



SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL

Let Your Lives Speak

SSFS School Profile 2020-2021

16923 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Phone: 301-774-7455 x178 • Fax: 301-924-1115 • Website: www.ssfs.org

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 over 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. Sandy Spring Friends School is approved by the Maryland State Board of Education and accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland/DC Schools. SSFS maintains a diverse community of learners: for the 2020-2021 school year,

- 46% of our students identify as students of color;
- 62 international students are enrolled, representing 11 different countries;
- SSFS has awarded over \$5 million in financial aid.

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

Dr. Rodney Glasgow

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 ninth grade students are taught Quakerism in the Freshman Seminar course and it is threaded throughout the World History and US History curricula. All credits toward graduation 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 Included as part of the History & Advisory Curricula	COMMUNITY SERVICE 100 Hours of Community Service (for students entering in 9th grade)	

2020–2021 Upper School Course Offerings

English

English 9 • English 10 | **Electives (semester-long, except where noted):** African American Literature • American Immigrants • Critical Writing • Hyphenated Americans • Race, Gender, and Nationality • 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*) • Middle East Studies (*semester*) • AP Comparative Government & Politics • AP US History • AP World History

Science

Biology • Chemistry • Physics | **Electives (semester-long, except where noted):** Bioethics • Oceanography • Intro Mechanical Engineering & Design • Intro Electrical Engineering & Design • Anatomy & Physiology (*full year*) • AP Chemistry (*full year*) • AP Environmental Science (*full year*) • AP Physics (*full year*) • Forensics (*full year*)

Arts

Arts & Ideas I: Early Art • Arts & Ideas II: Modern Art • Acting • Ceramics • Chorus • Digital Photography • Handbells • Instrumental Music/Pit Band • Modern Dance • Advanced Modern Dance • Musical Production • Orchestra • Play Production • Stagecraft • Studio Art • Advanced Studio Art • Weaving & Fibers • Woodworking • Yearbook & Digital Media Arts

Global Languages

Chinese IV • French Foundations • Intermediate French • Adv. French Concepts • Adv. French: Global Perspectives • 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 I & II

Additional Electives

Farming for Fitness • Fundamentals of Rock Climbing • Model UN (*full year, conference participation required*) • Newspaper • Virtual Fitness for Life • 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." Note: This program has recently been impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions, but SSFS will continue to offer it in future years.

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, Affinity Groups, 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 2020-2021.

- SSFS faculty consider two 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.
- AP courses for 10th grade are extremely limited, thus very few students take one. However, if a student is eligible to take more than one AP course, they must have explicit permission from the Academic Dean.
- Students enrolled in AP courses are expected to sit for the exam.

In 2020, 147 students took 259 AP exams. Of the scores earned, 74% earned a 3 or higher; 45% earned a 4 or higher; and 23% earned a score of 5.

The Class of 2020

Class size: 85 students

2020 AP Scholar Awards

- Scholar: 20
- Scholar with Honors: 13
- Scholar with Distinction: 10
- National Scholar: 2



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.



Independent Study & Senior Projects

Students who wish to pursue a topic beyond the level of the Upper School curriculum may propose the formation of an independent study course. Independent study is reserved for students who have exhausted available offerings in a particular department or discipline, and it is expected to demand of a student at least as much time and academic demand, if not more, as a scheduled course. Courses are sponsored by an SSFS faculty member who oversees the student’s work and assesses the student’s performance. Independent studies must be requested by an extensive, formal, written proposal created by the student, with the help of the sponsoring faculty member.

A recently-launched “Senior Project” program gives seniors the option to apply for and participate in an experiential and project-based learning opportunity. With inquiry, reflection, and action at its core, Senior Projects are selective, elective, learner-centered and self-directed passion projects that affords approved participants the opportunity to let their lives speak beyond the traditional high school environment. Senior Projects culminate in a formal and reflective presentation to a panel of faculty, staff, alumni and Trustees. The Senior Project is recognized as a second semester elective course on the transcript and is graded in the form of Pass/Fail.





Sample List of College Acceptances (2017-2020)

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
California State-Long Beach
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Centenary University
Chapman 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
Colorado College
Concordia University (Canada)
Connecticut College
Curry College
DePaul University
Denison University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
Durham University (UK)
Earlham College
Eastern Mennonite University
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Southern College
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
Gettysburg College

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





Sample List of College Acceptances (Continued)

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

Marist College

Maryland Institute College of Art

McDaniel College

McGill University (Canada)

Messiah College

Michigan State University

Middlebury College

Monmouth University

Montgomery College

Morehouse College

Morgan State University

Mount St. Mary's University (MD)

Mount Holyoke College

Muhlenberg College

New York University

North Carolina A&T University

North Carolina State University

Northeastern University

Norwich University (UK)

Nova Southeastern University

Oberlin College

Ohio State University

Ohio Wesleyan University

Oregon State University

PA Highlands Community College

Penn State University

Pepperdine University

Pitzer College

Point Park University

Pratt Institute

Purdue University

Quest University (Canada)

Quinnipiac University

Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Richmond University-London (UK)

Roanoke College

Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)

**Rochester Institute of Technology
(Croatia)**

Rollins College

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rutgers University

Saint Louis University

Salisbury University

Salt Lake Community College

Sarah Lawrence College

SCAD

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Shenandoah University

Simmons College

Skidmore College

Smith College

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

Suffolk University

Susquehanna University

Syracuse University

Temple University

Texas A&M University

Texas Tech University

The New School

Towson University

Tufts University

Tulane University

Universidad Europea (Spain)

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 (UK)

University of Hartford

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 (Australia)

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of New Brunswick (Canada)

University of New Hampshire

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 Diego

University of San Francisco

University of South Carolina

University of South Florida

University of St. Andrews (UK)

University of Tampa

University of Toronto (Canada)

University of Vermont

University of Virginia

University of Warwick (UK)

University of Washington

University of Waterloo (Canada)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ursinus College

Vassar College

Villanova University

Virginia Tech

Wake Forest University

Warren Wilson College

Washington and Lee University

Washington College

Washington University in St. Louis

Wesleyan University

Wheaton College (MA)

Whittier College

Widener University

Willamette University

Wittenberg University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Xavier University (LA)

York College of PA