



SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL

Let Your Lives Speak

SSFS School Profile 2019-2020

16923 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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CEEB Code: 210937

Our Mission

Sandy Spring Friends School provides a welcoming and nurturing learning community with Friends testimonies and Meeting for Worship central to its life and vitality. A challenging academic curriculum, enriched arts program, inclusive athletics, and service opportunities promote intellectual excellence and strength of character. Recognizing the unique worth of each person, the School strives to develop individual talents and foster caring and effective citizens of the world.

School and Community

Founded in 1961, Sandy Spring Friends School is a progressive, coed, independent day and boarding school serving 600 students from age three through 12th grade. The campus is located on 144 acres in the historic Sandy Spring area of Montgomery County, Maryland. SSFS maintains a diverse community of learners— 42% of our students identify as students of color and we enroll 90 international students representing 16 different countries. For the 2019-20 school year, SSFS awarded over \$5 million in financial aid. Sandy Spring Friends School is approved by the Maryland State Board of Education and accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland/DC Schools.

Quaker Education

Our school's culture—rooted in the idea that collaboration engenders achievement—can be traced to our Quaker heritage and abiding belief in the Quaker values of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship (SPICES). Our teachers are lifelong mentors and strive to identify and cultivate each student's intellectual, extracurricular, and social passions. SSFS students are taught to act upon what they learn and this call to action propels their accomplishments as graduates.

Associations and Memberships

Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools; Friends Council on Education; National Association for College Admission Counseling; National Association of Independent Schools; ACT State Organization—Maryland/DC/Delaware; The College Board



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & COLLEGE COUNSELORS

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Thomas Gibian

HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

Jonathan Oglesbee

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Christopher Miller

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Candice Ashton

UPPER SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR & REGISTRAR

Meredith Shankle

The Curriculum

Sandy Spring Friends School offers an inquiry-based college preparatory program that emphasizes deep understanding throughout the curriculum while encouraging collaboration, instilling confidence, fostering practical experience, and cultivating respect for others. SSFS teachers help students internalize a process we call “QRA”—Question, Reflection, Action—which ensures that they think critically, integrate new knowledge, and apply what they learn.

The Upper School operates on a semester system with graduation requirements that encourage students to explore a wide range of interests in the arts, humanities, math, science, and cultural studies. Students receive ½ credit for semester-long courses and 1 credit for year-long courses. All credits must be earned in grades 9-12.

Minimum **graduation requirements** are as follows:

ENGLISH 4 English Credits	MATH 3 Math Credits (incl. Algebra II)	HISTORY 3 History Credits (incl. World & US History)	SCIENCE 3 Science Credits (one year of biological science & physical science required)	ART 3 Art Credits (incl. Early and Modern Arts & Ideas)
GLOBAL LANGUAGE 3 Global Language Credits (Students enrolled in ESOL courses are exempt)	ATHLETICS 3 Athletics Credits	QUAKERISM 1 Semester of Quakerism (for students entering after 9th grade)	COMMUNITY SERVICE 100 Hours of Community Service (for students entering in 9th grade)	

2019–2020 Upper School Course Offerings

English

English 9 • English 10 | **Electives (semester-long, except where noted):** African American Literature • American Immigrants • The Private Sphere: Creative Nonfiction • Critical Writing • Fictional Short Stories • The Power of Words • Hyphenated Americans • Magic Realism in Literature and Cinema • World Literature • AP English Language (*full year*) • AP English Literature (*full year*)

Mathematics

Algebra I • Algebra II • Advanced Algebra II • Integrated Geometry • Finance w/Applied Mathematics • Pre-Calculus • Advanced Pre-Calculus • Calculus • AP Calculus AB • AP Calculus BC • AP Statistics • AP Computer Science A • Introduction to Computer Science (*semester*) • iOS Applications Development (*semester*)

History

World History I • World History II • US History and Government | **Electives:** Latin American Studies (*semester*) • AP Comparative Government & Politics • AP Psychology • AP US History • AP World History

