



## MAA ALUMNA NAMED MD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On October 4, 2024, Kathryn Locke-Jones, a seventh-grade English language arts teacher at Hampstead Hill Academy, was named the 2025 Maryland Teacher of the Year. Kathryn was chosen among seven finalists for the award. Selected by a panel representing principals, educators, students, families, and the business community, Kathryn was evaluated on student achievement, teaching philosophy, community involvement, and knowledge of education issues.

And why is Mount Aviat beaming with pride at this accomplishment? Because Kathryn is a graduate of Mount Aviat! Kathryn earned her English Education degree from the University of Delaware (2013), and her M.S.Ed from Johns Hopkins University (2015). She is a proud alum of Padua Academy (2009) and Mount Aviat Academy (2005) and credits her passion for teaching from her time on Broom Street and in Childs, MD. Kathryn is also the co-founder of SL24: UnLocke the Light, a mental health foundation focused on educating, assisting, and supporting students,



# Mount Aviat Academy



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Thank you to our staff and parents for volunteering your time and talents to photograph school events.

## MISSION

The Mission of Mount Aviat Academy is threefold:

- to provide instruction in the message of Christ, according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, within the context of the gentle and caring spirit of St. Francis de Sales;
- to offer an educational environment that promotes high academic standards;
- to instill the principles of scholarship, citizenship and service in the minds and hearts of the students.

*Educating students to be  
no more and no less  
than their best.*



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

We hit the ground running this school year! While our Superior General Mother Maria Rita was visiting in September, we took the opportunity at our school's opening Mass to celebrate the entrance into our novitiate of Sr. Rachel Therese Ewalt and the jubilee of 60 years of profession of Sr. Patricia Marie Becker and Sr. Lawrence Therese Hudson! It was a beautiful Mass with so many family and friends joining us, and the students were able to witness firsthand such a special moment for Sr. Rachel (see page 9).

Shortly after this momentous occasion, we hosted an on-site visit and evaluation by a team of educators from the Middle States Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools as we wrapped up the reaccreditation process. This process is a comprehensive review of a school's mission, staffing, curricula, finances, and facilities and the process includes self-evaluations, peer reviews, committee reviews, and the development of in-depth strategic plans. I want to express my deep gratitude to our faculty and staff and all those who took part in this process including sitting for interviews, taking surveys, and so forth; your efforts help ensure Mount Aviat continues to be no more and no less than its best. On the heels of the Middle States visit, we learned that MAA graduate Kat Locke-Jones was named Maryland Teacher of the Year! We were beyond excited to hear such fantastic news and are so proud of Kat for this amazing accomplishment.

Finally, if you visited Mount Aviat this school year for Mass, the annual Christmas bazaar, to cheer on the Knights, or enjoy a Christmas show, you may have noticed some exciting changes happening in the area of our Preschool building. The Preschool renovation/addition is now well underway with an anticipated completion timeline of Summer 2025. See page 5 in this issue for more information about this project which allows us to move all three PreK classes comfortably to the new space.

As always, thank you for joining us this Fall at the annual Roast Beef Dinner, on the green at our annual Golf Tournament, and at our 62nd annual Christmas bazaar—and thank you to our dedicated volunteers for supporting us through all of our special events, school activities, and sports programs. Be sure to join us for the upcoming events listed on page 10.

Yours in Christ,

*Sr. John Elizabeth, OSFS*

Sister John Elizabeth Callaghan, OSFS



MAA bids farewell to longtime Kindergarten aide Mrs. Francine Segner. Mrs. Segner began her new adventure as full-time grandmother to baby Violet in December 2024.



which was founded in memory of her brother, Sean, also a graduate of Mount Aviat. Since 2019, SL24 has raised over \$4 million for mental health education and Kathryn's work has supported over 90,000 educators, recently featured on the Jennifer Hudson Show.

