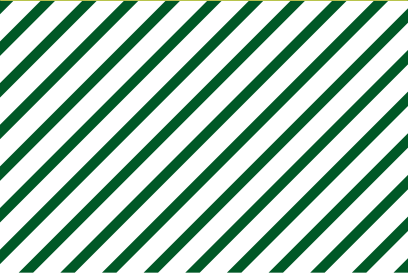


ANNUAL REPORT

MAGGIE L. WALKER
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

2025-26





Top: the MLWGS Faculty, August 2026. Above: Janssen and Colonial Heights Dragons on the first day of school.



Scan above to read the full interview and more MLWGS stories!



Our Mission

The Governor's School Foundation cultivates resources to enhance the educational experience of ALL students at MLWGS.

Our Vision

All MLWGS students have access to educational resources to reach their full potential.

Janssen Reflects on Initial Tenure as Executive Director

After stepping into the role of MLWGS Executive Director in summer 2025, Kristin Janssen spent her first months listening closely, learning long-standing traditions and building relationships across campus – with students, faculty, families, alumni and partner school divisions. And while Maggie Walker's academic reputation is nationally recognized, Janssen says what has struck her most goes far beyond test scores or college acceptances.

"What stands out to me most is not just the academics," said Janssen, pictured left with MLWGS teachers on her first visit to campus after being hired. "It is the pride people carry, the relationships that shape students and the way this school truly stays with people long after they leave." Janssen credits the Foundation as a major contributor to this sense of pride.

2025–26 MLWGS Foundation Board of Directors and Staff

Officers

Beth Simms, *Chair*
Veronica Chornodolsky, *Vice Chair and Events
Committee Chair*
Karen Setzer, '99, *Treasurer*
Julie Seitz, *Secretary*
Erin Ortiz, '06, *Alumni Advisory Board Chair*
Brian Baird, *Development Committee Chair*
Adam Powers, '10, *Finance Committee Chair*
Emily Stegmaier Winbigler, '00, *Governance
Committee Chair*

Members

Lakshmi Algappan	Anikka Moore
Tyler Gibson '10	Stinson Mundy '96
Monique Johnson	Julie Seabury
Cynthia Kostelecky	

Ex Officio

Kristin Janssen, *MLWGS Executive Director*
Kenneth Pritchett, *Regional School Board Chair,
Petersburg City Schools*

STAFF

Ginger O'Neil, *Executive Director*
Stephanie Helsley, *Foundation Assistant*

Your Support Matters

Dear Friends of the MLWGS Foundation,

At the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, extraordinary opportunities don't happen by chance. They happen because of a community that believes in investing in students, supporting exceptional educators and creating experiences that inspire curiosity, leadership and lifelong learning.

This year, your generosity helped make all of that possible. From enhancement grants for student travel to faculty professional development and instructional improvements, the Foundation continued its mission of enriching the educational experience for every Dragon. We also launched several exciting initiatives, including the Shamin Hotels Speaker Series and our inaugural Foundation Fellows program, creating new opportunities for students to engage with leaders, strengthen connections and shape the future of our school community.

As we celebrate another remarkable year, thank you for believing in our students and in the power of a Maggie Walker education. Your support continues to strengthen the Walker Way for today's students and for generations to come.

Once a Dragon, always a Dragon.

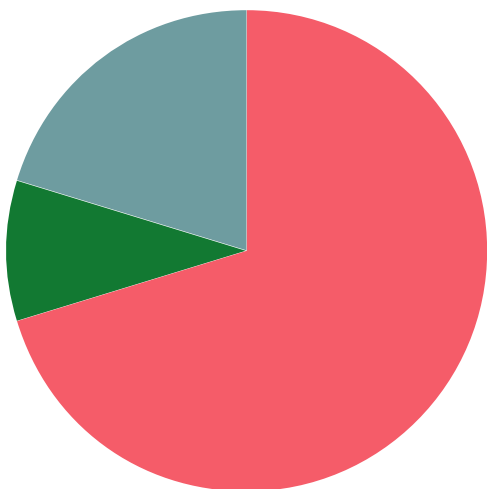
With gratitude,



Ginger O'Neil
Executive Director
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation

Financial Overview*

July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026 (Audited)

