively with 316 honors, awards and scholarships
- 8 National Merit Award semi-finalists

School Facts and Statistics

794

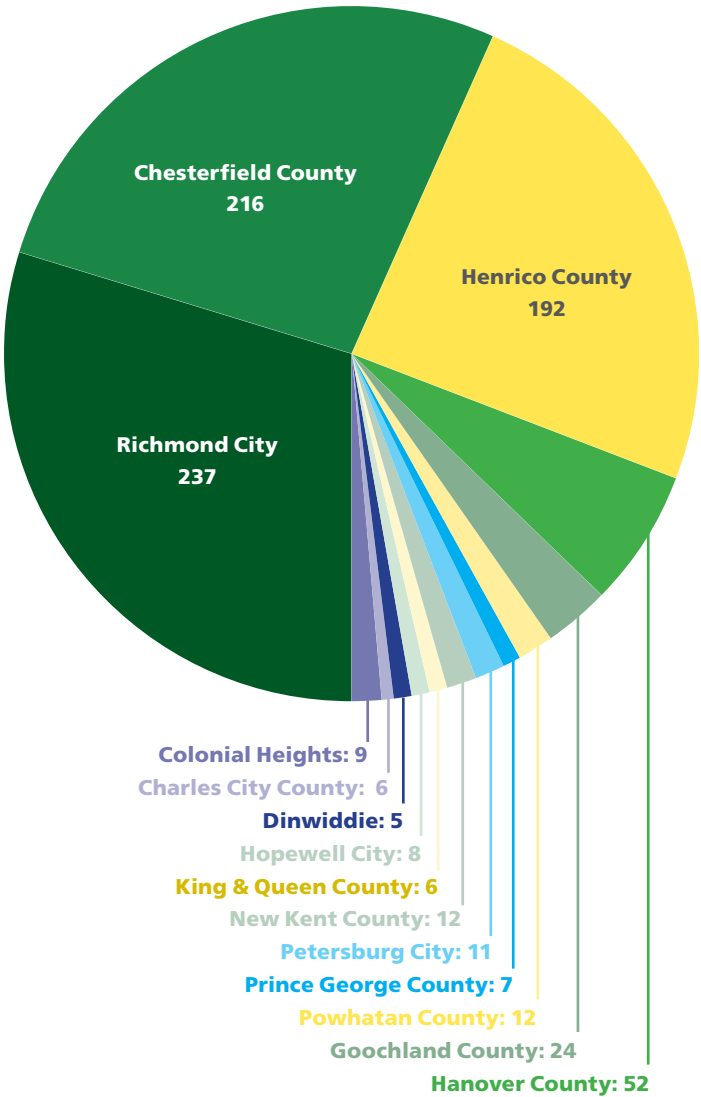
Total enrollment (grades 9–12)

196

Total enrollment (class of 2024)

63 full-time faculty  
6 part-time faculty  
7 university faculty

## Enrollment by Place of Residence





# THE MLWGS FOUNDATION @WORK

## Enhancement Grants

The Foundation deploys grants in two ways to enhance the educational and extracurricular environment. In our 2023–24 academic year, we committed:

- **\$195,000** for instructional enhancements, academic clubs and teams, student travel and direct student aid (54 grants)
- **\$30,000** for teachers' professional development, including conference participation, graduate studies and educational association memberships (39 grants)

93

ENHANCEMENT  
GRANTS IN  
2023–24

## Student Aid

### Students in need received:

- Fees for courses, clubs and dual enrollment
- SAT fees not covered by CollegeBoard waivers
- Instruments and supplies
- Class and club spiritwear
- Prom tickets
- Graduation caps and gowns



GSMUN students at W&M's High School Model UN competition in November 2023.

## Academic Clubs & Teams

### Foundation funding assisted:

- 50 students attending the High School Model United Nations in November
- Snacks for community youths in the Newtowne tutoring program
- Schoolwide Diwali celebration
- 7 student-participants in the Japan Bowl in April
- Peer mentor activities and graduation stoles
- Young Republicans Club attendance at CPAC 2024
- Participants in the Technology Student Association State Competition (Technosphere)
- 5 students attended the TSA National Conference in June

- Travel for the "We the People" team to the national competition in Washington, D.C.
- 15 students participating in Quiz Bowl Nationals in May and June

## Classroom & Instructional Enhancements

### The Foundation supplements instructional needs, such as:

- AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government and Politics curriculum bundles to pair with current materials that are nearly a decade old