Science

Biology • Applied Chemistry • Systematic Chemistry • Physics | **Electives (semester-long, except where noted):** Astronomy • Bioethics • Geology • Meteorology • Oceanography • Robotics • Intro Mechanical Engineering & Design • Intro Electrical Engineering & Design • Adv. Techniques in Fabrication & Design • Anatomy & Physiology (*full year*) • AP Chemistry (*full year*) • AP Environmental Science (*full year*) • AP Physics (*full year*)

Arts

Arts & Ideas I: Early Art • Arts & Ideas II: Modern Art • Acting • Ceramics • Chorus • Handbells • Instrumental Music • Modern Dance • Advanced Modern Dance • Musical Production • Play Production • Photography • Stagecraft • Studio Art • Advanced Studio Art • Weaving & Fibers • Woodworking • AP Music Theory (*full year*)

Global Languages

Chinese II • Chinese III • Chinese IV • AP Chinese Language • French Foundations • Intermediate French • Adv. French Concepts • Adv. French: History & Literature • Spanish Foundations • Intermediate Spanish • Adv. Spanish Concepts • Adv. Spanish: History • Adv. Spanish: Communications • AP French Language • AP Spanish Language

ESOL

Culture and Communication • Intermediate Academic English • Advanced Composition • Advanced Literature • Writing Seminar • World History

Additional Electives

Farming for Fitness • Fundamentals of Rock Climbing • Model UN (*full year, conference participation required*) • Newspaper • Outdoor Leadership • Yearbook (*full year*) • Yoga

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

In recognition of the diversity of the school, SSFS offers non-native English speakers a full two- to three-year program of language development instruction and support in English and History. ESOL courses at SSFS are very rigorous, combining the same content that they would receive in non-ESOL courses with additional guidance in reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar. Experienced teachers who are specially trained in teaching English Language Learners teach these courses. This specialized instruction ensures that students are well-prepared to succeed in mainstream (non-ESOL) high school and college courses.

Intersession

Intersession is a one-to-two-week period each spring when all students and faculty participate in special projects outside the classroom at either the local, regional, national, or international level. Participation is required each year of enrollment at SSFS. These projects offer students the opportunity for service learning or further hands-on study of topics covered in their classes. Recent experiences have included: Quaker Legacy of Social Justice; Paint the Desert: New Mexico National Art Immersion; El Camino de Santiago: Hiking Spain’s “The Way of St. James.”

Campus Leadership

SSFS offers a wide variety of opportunities annually for students to lead our community and engage the world outside the classroom. In keeping with Quaker tradition, leaders of campus committees and organizations are designated as “Clerks” and chosen by their peers to facilitate meetings and initiatives. Some activities include:

- Torch – Student Government Association
- Admissions Ambassadors
- Student Publications
- Youth Peace Conference
- Performing Arts—plays and musicals, instrumental, vocal, and dance ensembles
- Diversity Issues and Social Justice groups
- Organic Farming
- Quiz Bowl/It’s Academic
- Robotics
- Varsity Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Ice Hockey (Club Team), Lacrosse, Rock Climbing, Soccer, Track and Field, Volleyball
- Intramural Sports: Kickball, Basketball, Badminton, SSFS Morley Games

Advanced Placement

See Upper School Curriculum for complete list of AP courses available in 2019-2020.

- SSFS faculty consider three AP courses in 11th or 12th grade most challenging for any student. Students must have explicit permission from the Academic Dean and Department Heads to enroll in more than that.
- Students enrolled in AP courses are expected to sit for the exam.

In 2019, 119 students took 240 AP exams. Of the scores earned, 74% earned a 3 or higher; 45% earned a 4 or higher; and 20% earned a score of 5.

2019 AP Scholar Awards

- Scholar: 17
- Scholar with Honors: 9
- Scholar with Distinction: 13
- National Scholar: 1

The Class of 2020

Class size: 74 students
Mean Unweighted Grade Point Average: 3.37

Grading System

H = 5.00*	A+ = 4.33	A = 4.00	A- = 3.66
B+ = 3.33	B = 3.00	B- = 2.66	
C+ = 2.33	C = 2.00	C- = 1.66	
D+ = 1.33	D = 1.00	D- = 0.66	F = 0.00

*An honors grade (H) is reserved for **exceptional** work that not only exceeds highest expectation but also reveals deep and possibly new insight into the subject matter. It is extremely difficult and uncommon for students to earn an honors grade in any course.