For the past 12 years, LoJo (as she is called by her students) feels incredibly lucky to teach seventh grade ELA at Hampstead Hill Academy in Baltimore, MD. Her students have scored the highest on the Maryland State Assessment in Baltimore City from 2017-2024 and they routinely are among the top in the state. She is passionate about helping students find their authentic voice and tell their own stories. Kathryn believes that creating brave spaces for students means reflecting their authentic light back to them.

Recently, we reached out to Kathryn to talk about her time at Mount Aviat and what led her to such an amazing accomplishment.

### What inspired you to become a teacher?

*I remember sitting in Mrs. Kraft's second grade class and thinking about how much fun she made class. Each Friday, we would make a drawing to go into a book about what made our classmates special and create such a culture of belonging. As I went up in grades at MAA, I just continued to see the generosity of spirit of each teacher. Mrs. Baker's mini market was the social event of the season; she valued our creativity. Mrs. Bartow was able to make even diagramming sentences fun and create confidence in Math. I knew I wanted to do something that would inspire joy just like Mrs. Fritz, Mr. Hendron, and Mrs. Warrington. There's a quote that says "Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need" and I think that describes teaching perfectly.*

### What is a favorite memory or two of a teacher you had at MAA?

*This is such a tough question. But I really want to say that there are three teachers at MAA that I find myself trying to emulate in my classroom each day.*

*The first one is Sister Joseph Margaret. I'll always remember how during French class for Pre-K, she would open up a small box with special air all the way from France to help us learn. She would even tell us she had purple hair under her habit. Sr. Joseph Margaret taught me the importance of adding magic any time you can inside the classroom.*

*Second is Mrs. Landis. Mrs. Landis is one of those teachers that always cheers you on no matter what chapter you are in your life. She taught me the power of storytelling as a teacher and how important it is for your students to see you as a person, not just a teacher. Mrs. Landis knows how to have courageous conversations with students and create a safe space for her kids. I'm still learning from her to this day.*

*Finally, Mrs. Callaghan. She was such a strong teacher, with high expectations for her kids. Looking back, I realized that she trusted her students to meet her high expectations because she knew what we could achieve. And who could forget the Speech contest?! Legendary stuff.*

### What is unique about your teaching style?

*One thing I try to do as a teacher is to give students an opportunity to know that their voice matters, even if that means I talk less (a tough task for a Locke!). Anytime I have the opportunity to hand students the mic and share their own thoughts, it's a good day in Room 317.*

### How do you balance motherhood and teaching?

*I'm so thankful for teaching because it's made me a better mother. My husband, Nick, is a teacher as well and there's something about taking 300 middle schoolers laser tagging that really does prepare you for life with four kids under four. Teaching really shows you the value in praising the positive and how to be fair, but firm. I try to keep that same energy whether I'm with my students or my children!*

### What advice would you give to young students today who may be thinking about teaching as a career?

*Do it! There's a line about how "Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions" which is totally true. However, when I think about the best part of teaching, it's really the impact students have on your life. Each year, my students broaden my perspective of the world and teach me about life. Plus, there's something to be said that no matter how old someone gets or where they are in life, adults always remember the name of their favorite teachers.*



## CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE ANNUAL MAA GOLF TOURNAMENT

**O**n Monday, October 7, 2024, the Mount Aviat Academy community gathered at Newark Country Club for a day of golf, camaraderie, and shared purpose. More than 60 golfers and guests enjoyed a perfect blend of sunshine, good company, and the opportunity to support a cause that directly benefits MAA students and families.

This year, a fan-favorite feature made its return to the tournament—the air cannon! Players had the chance to launch their golf balls down the fairway in this exciting contest, adding a unique twist to the day’s competition. Pictured enjoying the fun are Sister Joseph Anne and Sister Joseph Margaret, whose smiles and enthusiasm perfectly captured the spirit of the event.