- Wood carving tools for a lesson with a visiting artist
- Postage for global classmates support with Japanese peers
- 10 copies of "I Never Thought of That Way" by Monica Guzman for use by OSS organizers
- Honorarium to the visiting Alash Tuvan Throat Singers for Slavic Folklore Seminar and all students
- Printing and binding of oral history projects for Historiography students
- Easels for Senior Seminar presentations
- Printing of the *Jabberwock*, the school newspaper

# THE MLWGS FOUNDATION @WORK

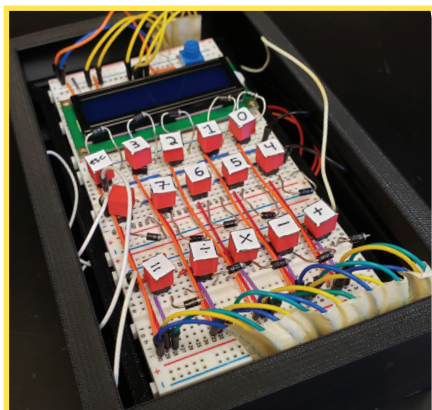


Scan this code to learn more about the MLWGS Foundation and how you can support our Dragons today!

*Left: MLWGS students in Germany as part of a German Exchange program that also brought German students to MLWGS.*



World Lit 9 students participated in an Oedipus mask dance-off, reenacting a scene from the play to popular music and using masks that they created in class.



MLWGS Foundation funding provided supplies for the Oedipus mask dance-off (top) as well as the Octal Calculator for engineering students (above).

## Student Travel

### Students were able to travel to:

**12 U.S. cities:** Baltimore, Atlanta, Cooperstown, N.Y., Greensboro, N.C., Hampton, Va., New York, Orlando, Fl., Philadelphia, Phoenix, across Richmond, Washington, D.C., and Williamsburg, Va.

**9 states:** Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia

**8 foreign countries:** Costa Rica, England, France, Spain, Ireland, Morocco, Panama and France

### Enhancement grants supported:

- 12 students in the Middle East North Africa seminar to travel to Morocco
- Participation in the Panama Trip, including tip money, for 29 students
- 16 students in Historiography to visit the John Marshall House
- 10 students in the Gender, Politics and Consumerism seminar to travel to Fort Gregg-Adams' U.S. Army Women's Museum
- 10 students in the Gender, Politics and Consumerism seminar to visit Washington, D.C., to tour women's suffrage sites and monuments



# THE MLWGS FOUNDATION @WORK



*Piersol with daughter, Olive, at a mural of Frederick Douglass they discovered in Scotland during his Taylor Teaching Award trip.*

## *Patricia E. Taylor Teaching Award for International Experiences*

English teacher John Piersol—and member of MLWGS class of 2002—received the 2024 Taylor Teaching Award.

John used the award to travel to England, Scotland, Ireland and France, following the footsteps of Frederick Douglass abroad. His travel experience allowed him to contextualize the social reformer's life after publishing the "Narrative of Frederick Douglass," with a goal of bringing a more holistic perspective of Douglass' impact on the 19th century world back into the classroom.

By simultaneously studying Douglass' own writings and biographies recounting his travels, John gained a better understanding of the profound awakening Douglass experienced while in Europe. That insight into the social reformer and abolitionist's life and works will allow John to add new dimensions to his teaching.

## *Teacher Professional Development*

### **Graduate courses completed**

- Foundations of Gifted Education
- Models and Strategies for Teaching the Gifted
- Social/Emotional Needs of Gifted Students
- Curriculum for Gifted & Talented Students
- Curriculum in Gifted Education
- Special Populations of Gifted Students
- Social, Emotional and Counseling Issues in Talent Development

### **Conferences attended**

- AP Annual Conference
- Foreign Language Association of Virginia Fall Conference
- Bridges 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia
- American Strings Teachers Association National Conference
- High Reliability Schools Summit
- Wendy DeGroat presented at the American Library Association Conference
- Sam Ulmschneider delivered a paper, "James Wilson, Benjamin Rush and the Limits of Elite-Democratic Consensus Previous Fundraising Efforts," at the 2024 Telos NY Conference on the Limits of Democratic Thought

### **Memberships**

- National Board Certification
- American School Counselors Association
- National Association of Music Educators National
- Virginia Music Education Association
- American Association of Physics Teachers
- National Association of Biology Teachers
- American Association of Teachers of Japanese
- American Council of Teachers of Russian
- American Association of German Teachers