



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

SSFS School Profile 2025-2026

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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 school serving approximately 365 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 2025-2026 school year:

- 49% of Upper School students identify as students of color (% school-wide);
- Students are enrolled across 5 states and 11 different countries;
- SSFS allocated over \$4M 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.

UPPER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & COLLEGE COUNSELING

Dr. Sean Hamer
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Meredith Shankle
HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

Christopher Miller
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Johanna Modak
COLLEGE COUNSELING
SUPPORT SPECIALIST

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 (incl. Algebra II)	HISTORY 3 History Credits (incl. World & U.S. History)	SCIENCE 3 Science Credits (one year of biological science & physical science required)	ART 3 Art Credits
GLOBAL LANGUAGE 3 Global Language Credits	PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 P.E. Activities	QUAKERISM Included as part of the History & Advisory Curricula	COMMUNITY SERVICE 100 Hours of Community Service (for students entering in 9th grade)	



Advanced Placement & National Merit Recognitions

In 2025, 162 students took 309 AP exams. Of the scores earned, 77% earned a 3 or higher; 50% earned a 4 or higher; and 17% earned a score of 5.

2025 AP Scholar Awards

- Scholar: 29
- Scholar with Honors: 10
- Scholar with Distinction: 19
- International Diploma: 1

Class of 2026 National Merit Recognition

- Semifinalist: 1
- Commended Scholars: 4

2025-2026 Upper School Course Offerings

ARTS

Full Year Courses: Studio Art • Advanced Studio Arts • Ceramics • Sculpture • Yearbook & Desktop Publishing

Semester Courses: Acting • Contemporary Dance • Adv. Contemporary Dance • Digital Music Production • Digital Photography • Handbells • Instrumental Music • Photographic Arts • Spinning Yarn & Fiber Exploration • Stagecraft • Digital Media & Video Arts • Vocal Music • Weaving & Fiber Arts • Fashion

ENGLISH

Full year Courses: English 9 • English 10 • AP English Language • AP English Literature

Semester Courses: Creative Writing • Critical Writing • Dystopian Literature • The Detective Novel • Magical Realism • Modern Voices

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

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 • AP World History

Semester Courses: 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 1 • AP Physics C • Adv. Techniques in Fabrication & Design • AP Psychology

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
- Engineering Club
- 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
- Sheep-to-Shawl Spinning & Weaving 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 2025 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.



Student-Led Inquiry & QRA Approach

At SSFS, students are expected to move beyond just memorizing facts to “higher order thinking skills” to analyze, interpret, synthesize, and create. Our 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.

Academic Clubs & Signature Programs

For a school of its size, SSFS has had remarkable success in many of our co-curricular academic and signature program offerings, competing against much larger schools nationally and in the DMV region. Recent accomplishments include:

Quiz Bowl Team:

Semifinalists on “It’s Academic” and Bronze medalists in highly-competitive Montgomery Academic Beltway League in 2024-2025

Speech & Debate Team

2025 Co-Champion of Washington-Arlington Catholic Forensics League; Top 5 National Finish in Original Oratory category

Sheep-to-Shawl Team

Featured on NPR, The Washington Post, and Canadian Public Broadcasting; 3rd Place finish at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

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 (2022-2025)

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

U.S./DOMESTIC COLLEGES:

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



List of College Acceptances (2022-2025) | Continued

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

Purdue University	Spelman College	University of California-Santa Barbara
Quinnipiac University	St. Lawrence University	University of California-Santa Cruz
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	St. John's College (MD)	University of Colorado Boulder
Rhodes College	St. John's University (NY)	University of Connecticut
Rider University	St. Mary's College of Maryland	University of Delaware
Roanoke College	Stevens Institute of Technology	University of Denver
Rochester Institute of Technology	Stevenson University	University of Florida
Roger Williams University	Stony Brook University	University of Illinois
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Suffolk University	University of Iowa
Rowan University	SUNY-Albany	University of Kansas
Rutgers University	Susquehanna University	University of Mary Washington
Saint Joseph's University	Syracuse University	University of Maryland-Baltimore County
Saint Louis University	Temple University	University of Maryland-College Park
Salisbury University	Texas A&M University	University of Maryland-Eastern Shore
Salve Regina University	Tiffin University	University of Massachusetts
Santa Clara University	Towson University	University of Miami
Sarah Lawrence College	Tufts University	University of Michigan
Savannah College of Art and Design	Tulane University	University of Minnesota
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Union College	University of New Hampshire
Scripps College	University of Arizona	University of North Carolina-Asheville
Seattle University	University of California-Davis	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Seton Hall University	University of California-Irvine	University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Shenandoah University	University of California-Los Angeles	University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Skidmore College	University of California-Riverside	University of North Carolina-Wilmington
Smith College	University of California-San Diego	University of North Carolina School of the Arts





List of College Acceptances (2022-2025) | Continued

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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 Francisco
University of Scranton
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
Wesleyan University
Wheaton College (MA)
Widener University
Willamette University
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University of Louisiana
York College of Pennsylvania

OUTSIDE U.S./INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES:

Aberystwyth University (UK)
American University of Paris (France)
Arts University Bournemouth (UK)
Bocconi University (Italy)
Concordia University (Canada)
Franklin University (Switzerland)
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
IE University (Spain)
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 Southampton (UK)
University of St. Andrews (UK)
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Victoria (Canada)