Following a day filled with 18-holes and bonus challenges, a buffet dinner brought participants together to celebrate. The evening program highlighted the day’s top achievers, with Steve Linkous, Chuck Martin, Jeff Medlar, and Steve Kennedy (pictured) announced as the first-place tournament champions.

At this year’s golf tournament dinner, alumna speaker Lauren Mottel ’15 reflected on how her Mount Aviat Academy education shaped her academically and personally: “I loved every class I was in... was lucky to have teachers who entertained my endless questions and challenged me.” She credited MAA with providing “the space and resources to bloom where [she] was planted,” enriched by faith, compassion, and a supportive community she can always turn to. Closing with an appeal to support MAA’s mission, she shared, “I learned to ‘Be who you are and be that well’ and hope more students like me can grow into their best selves.” Her words reminded us of the enduring impact of MAA’s values and the importance of ensuring its legacy for future generations through events like our golf tournament.

This memorable event would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of our sponsors (see sidebar) and the dedication of our planning committee: Tom Petrella, Kathy Keogh, Lou Peticca, Sr. Joseph Anne, Sr. Anne Elizabeth, Jack Doordan, Taylor Akers, Tracy Harreld, and Shana Rossi. Proceeds from the tournament will continue to support the exciting transformation of our playground—a project our students deeply appreciate for the improvements made so far and eagerly look forward to as new additions and enhancements take shape.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Newark Country Club staff for their exceptional hospitality, as well as to our golfers, guests, and volunteers for making the day such a resounding success.

Mark your calendars for next year’s tournament, tentatively scheduled for Monday, **October 6, 2025**. We look forward to welcoming you back for another incredible day of golf, fellowship, and support for Mount Aviat Academy!

## Thank you to our sponsors!

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## BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PRE-K AT MAA

**E**xciting changes are underway at Mount Aviat as we expand to support the growth of our Preschool program! Construction on the new Pre-K building is progressing beautifully, with work advancing to create three spacious classrooms and updated interior spaces to better serve our growing program.

This project reflects the heart of the MAA community, with families and business partners coming together in meaningful ways to support the work. From early planning,

to funding, to construction, the teamwork and spirit of MAA shine brightly as we build for the future.

Pictured above are a rendering of our new Pre-K building and a snapshot of Sr. John Elizabeth with students Courtney Nonn (5th), Nathan Nonn (3rd), Austin Logan (4th), and Jaylee Logan (2nd) on the construction site. Together, we're building a bright future for our students and families! Keep an eye out for future communications as we continue to update the community on progress!



## PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

**C**onducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition encourages students to use their minds and knowledge of America's history and their experience of today's American society to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was, "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Congratulations to Mount Aviat's winners for the 2024-2025 school year: **Chesapeake City Post:** Xavier Moran, Mason Saunders, Rosalie Bennett. **Elkton Post:** Laney Tyler, Lily Moore, Tenley Handy. **Port Deposit Post:** Abigail Parr, Kaelyn Magaw, Madelyn Magaw.



The 12th Annual Mount Aviat 5K & Sister Walk is scheduled for Sunday, April 6, 2025. This is a fun and healthy family, school, and community event with the course set in the neighborhoods next to the school. Mass will be celebrated on the morning of the race in Holy Family Hall. An awards ceremony with refreshments will follow the race in St. Joseph Hall including trophies for the overall female and male winners. Medals for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are awarded for various age brackets. Registration for the race will begin in February 2025 online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Childs/MountAviatAcademy5KSisterWalk>. Proceeds from this event are used for classroom enrichment which directly benefits the students. We are looking to partner with businesses for sponsorship of the race. Please email Jessica Carlaw at [jessicacarlaw1@gmail.com](mailto:jessicacarlaw1@gmail.com) if you are interested in sponsoring our event.