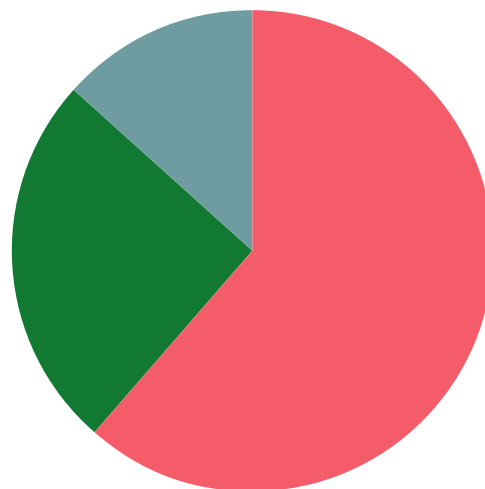


TOTAL REVENUE: \$564,000

Annual Fund: \$397,000

Night of the Dragon: \$53,000

Change in Investments and Interest Income: \$114,000



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$405,000

Program: \$249,000

Fundraising (including auction expenses): \$103,000

Management and Administration: \$53,000

The Annual Fund includes a \$101,820 gift to establish the **Doug and Tamra Adams Family Endowment**. The Foundation is grateful to the Adams family for this amazing gift, which will provide support to the Governor's School in perpetuity, and for their previous and ongoing support.

ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS INVESTED FOR FUTURE USE

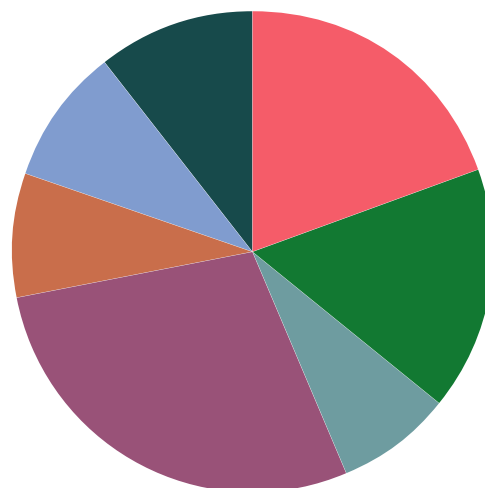
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation Flexible Fund: **\$719,000**

Ruth Elizabeth Cole Endowment Fund for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School: **\$208,000**

Doug and Tamra Adams Family Endowment Fund for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School: **\$109,000**

Shamin Hotels Speaker Series at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Endowment Fund: **\$73,000**

Dr. Smriti Bardhan Scholarship at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Endowment Fund: **\$25,000**



PROGRAM EXPENSES: \$249,000

Direct Student Aid and Student Travel: \$49,000

Academic Clubs, Teams and Instructional Support: \$40,000

Teacher Professional Development Grants: \$20,000

Funds Held for Others: \$70,000

Scholarships and Taylor Teaching Award: \$21,000

Alumni and School Events: \$23,000

Personnel and Other Misc: \$26,000

*(All numbers are rounded to the nearest \$1,000.)



School Facts and Statistics

2025–26

MLWGS' Mission is to provide comprehensive educational opportunities that advance gifted students' understanding of world cultures and languages. Our diverse and supportive community develops students' character and ability to contribute, collaborate and lead.

70 full-time faculty

7 part-time faculty

7 university faculty

785

Total school enrollment
(grades 9–12)

186

Total enrollment
(class of 2026)

Richmond City	231
Chesterfield County	216
Henrico County	193
Colonial Heights	7
Charles City County	6
Dinwiddie	4
Goochland County	25
Hanover County	52
Hopewell City	8
King & Queen County	3
New Kent County	11
Petersburg City	8
Prince George County	9
Powhatan County	12
Total Students	785

MLWGS Class of 2026

4.21

average GPA
(mid-year)

1395

average
SAT score*

31

average
ACT score*



They will
attend

75

different
colleges

99

staying
in state

82

going out
of state

4

attending outside
the U.S.



One taking a **gap year**
before attending college



Three accepted
**Army ROTC
Scholarships**

One joining
the **United
States Navy**



One attending
the **U.S. Naval
Academy**



**17 National
Merit Finalists**



Plus, 39 received Commendations in
the National Merit Program



Three were
Presidential Scholar
candidates

The class has received

\$15M+

in scholarship offers as of
June 1, and that number
keeps growing

In total, the Class was recognized with

358

honors, awards, and scholarships!

