



Academy Angle - Fall 2021

Our newsletter highlighting Academy news and community impact

Welcome to the first issue of The Academy Angle, a brand new bi-annual newsletter from St. James' Academy! Here you can find key news and information about the Academy's programs and events and how to help support our critical work supporting children right here in West Baltimore!

Summer Academy Update

LaVerne Naesea, Chair, Program Committee

Following much deliberation and prayer, the 2021 St. James' Academy Summer Program successfully ran from July 6 through August 6, working through COVID-19 challenges to serve nearly forty students between the ages of 6 and 11 years old with a wide range of activities benefiting the students.



Through the dedication of the SJA Program Committee, Treasurer Denise Day and other members of the SJA board, and St. James' Episcopal Church's Father Richard Meadows, Summer Program Director Deborah Hawkins recruited 40 students as well as three teachers, a college student assistant and a new part-time custodian to pull off a successful program punctuated by good, clean, safe and fun daily activities.

SJA Summer Program staff led students in daily schedule that featured two hours of classroom instruction (including reviews of 2020/21 school year academics and additional STEM education) and a range of other activities such as board games, arts and crafts, ceramics, a magic show, hip hop dance lessons, hula hoop and jump rope lessons, movies and outdoor play. All of our students also received breakfast and lunch each day. The children were also treated to off-site field trips to educational and fun sites around Baltimore, including the Maryland Science Center, the Druid Hill YMCA, the Maryland Zoo, the Shake & Bake Center, and Sky Zone.

President's Message

Charlotte Boston



2020 was a challenging year. The St. James' Academy learned about our strength and commitment to fulfill our mission for the children in our West Baltimore communities. The pandemic brought its own set of difficulties for us. Its impact was unpredictable.

Thankfully, we did better than "survive" the year. We were blessed to receive donations in the absence of our usual fundraising activities held in the spring and fall. We were also able to provide much needed school supplies directly to Harlem Park Elementary School since the virtual after school enrichment was very limited. By the latter part of the year, we were able to dig in and put our creative juices to work to have a virtual end of year fundraiser. It was well received, successful and a wonderful way to celebrate, relax at home and say goodbye to 2020.

Plans for 2021 are underway as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. As you know, there is still a great need in our community. We hosted a successful summer program with 39 scholars to support academic and cultural enrichment. We are also hopeful toward plans for a virtual Big Band event November 13th.

I'm grateful for the continued contributions and dedication of the St. James Academy Board of Directors and our donors old and new. Extending abundant blessings toward you all and wishes for your continued safety and good health the whole year through. Please stay tuned for further information. We welcome your continued support and participation.

Sincere wishes for a productive year,

See You There: November 13 Big Band/Motown Virtual Concert

Ryan Ong, SJA Board Member



We hope you can us on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM for a special virtual concert featuring big band, Motown, and other favorites from Dr. Phill Butts Orchestra. You won't want to miss this year's event, including great feel-good music that'll make you get up and dance! All proceeds from the concert will go to directly benefit Academy programs.

Tickets are available online through [Eventbrite](#) or directly from any member of the St. James' Academy board. For questions, please contact Cynthia Easley (410-323-7295) or Ryan Ong (919-259-4187).

Board Member Profile: Tony Pack



Name: Philip Jerod Pack

Nicknames: Phil, Tony, Steelhead

How long have you served on the St. James' Academy Board? 12 years

Why do you serve on the board? Our neighbor children live in a challenging, and dangerous environment, and need our help.

What do you love the most about Baltimore? Diversity in all forms of people, places, and things is what I love about this city, and it is the place of my birth.

Outside of your service with the Academy, what do you like to do for fun? I love RVing, sports, and being with my family.

What's the best thing that you've watched or read lately? The best thing I read lately is the autobiography of Frederick Douglas, and best thing I watched was a winning 66-yard Raven field goal.

What advice or message would you give to one of our Academy kids? Always seek help and advice from trusting adults when you need it.

SJA Board Member Service Milestones



15+ Years
Helen Anderson

10+ Years
Tom Brandt
Denise Day
Cynthia Easley
Ryan Ong
Philip Pack

5+ Years
Tom Johnston
LaVerne Naesea

Get Involved!

The SJA Board's successful programs would not be possible without community volunteers and financial support from those like you.

- Roughly half of our annual program budget comes through fundraising efforts: your dollars make a difference in the lives of our children in ways beyond measure! Please consider supporting SJA by joining our 11/13 fundraiser, donating via [PayPal](#) or tagging us when you order through [Amazon Smile](#).
- Better yet: **join the St. James Academy Board!** Contact Membership Chair Dominique Syé (dominiquesye@yahoo.com) if interested.

