



**SANDY SPRING
FRIENDS SCHOOL**
Let Your Lives Speak

SSFS School Profile 2024-2025

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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 approximately 620 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 2024-2025 school year:

- 54% of Upper School students identify as students of color (% school-wide);
- 18 international students are enrolled, representing 5 different countries;
- 36 students reside in the campus dorm;
- SSFS allocated over \$6.3M in financial aid school-wide.



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.

Commitment to Equity, Justice, and Belonging

Sandy Spring Friends School's programming (curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular) embraces the School's commitment to diversity, equity, justice, and belonging as critical to our core mission. These values inform the education and development of all in our community, and actively foster a culture of inclusivity that values multiple perspectives and is supported by transformational dialogue and civic engagement.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & COLLEGE COUNSELORS

Christine Lewis
INTERIM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Meredith Shankle
HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

Tiffany Evans
ASSISTANT HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

Christopher Miller
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Candice Ashton
DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE & COLLEGE COUNSELOR

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

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 <i>(incl. Algebra II)</i>	HISTORY 3 History Credits <i>(incl. World & U.S. History)</i>	SCIENCE 3 Science Credits <i>(one year of biological science & physical science required)</i>	ART 3 Art Credits
GLOBAL LANGUAGE 3 Global Language Credits	PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3 P.E. Credits	QUAKERISM Included as part of the History & Advisory Curricula	COMMUNITY SERVICE 100 Hours of Community Service <i>(for students entering in 9th grade)</i>	



2024–2025 Upper School Course Offerings

ARTS

Full Year Courses: AP 2-D Art & Design

Semester Courses: Acting • Ceramics • Contemporary Dance • Adv. Contemporary Dance • Digital Music Production • Digital Photography • Handbells • Instrumental Music • Musical Theater Production • Photographic Arts • Play Production • Spinning Yarn & Fiber Exploration • Stagecraft • Studio Arts • Vocal Music • Weaving & Fiber Arts • Woodworking • Yearbook & Digital Media Arts

ENGLISH

Full_year Courses: English 9 • English 10 • AP English Language • AP English Literature

Semester Courses: Integrated Academic English (ESOL) • Creative Writing • Critical Writing • Dystopian Literature • The Detective Novel • Comedy & Humor • Satire

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

Full Year Courses: French Foundations • Intermediate French • Pre-Advanced French • Adv. French • AP French Language • Spanish Foundations • Intermediate Spanish • Pre-Advanced Spanish • Adv. Spanish 1 • Adv. Spanish 2 • AP Spanish Language • Linguistics • Sociolinguistics

HISTORY

Full Year Courses: World History I • World History II • US History and Government • AP African American Studies • AP Comparative Government & Politics • AP US History

Semester Courses: Indigenous North American Studies • Introduction to Anthropology • Knowing Right from Wrong: Ethical Decision Making • Peace & Conflict Studies

MATHEMATICS

Full Year Courses: Algebra I • Algebra II • Adv. Algebra II • Integrated Geometry • Introduction to Statistics • Finance w/Applied Mathematics • Multivariable Calculus • PreCalculus • AP PreCalculus • Calculus • AP Calculus AB • AP Calculus BC • AP Principles of Computer Science • AP Statistics

SCIENCE

Full_year courses: Anatomy & Physiology • Biology • AP Biology • Chemistry • AP Chemistry • AP Environmental Science • Forensics • Intro to Engineering • Physics • AP Physics • Adv. Techniques in Fabrication & Design

Campus Leadership and Activities

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:

- Affinity, Alliance, and Social Justice Groups
- Campus Ambassadors
- Model UN
- Performing Arts: Plays and musicals, instrumental, vocal, and dance ensembles
- Physical Education and Intramural Sports: Basketball, Contemporary Dance, Farming for Fitness, Kickball, Rock Climbing, SSFS Morley Games, Yoga
- Speech /Debate Team
- Student Publication: The Wildezine
- TORCH – Student Government Association
- Quaker Youth Leadership
- Quiz Bowl/It’s Academic Team
- Varsity Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Ice Hockey (Club Team), Lacrosse, Rock Climbing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Track and Field, Volleyball

Intersession

Intersession is a one-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 and further hands-on study of topics learned at SSFS. Some of our 2024 Intersession experiences included: sustainable gardening and boat building in our local community; an exploration of the Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail in South Carolina; Habitat for Humanity volunteer work in North Carolina; and Global Works service experiences Latin America and Europe.



English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

In recognition of the diversity of the school, SSFS offers non-native English speakers language development instruction and support in English. 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.



Independent Study & Senior Projects



Students who wish to pursue a topic beyond 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 SSFS faculty who oversee 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.

Seniors have the option to apply for and participate in the Senior Project program. Grounded in experiential and project-based learning, and 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 and culminates 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.