**Preliminary numbers; official averages for this cohort will be released by the testing agencies in the fall.*

The MLWGS Foundation at Work

ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Thanks to the support of our donors, the Foundation provides grants to teachers, staff and students that enhance the educational and extracurricular experience for all Dragons. During the 2025–26 academic year, the Foundation committed:

- **\$164,000** for instructional enhancements, academic clubs and teams, student travel and direct student financial aid (50 grants)
- **\$36,000** for teacher and staff professional development, including conference attendance, graduate coursework and educational association memberships (31 grants)



81

ENHANCEMENT
GRANTS IN
2025–26

STUDENT SUPPORT: CLASSROOM & INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

- 46 copies of *True Biz* by Sara Novic, used by the faculty book group, student book group and ASL classes to increase awareness and understanding of deaf culture and history
- Subscriptions for two online textbooks to support AP Spanish classes
- Honorarium, travel reimbursement and lunch for speech by former Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater
- Rental fee for *Unbound: Free Black Virginians, 1619–1865*
- Class visit to Turning Point Suffragist Memorial and Lucy Burns Museum in Lorton, Va.
- U.S. History trip to Harriett Tubman Birthplace on Maryland's Eastern Shore
- Honorarium and gift for Black History Month Speaker Liza Mickens, great-great granddaughter of Maggie Lena Walker
- Viking Market supplies for Viking Seminar

STUDENT SUPPORT: ACADEMIC CLUBS AND TEAMS

- Printing of *Jabberwock*, the MLWGS newspaper
- Peer Mentors support, including Taste of the World lunch, guest speakers and the Step Team
- Participation in the Japan Bowl in Washington, D.C. (April)
- Materials, including books, games and manipulatives, for Newtowne tutoring
- Quiz Bowl HSNCT National Championship travel to Atlanta (May)
- Robotics team travel to FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston (April 29–May 2)
- Student membership dues for Robotics
- Travel to "Technosphere," the Technology Student Association state competition in Hampton, Va. (April 30–May 3)





STUDENT SUPPORT: DIRECT STUDENT AID

- Tuition for AP Spanish Literature through Virtual Virginia
- Student participation in Summer in Spain 2026 trip (June 29–July 8)
- Student membership and participation in Virginia Model United Nations (VAMUN) at the University of Virginia (Nov. 14–16)
- Peer Mentors activities, including field trip to the African American Museum of History and Culture in Washington, D.C., Kente stoles for graduation, T-shirts and college visits (25 students)
- Registration for National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
- Dues for Mu Alpha Theta, national math honor society
- Fees for VCU placement tests
- Fees for Virtual Virginia Summer School courses
- Fee for science ACT exam
- TI-84 calculators
- Student fees and books payments
- SAT fees

STUDENT SUPPORT: STUDENT TRAVEL

- Sabermetrics Baseball Seminar students at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. (March 26–29)
- Math Modelling Seminar students to the SABR Diamond Dollars Case Competition in Phoenix (Feb. 25–March 1)
- Jane Austen Seminar students to England (March 31–April 7)
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Seminar trip to Morocco (March 25–April 1)
- Vikings Seminar students to Iceland and Denmark (March 31–April 7)
- AP African American Studies students to Charleston, S.C. (March 19–22)
- We the People National Finals in Washington, D.C. (April 17–19)
- Military History Seminar students WWII tour of Europe (Summer 2026)

The MLWGS Foundation at Work

FACULTY & STAFF SUPPORT: CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Gifted education coursework at the University of Virginia, the University of Richmond, Longwood University and the University of Phoenix (12 teachers): Curriculum for Gifted and Talented Students; Social/Emotional Needs of Gifted Students; Social/Emotional Issues in Talent Development; Models & Strategies for Gifted Students; Introduction to Giftedness; Instructional Models & Strategies for Gifted; Special Populations of Gifted Students; Critical Thinking Skills for Gifted and Talented Students
- Licensure courses and training: Assessments of and for Learning, Foundation of Education
- Social work supervision hours

FACULTY & STAFF SUPPORT: CONFERENCES

- Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Norfolk (Nov. 19–21)
- PowerSchool University in San Diego (2025)
- Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington, D.C. (Jan. 4–7)
- American Association of Teachers of German in Boston (July 11–14)
- AP Summer Institute in Fairfax, Va. (June 23–26)
- Security Officer Certifications Training, Hampton, Va. (June 11–12)

FACULTY & STAFF SUPPORT: MEMBERSHIPS

- National Association of Music Educators
- Educational Theatre Association
- American School Counselors Association
- American Association of Teachers of German (required for students to become Honor Society members and take the national exam)
- Center for Teacher Leadership (National Board Support for 2024–25)
- American Association of Teachers of Spanish (required to administer national exam)
- American Association of Teachers of Japanese
- Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools
- American Council of Teachers of Russian
- Virginia Music Educators Association





TAYLOR TEACHING AWARD: FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE STUDIO CLASSROOM

When Jeff Hall traveled to South Africa in June, the journey was about far more than a stamp in his passport. For the visual arts teacher, it was an opportunity to experience African art and culture firsthand – and bring those insights back to his classroom.