Note:
SSFS does not weight grades or rank students.
SSFS does not offer honors courses.



Sample List of College Acceptances (2016–2019)

Colleges listed in **bold** indicate at least one matriculated student from SSFS.

Alfred University
Allegheny College
American Musical/Dramatic Academy
American University
Amherst College
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Bard College
Bates College
Beloit College
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bowie State University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Butler University
California State–Long Beach
Carleton College
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Cazenovia College
Centenary University
Chapman University
Christopher Newport University
Clark University
Cleveland State University
Coastal Carolina University

Colby College
Colgate University
College of the Atlantic
College of Charleston
College of William and Mary
College of Wooster
Connecticut College
Curry College
DePaul University
Denison University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Durham University
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Emory University
Flagler College
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Southern College
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
Germanna Community College

Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Hamilton College
Hampton University
Haverford College
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Hollins University
Hood College
Howard Community College
Howard University
Hult International Business School
Indiana University–Bloomington
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Kennesaw State University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lebanon Valley College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Loughborough College (UK)



Sample List of College Acceptances (2016–2019)

Loyola University-Chicago

Loyola University-Maryland

Lynn University

Macalester College

Marist College

Marquette University

Maryland Institute College of Art

McDaniel College

McGill University

Messiah College

Michigan State University

Monmouth University

Montgomery College

Morehouse College

Morgan State University

Mount St. Mary's University (MD)

Muhlenberg College

New York University

North Carolina A&T University

North Carolina State University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University

Norwich University (UK)

Nova Southeastern University

Oberlin College

Ohio University

Ohio State University

Ohio Wesleyan University

Oregon State University

Pace University

PA Highlands Community College

Penn State University

Pepperdine University

Pitzer College

Point Park University

Pratt Institute

Purdue University

Quest University-Canada

Quinnipiac University

Randolph College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Richmond University-London

Rider University

Roanoke College

Rochester Institute of Technology-Croatia

Rollins College

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Rutgers University-Newark

Saint Louis University

Salisbury University

Sarah Lawrence College

SCAD

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Seattle University

Seton Hall University

Shenandoah University

Simmons College

Skidmore College

Smith College

Southern Methodist University

Spelman College

St. John's College (MD)

St. John's University (NY)

St. Joseph's University

St. Lawrence University

St. Mary's College (MD)

St. Olaf College

Stevens Institute of Technology

Stevenson University

Stony Brook University

Susquehanna University

Syracuse University

Temple University

Texas A&M University

The New School

Towson University

Tufts University

Tulane University

University of Arizona

University of the Arts

UC-Berkeley

UC-Davis

UC-Irvine

UCLA

UC-San Diego

UC-Santa Barbara

University of Cambridge (UK)

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado-Boulder

University of Connecticut

University of Delaware

University of Denver

University of Edinburgh

University of Hawaii-Manoa

University of Illinois-Urbana

University of Maryland-Baltimore County

University of Maryland-College Park

University of Massachusetts-Amherst

University of Melbourne

University of Miami

University of Michigan

UNC-Asheville

UNC-Chapel Hill

UNC-Greensboro

UNC School of the Arts

UNC-Wilmington

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Puget Sound

University of Redlands

University of Richmond

University of Rochester

University of San Francisco

University of Scranton

University of South Carolina

University of South Florida

University of St. Andrews

University of Tampa

University of Toronto

University of Vermont

University of Virginia

University of Warwick (UK)

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ursinus College

Vassar College

Villanova University

Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Tech

Wake Forest University

Warren Wilson College

Washington and Lee University

Washington College

Washington University in St. Louis

Wesleyan University

West Chester University (PA)

Wheaton College (MA)

Whittier College

Widener University

Willamette University

Wittenberg University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Xavier University (LA)