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1. Cousins Layla, Ashlynn, and Alivia are all smiles on the first day of school at MAA. 2. Fifth graders Amelia Dennis and Amelia Robillard work with their classmates to build a house using the Builder Boards purchased from the golf tournament. 3. Olivia Wood and Wesley Carlaw are eagerly anticipating getting started on the first day of second grade. 4. Siblings Jeffrey and Sadie Adkins make a new friend in Ava Iler at the Ice Cream Social. 5. Rory McCloskey shows she ready to spend her recess periods on the Kindergarten playground after getting to play there at the Ice Cream Social. 6. Students gather for the annual Living Rosary in October. 7. Second grade—plus Emmitt—are ready to meet all the furry friends arriving for the annual Pet Parade. 8. All decked out in amazing costumes, PreK and Kindergarten students line up and prepare to greet students and their families for the Halloween parade. 9. Kindergarten students enjoy carving pumpkins and completing math activities with pumpkins with a little help from their 8th grade buddies. 10. PreK3 students learn about all the equipment on a fire truck during the Singery Fire Company visit to Mount Aviat. 11. Singery Fire Company's Sparky and Miss Fire Safety make learning about fire safety fun for PreK4 students. 12. PreK and Kindergarten students gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving and enjoy a delicious meal together. 13. Eighth graders showcase the beautiful ofrenda which all classes contributed to. Senora Cook's monarch butterfly theme was breathtaking! 14. MAA's beginner band and advanced band members join together for a lively Christmas concert and perform favorites such as *Jingle Bells*, *Deck the Halls*, and *Up on the Housetop*. 15. No pre-show jitters here as advanced band members Ava Turbide and Giuliana Veasey are all smiles as they prepare to perform for their classmates and families at the Winter Band Concert. 16. Kindergarten takes the stage for their first Christmas pageant. 17. The friendly first grade beasts in the stable welcome baby Jesus. 18. PreK3 and PreK4 students impress their families with their lively performance of *Jingle Bells* at their Christmas celebration. 19. Former teacher and volunteer Suzanne DelCoglin helps a first grade shopper pick out the perfect gift at the Santa Shop. 20. Fifth grade soccer team members are all smiles and ready for a great season. 21. Students enjoy visiting the sixth graders' Egyptian museum which includes hands-on displays such as the one created by Tommy Herron on agriculture and environment. 22. Sixth grade girls' volleyball players show their positive winning attitudes on Spirit Day.



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# FRIENDS' FALL FUN!



1. A fabulous group of Friends' volunteers and student helpers prep and serve a delicious roast beef dinner. 2. Sr. Frances Carol and Sr. Ana Mercedes serve up helpings of applesauce, beets, and coleslaw to a crowd of wonderful guests awaiting dinner. 3. A full dining room makes for a successful roast beef dinner. 4. Sixth grader Ava Turbide shows off her Halloween tattoos at the Friends' Fall Fest. 5. Kindergartners Aalya Modaressi and Madison Bradley enjoy the fun crafting activities at the Fall Fest. 6. The Applegate Family all join in on the fun at the Fall Fest. 7. First grader Sydney Crowley shows off her beautiful butterfly costume at the Fall Fest. 8. Kindergartners Nicolli Lucas, AJ Vlamis, and Brian Andrews are excited to spend a moment with Santa at the annual Christmas bazaar. 9. Customers line



up for the much sought after cream puffs at the Christmas bazaar. 10. Santa's helpers, Nicholas Graham and Leah Dunlap, are all smiles as they greet children who are eager to visit Santa.





## OBLATE UPDATE

Every fall the lives of the Oblate Sisters in the United States tends to revolve around a multiplicity of school activities. This year several unique experiences took center stage. In late August, we were invited to attend the convocation for the Archdiocese of Baltimore to accept the Doris Musil Memorial Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Department of Catholic Schools on someone who has made a profound impact on Catholic Education. Sr. Susan Louise is this year's recipient, and we were thrilled to accept this award posthumously. May her spirit of joy and enthusiasm continue to inspire us.

