



SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL

Let Your Lives Speak

SSFS School Profile 2026-2027

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 school serving approximately 350 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 and enrolls students across Metropolitan Washington, DC. For the 2026-2027 school year, the school has 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

Meredith Shankle

ACTING HEAD OF SCHOOL &
HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

Brooke Carroll

INCOMING HEAD OF SCHOOL (Jan. 2027)

Christopher Miller

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Johanna Modak

COLLEGE COUNSELING SUPPORT
SPECIALIST

Associations and Memberships

Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools; Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington; 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 ½ credit for semester-long courses and 1 credit for year-long courses. 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 6 P.E. Activities	QUAKERISM Included as part of the History & Advisory Curricula	COMMUNITY SERVICE 100 Hours of Community Service <i>(for students entering in 9th grade)</i>	



Advanced Placement & Academic Recognitions

In 2026, 121 students took 263 AP exams. Of the scores earned, 88% earned a 3 or higher; 63% earned a 4 or higher; and 22% earned a score of 5.

2026 Global Seal of Biliteracy Recipients

In 2026, 7 students earned the Global Seal of Biliteracy. Requiring skills in two or more languages, this credential distinguishes skills over three levels of fluency: Functional, Working & Professional.

2026-2027 Upper School Course Offerings

ARTS

Full Year Courses: Studio Art • AP 2-D Art and Design • Yearbook & Desktop Publishing • Ceramics

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

ENGLISH

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

Semester Courses: Creative Writing • World Literature • American Identities • Journalism and Research

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

Full Year Courses: French Foundations • Intermediate French • Pre-Advanced French • Advanced French • Spanish Foundations • Intermediate Spanish • Pre-Advanced Spanish • Advanced Spanish • AP Spanish Language

HISTORY

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

Semester Courses: Knowing Right from Wrong: Ethical Decision Making • Peace & Conflict Studies • History through Pop Culture • Introduction to Anthropology

MATHEMATICS

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

SCIENCE

Full Year Courses: Anatomy & Physiology • Biology • Chemistry • AP Chemistry • AP Environmental Science • Forensics • Introduction to Engineering • Physics • AP Physics C • Advanced 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
- DECA - Business Competition Association
- 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, Flag Football, Kickball, 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, 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 2026 Intersession experiences included: creating artwork for donation to raise money for SSFS financial aid; an environmental hiking exploration of Northern California; volunteer work in New Orleans and North Carolina; and Global Works service experiences in Costa Rica and Puerto Rico.



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/It's Academic Team:

Gold medalists in the highly competitive Montgomery Academic Beltway League and undefeated on 'It's Academic' in 2025-2026

Speech & Debate Team

2025 Co-Champion of Washington-Area Speech and Debate League; Top 3 National Finish in Original Oratory category of National Catholic Forensics League in 2026

Sheep-to-Shawl Team

Featured on NPR, The Washington Post, and Canadian Public Broadcasting; 2026 4th Place finish at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival as only high school team

DECA - Business Leadership

2025 & 2026 International Competition Qualifier; 2026 National Competition and Leadership Training Qualifier

Engineering Club

Top 10 finish at 2026 DC Electric Vehicle Grand Prix in Stock Class Category

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 Passion Project program. Grounded in experiential and project-based learning, and with inquiry, reflection and action at its core, Senior Passion 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 Passion 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 (2023-2026)

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

U.S./DOMESTIC COLLEGES:

Adelphi University
Agnes Scott College
Alfred University
Alma College
American University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Baylor University
Bennington College
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowie State University
Bowling Green State University
Brandeis University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
California State University
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Centre College
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Colby College
College of Charleston
College of the Atlantic
College of William and Mary
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Colorado State University
Connecticut College
Coppin State University
Cornell University

Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Dillard University
Drew University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson College
Emory University
Endicott College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fisk University
Flagler College
Florida A&M University
Florida International University
Florida Memorial University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Frostburg State University
Furman University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Germanna Community College
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Hamilton College
Hampton University
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College
High Point University
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Hollins University

Hood College
Howard Community College
Howard University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University-Peabody Institute
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College
Kent State University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lander University
Landmark College
La Salle University
Lawrence University
Lees-McRae College
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Macalester College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marist University
McDaniel College
Miami University-Ohio
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Monmouth University
Montgomery College
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
North Carolina A&T University



List of College Acceptances (2023-2026) | Continued

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

North Carolina State University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University

Northwestern University

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Nova Southeastern University

Oberlin College

Occidental College

Ohio State University

Ohio University

Ohio Wesleyan University

Old Dominion University

Pace University

Penn State University

Pomona College

Pratt Institute

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rider University

Rochester Institute of Technology

Roger Williams University

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rowan University

Rutgers University

Saint Joseph's University

Salisbury University

Salve Regina University

Santa Clara University

Sarah Lawrence College

Savannah College of Art and Design

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Scripps College

Seton Hall University

Shenandoah University

Skidmore College

Smith College

Spelman College

St Olaf College

St. Lawrence University

St. John's University (NY)

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Stetson University

Stevens Institute of Technology

Stevenson University

Stony Brook University

Suffolk University

Susquehanna University

Swarthmore College

Syracuse University

Temple University

Texas A&M University

The College of New Jersey

The Cooper Union

The New School

Tiffin University

Towson University

Tufts University

Tulane University

Union College

University of Alabama

University of Arizona

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

University of Delaware

University of Denver

University of Florida

University of Illinois

University of Iowa

University of Kansas

University of Kentucky

University of Mary Washington

University of Maryland-Baltimore County

University of Maryland-College Park

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

University of Massachusetts

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota

University of New Hampshire





List of College Acceptances (2023-2026) | Continued

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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-Wilmington
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
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 Tennessee
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
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
Western Carolina University
Widener University
Willamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
York College of Pennsylvania

OUTSIDE U.S./INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES:

Aberystwyth University (UK)
Bocconi University (Italy)
City University of Hong Kong
Concordia University (Canada)
Durham University (UK)
Franklin University (Switzerland)
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
IE University (Spain)
John Cabot University (Italy)
Lancaster University (UK)
McGill University (Canada)
Queen's University (Canada)
Queen's University Belfast (UK)
Thammasat University (Thailand)
The American University of Paris
(France)

Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
University of Aberdeen (UK)
University College Dublin (Ireland)
University of Edinburgh (UK)
University of Exeter (UK)
University of Dundee (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)

