



The Maryland School for the Blind

See beyond

NEWSLETTER

MSB Athletics: A Year of Dedication and Growth

MSB's student-athletes have had an incredible year, demonstrating new skills, perseverance, and teamwork across multiple sports. Our wrestling, soccer, goalball, cheerleading, beep baseball, and track and field teams have trained hard and competed fiercely, traveling to places like New York, Virginia, Joppatowne, and Dundalk to take on new challenges.

Their commitment to representing MSB with pride is truly inspiring.

Photo collage showcasing the strength, talent and teamwork of MSB's student athletes participating in adapted sports.

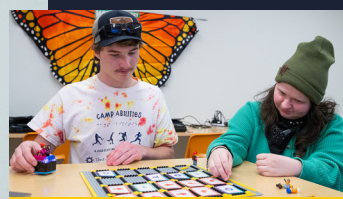




Jack



Coding Cards



Jack & Chelsea Whitaker



KaiBot

From Braille to Bots: How MSB is Making STEM Accessible

At The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), students are getting hands-on experience in computer science and robotics with tools designed for accessibility. Gina Fugate, a Computer Science and Technology teacher, helps students of all skill levels learn coding and problem-solving.

MSB competes in FIRST LEGO League, where students design, build, and program robots to complete challenges. They recently upgraded from LEGO EV3 to LEGO Spike, which works with Quorum—a programming language that supports screen readers. Quorum offers both text-based and block-based coding, allowing students to choose what works best for them. For example, Jack, a Braille user, prefers text coding, while Chelsea enjoys using blocks.

Students also use the Monarch, a multiline Braille display developed by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), to help with coding and debugging. Younger students start with KaiBot, a tactile robot they program using accessible coding cards. One of their favorite activities? Making KaiBot do the “KaiKai Slide,” a fun little robot dance.

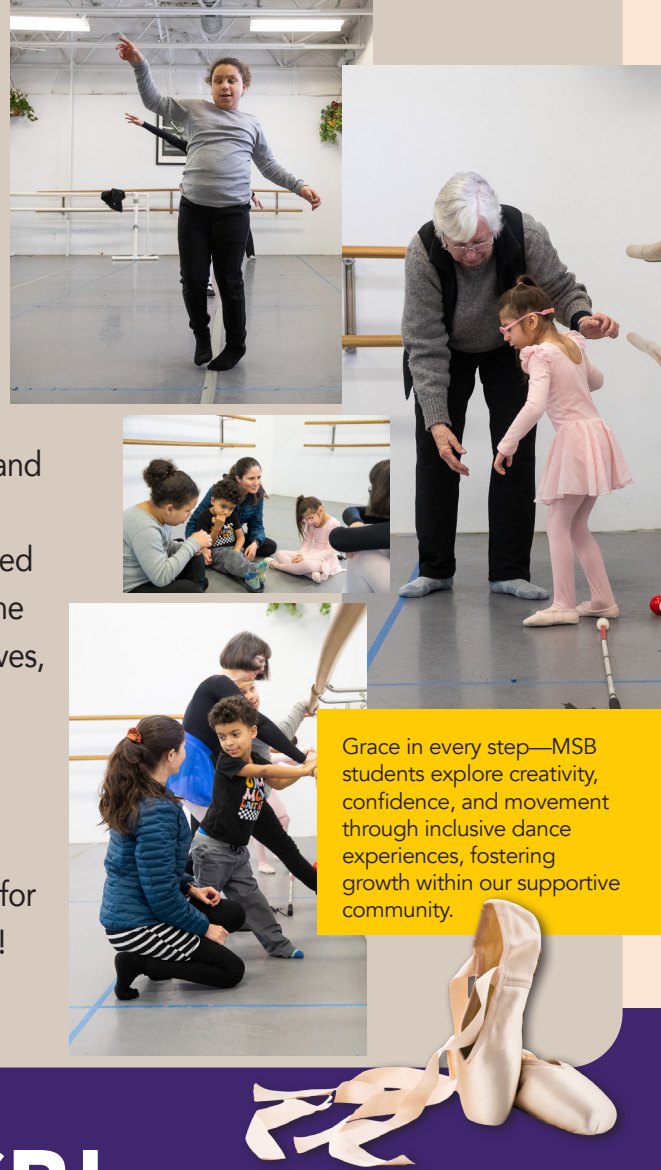
As technology continues to evolve, MSB stays dedicated to giving students the same high-quality STEM experiences as their sighted peers—helping them build skills in innovation, problem-solving, and accessible tech for the future.

Pirouettes for Inclusion

Empowering Blind and Low Vision Students Through Ballet

On Saturday, January 25th, the Outreach Department at The Maryland School for the Blind hosted a Ballet class for students who are blind or have low vision. Robyn Hughes, a ballet teacher with low vision, led our students through an introduction to ballet. Students explored the space, got to know Robyn's journey in dance, learned beginner moves, and made new friends.

Our students were able to participate based on their individual strengths and support needs. It was also a great opportunity for parents to gather and share their experiences. Thank you to Robyn for leading us in a great lesson and ensuring that dance is for everyone!



Grace in every step—MSB students explore creativity, confidence, and movement through inclusive dance experiences, fostering growth within our supportive community.

Purple Friday at MSB!

MSB was alive with excitement as staff showed off their purple pride for Purple Friday in honor of the Baltimore Ravens! From jerseys to hats and everything in between, the spirit was contagious as we came together to celebrate teamwork, unity, and Baltimore pride.



MSB Staff showing their team spirit in purple



Diane Carron



Outreach Purple Friday



Takiyah Wilson



The Maryland School for the Blind

3501 Taylor Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21236

SAVE THE DATE

for the See Beyond Festival



Saturday, April 26, 2025

11 AM – 3 PM

**EXPERIENCE ADAPTATION,
EMBRACE ACCESSIBILITY**