In September, Mother Maria Rita, our Superior General, and Sr. Maria Theresia, her assistant, spent a few weeks with us. Our students delighted in showcasing our schools, Mount Aviat Academy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Towson. They were eager to share what they love about their schools and how they Live Jesus.

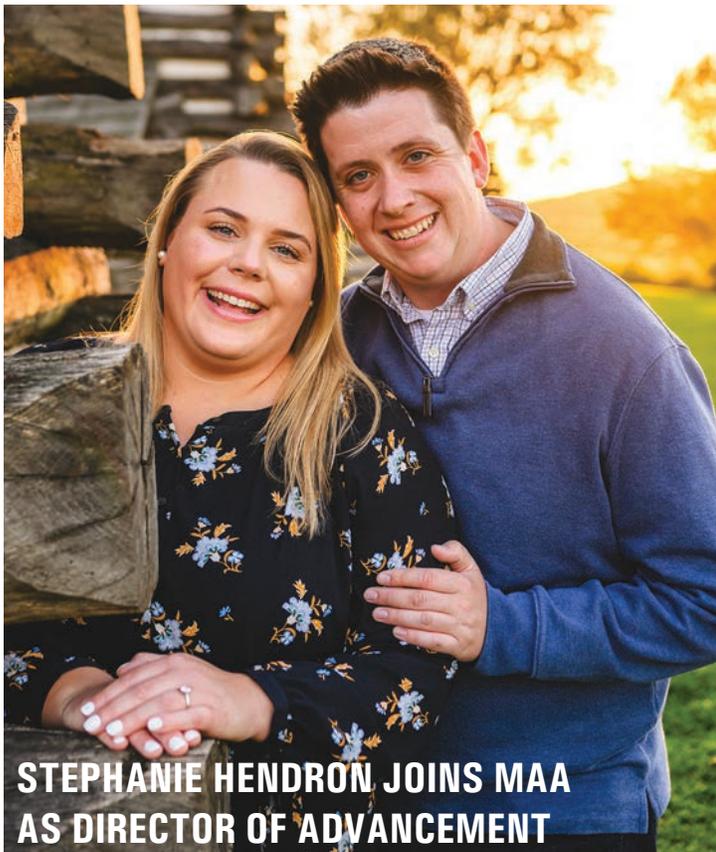
One of the highlights of their visit was celebrating the entrance into our novitiate of Sr. Rachel Therese Ewalt and the jubilee of 60 years of profession of Sr. Patricia Marie Becker and Sr. Lawrence Therese Hudson. All of this took place at our opening school Mass. Students and teachers joined our Sisters and their families for this celebration. This was the first time our school community witnessed the commitment of our Sisters to a life dedicated to Christ.

What a beautiful experience it was for all of us!

Sr. Rachel Therese made her way to our Motherhouse to spend her novitiate near our founders. She is learning French quickly and adapting to French culture. We continue to pray for vocations to share our beautiful life and help spread God's love in our world.

We are excited to celebrate this jubilee year, 2025, as Pilgrims of Hope with our school and community.





**STEPHANIE HENDRON JOINS MAA AS DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT**

We are excited to welcome Stephanie Hendron as the school's Director of Advancement. In this role, Stephanie will focus on supporting the financial sustainability and long-term growth of the school by fostering strong relationships within the MAA community and beyond. She will lead fundraising efforts, advance the school's mission, and help grow the Aviat Foundation Endowment.

Although Stephanie did not attend MAA, her husband, Joseph, and his family have strong ties to MAA and the Oblate Sisters. "My husband and his family speak so fondly of their time at Mount Aviat Academy and of what a special place it is," she said. "In my short time here, I've come to truly appreciate how special and rewarding MAA is. I am committed to supporting MAA and the Oblate Sisters in providing a faith-centered education that empowers and prepares our future leaders." Stephanie is pictured above with her husband Joseph '07.