The trip was supported by the Patricia E. (Pat) Taylor Teaching Award, funded by the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation. Hall was the award's inaugural recipient in 2013, and with this latest recognition he has become the first teacher in school history to receive it twice.



Read the full stories and more about how your support directly impacts MLWGS students and faculty at: mlwgsfoundation.org/blog

This year, the Foundation partnered with the Athletic Boosters, PTSA and school to fund replacement of the athletic field and gym scoreboards. Go Dragon Athletes!

The MLWGS Foundation at Work



SHAMIN HOTELS SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES WITH AMBASSADOR'S VISIT

When Pamela E. Bridgewater walked onto Maggie L. Walker Governor's School campus on Feb. 6, students weren't just meeting a former U.S. ambassador. They were stepping into the kind of real-world learning integrated into the school's international studies mission.

Her visit inaugurated the Shamin Hotels Speaker Series, made possible through a landmark donation from Shamin Hotels CEO Neil Amin, '96, and his wife, Amishi. The series aims to bring forum-style discussions and small-group sessions to campus, giving students access to leaders whose work intersects with government, global affairs and public service.

FOUNDATION FELLOWS ARE BUILDING BRIDGES, SHAPING FUTURES

What began as a casual conversation in the halls of the Capitol sparked the first-ever cohort of **Foundation Fellows**: a group of seniors supporting events, strengthening awareness of the Foundation and building ties among students, alumni and the school.

In their first year, Fellows welcomed incoming parents at the Foundation's New Parent Welcome Reception, led alumni on building tours during Fall Fest, and assisted by speaking at important Foundation functions, including Grandparents and Special Adults Day and the Director's Circle. Their biggest undertaking came in April, when they created and hosted the **Legislators Forum on Education and Civic Engagement** as part of the **Shamin Hotels Speaker Series**.

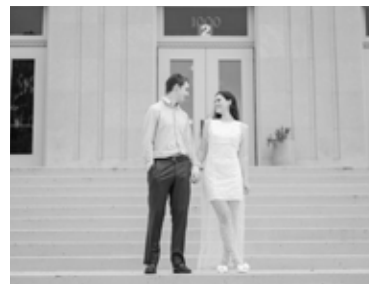
The student-led event brought state lawmakers to Maggie Walker for dialogue with students, families and staff — flipping the familiar model of students traveling to the Capitol. It was the Fellows program in action: giving students opportunities to lead, connect and build relationships with the school that can continue beyond graduation.



Above: Ambassador Bridgewater with Neil Amin. At top: Students with Ambassador Bridgewater.



Read the full stories and more about how your support directly impacts MLWGS students and faculty at:
mlwgsfoundation.org/blog



Alumni Year in Review

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School has defined what excellence looks like in secondary education. From its founding in 1991, the school has built a reputation as one of the nation's top public high schools, a place where the region's most motivated, gifted students immerse themselves in a rigorous curriculum while embracing what's now commonly known as the 4 Pillars of the Walker Way: Creativity, Collaboration, Compassion and Courage.



The MLWGS Foundation at Work



SENIORS REFLECT ON FOUR-YEAR MAGGIE WALKER JOURNEY

"Booked and busy." Many Class of 2026 members echoed that phrase, as they reflected on how they came to the school searching for a challenge and left with much more than stellar transcripts. They departed with lifelong friendships, hard-earned confidence and memories that stretch far beyond the classroom.

The MLWGS Class of 2026 performed more than **39,278 community service hours** (about 211 hours per student). Linda Howe Award winner R.J. Matos (Chesterfield) completed 1,119.5 hours of service.



ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE RECEPTION HONORS FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Each year, the Foundation honors our top supporters at the annual Director's Circle Reception. In December, our community gathered once again in the welcoming home of alumni parents Julie and Paul Weissend, whose generous hospitality created a beautiful setting for the evening.

PROVIDING THE MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING

The transformational education Maggie Walker's high-achieving students receive requires lots of "extras." Extra, as in travel across the country or around the globe to apply classroom learning. Advanced training for teachers to meet the needs of highly motivated and gifted students. Course fees for dual-enrollment classes at VCU. And the Foundation strives to make those "extras" – and so much more – happen by raising funds to support educational initiatives and cultural experiences that go far beyond the basics of a high school education.



Scan to learn more about the MLWGS Foundation and how you can support our Dragons today!