List of College Acceptances (2021-2024)

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

US/DOMESTIC COLLEGES:

Agnes Scott College	Curry College	Howard Community College
Alfred University	Denison University	Howard University
Allegheny College	DePaul University	Illinois Institute of Technology
American University	Dickinson College	Indiana University-Bloomington
Bard College	Drew University	Ithaca College
Barnard College	Drexel University	James Madison University
Bates College	Earlham College	Juniata College
Baylor University	Eckerd College	Kenyon College
Beloit College	Elizabethtown College	Lafayette College
Bennington College	Elmhurst University	Landmark College
Binghamton University	Elon University	Lander University
Boston College	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Lehigh University
Boston University	Emerson College	Lewis & Clark College
Bowie State University	Emory University	Louisiana State University
Brandeis University	Fashion Institute of Technology	Loyola Marymount University
Bryn Mawr College	Fisk University	Loyola University Chicago
Bucknell University	Florida A&M University	Loyola University Maryland
Butler University	Florida Institute of Technology	Loyola University New Orleans
California State University	Fordham University	Lynn University
Carleton College	Franklin & Marshall College	Macalester College
Carnegie Mellon University	Furman University	Maine College of Art
Case Western Reserve University	George Mason University	Marist College
Catholic University of America	George Washington University	Maryland Institute College of Art
Chapman University	Georgia Tech	McDaniel College
Clark Atlanta University	Georgia State University	Middlebury College
Clark University	Germanna Community College	Milwaukee School of Engineering
Clarkson University	Gettysburg College	Mitchell College
Coastal Carolina University	Goucher College	Monmouth University
Colby College	Grinnell College	Montgomery College
Colgate University	Guilford College	Morehouse College
College For Creative Studies	Hamilton College	Morgan State University
College of Charleston	Hampton University	Mount Holyoke College
College of the Holy Cross	Harvey Mudd College	Muhlenberg College
College of William & Mary	Haverford College	New York University
College of Wooster	Hawaii Pacific University	North Carolina A&T University
Colorado College	High Point University	North Carolina State University
Colorado State University	Hobart & William Smith Colleges	Northeastern University
Connecticut College	Hofstra University	Northwestern University
The Cooper Union	Hollins University	Oberlin College
Cornell University	Hood College	Occidental College



List of College Acceptances (2021-2024) | Continued

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Ohio State University

Pace University

Penn State University

Pitzer College

Pomona College

Pratt Institute

Princeton University

Providence College

Purdue University

Quinnipiac University

Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rhodes College

Rider University

Roanoke College

Rochester Institute of Technology

Roger Williams University

Rollins College

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rowan University

Rutgers University

Saint Joseph's University

Saint Louis University

Salisbury University

Santa Clara University

Sarah Lawrence College

Savannah College of Art and Design

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Scripps College

Seattle University

Seton Hall University

Shenandoah University

Skidmore College

Smith College

Spelman College

St. Lawrence University

St. John's College (MD)

St. John's University (NY)

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Stevens Institute of Technology

Stevenson University

Stony Brook University

Suffolk University

SUNY-Albany

Susquehanna University

Syracuse University

Temple University

Texas A&M University

Tiffin University

Towson University

Tufts University

Tulane University

Union College

University of Alabama

University of California-Davis

University of California-Irvine

University of California-Los Angeles

University of California-Riverside

University of California-San Diego

University of California-Santa Barbara

University of California-Santa Cruz

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Connecticut





List of College Acceptances (2021-2024) | Continued

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University of Delaware

University of Denver

University of Florida

University of Illinois

University of Iowa

University of Kansas

University of Mary Washington

University of Maryland-Baltimore County

University of Maryland-College Park

University of Massachusetts

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota

University of New Hampshire

University of North Carolina-Asheville

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina-Charlotte

University of North Carolina-Greensboro

University of North Carolina

School of the Arts

University of Notre Dame

University of Oregon

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Puget Sound

University of Redlands

University of Rhode Island

University of Richmond

University of Rochester

University of San Diego

University of San Francisco

University of South Carolina

University of Southern California

University of Tampa

University of Texas-Austin

University of Vermont

University of Virginia

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin

Ursinus College

Vanderbilt University

Vassar College

Villanova University

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Tech

Wake Forest University

Warren Wilson College

Washington College

Washington University in St. Louis

Waynesburg University

Wellesley College

Wentworth Institute of Technology

Wesleyan University

Wheaton College (MA)

Whittier College

Widener University

Willamette University

Williams College

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Xavier University of Louisiana

York College of Pennsylvania

OUTSIDE US/INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

Aberystwyth University (UK)

American University of Paris (France)

Arts University Bournemouth (UK)

Bocconi University (Italy)

Concordia University (Canada)

Franklin University (Switzerland)

Hokkaido University (Japan)

Istituto Marangoni London (UK)

John Cabot University (Italy)

Lancaster University (UK)

McGill University (Canada)

NYU-Shanghai (China)

Queen's University (Canada)

Queen's University Belfast (UK)

Sheffield Hallam University (UK)

Thammasat University (Thailand)

Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

University of Aberdeen (UK)

University College Dublin (Ireland)

University of Dundee (UK)

University of Edinburgh (UK)

University of Glasgow (UK)

University of Guelph (Canada)

University of Leeds (UK)

University of Manchester (UK)

University of Maynooth (Ireland)

University of Oxford (UK)

University of Sheffield (UK)

University of St. Andrews (UK)

University of Toronto (Canada)

University of Victoria (Canada)