**MOUNT AVIAT UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- February 23 Open House, 2-4 p.m.
- March 1 Dinner Auction
- April 6 5K and Sister Walk
- April 17- 27 Holy Week and Easter Vacation
- May 9 Grandparents' Day & Spring Show
- May 22 Family Celebration 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- June 3 Eighth Grade Graduation
- June 6 Kindergarten Graduation

the *Fund* for  
**MOUNT AVIAT**

The Fund for Mount Aviat continues to be one of the main sources of funding for the school's operating budget. As we launch our 2025 Annual Fund, we invite you to help us continue providing a nurturing, faith-filled education. Your support will enhance learning with modern technology, offer tuition assistance to families in need, and support a dedicated staff who foster both academic and spiritual growth.

To make a gift to the Fund for Mount Aviat, please scan the QR code below or send a check to MAA at P.O. Box 85, Childs, MD 21916. For more information, please contact: Stephanie Hendron at [advancement@mountaviat.org](mailto:advancement@mountaviat.org) or 410.398.2206 ext. 220.



Thank you to those who have already donated to the Fund this year. We are grateful for your generosity in helping to ensure Mount Aviat Academy remain a special place. To date, the Annual Fund has raised a total of \$68,909.17!

**MOUNT AVIAT ACADEMY**  
presents

*An Evening in the Vineyard*

**2025 DINNER AUCTION**

Saturday, March 1, 2025

\$60 per person  
\$550 for a table of 10  
(if purchased by 2-15-25; \$600 after)

Scan the QR code to buy tickets, sponsorships, program ads, or browse auction items.

For additional information:  
Mrs. Tracy Harreld  
Advancement Office  
(410)398-2206 ext. 218 or  
[tharreld@mountaviat.org](mailto:tharreld@mountaviat.org)





# KNIGHTLY NEWS



**Chris Greenplate '21** earned the rank of Eagle Scout on March 28th, 2024. Fellow MAA alumni who are also Scouts were a part of his ceremony on August 17th including **Aidan Venters, Jack Dymowski, Gabe Teather, and Dave Greenplate Jr.**



**Brianna (Segner) Rome '10** (daughter of MAA teacher Francine Segner) and husband Mark, welcomed Violet Dee Rome on September 15, 2024. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz. and 19.5 inches tall.



**Amy (Warrington) Kuehne '01** and husband Zachary welcomed Maximus Reinhardt Kuehne on November 17, 2024.



## FUTURE KNIGHTS



**Kat Locke-Jones '05** and husband Nick welcomed daughter Clare Murphy Jones on November 7, 2024. Clare is already a strong female lead with her first move—not sharing a Christmas Eve birthday with her very obsessed older brothers! Maclin Sean (4), Seamus Ryan (2) and Thomas Healy (2) couldn't be prouder.

**Benjamin Baker '06** and his wife Kasey welcomed Mack Robert on November 4, 2024. He joins his big sister, Laney, who was born on March 21, 2022.



**Briana Lockhart '10** and husband, John Bachkosky, welcomed daughter Violet Winslow Bachkosky on December 8, 2024.



**Anna (Petrella) Pallme '10** and husband Matthew welcomed Eloise Pallme on July 27, 2024. Baby Eloise weighed in at 7lb 9 oz!



Don't forget to like our Facebook page (Mount Aviat Academy Alumni Association) and follow MAA on Instagram @MountAviat.

If you have alumni news you would like to share, please contact Mrs. Charlene Nichols, Admissions Director, at [Admissions@MountAviat.org](mailto:Admissions@MountAviat.org). If you would like to receive MAA's weekly newsletter, simply send an email to [info@mountaviat.org](mailto:info@mountaviat.org).

If you no longer wish to receive the *Link*, please let us know by telephoning the school at 410.398.2206, ext. 214. Thank you.



Now accepting  
applications for the  
2025-2026  
school year

## “Buddy” Time Makes Lasting Memories

*Eighth grader Laney Tyler takes time to discuss pumpkin carving ideas with her Kindergarten buddy Mollie Birney.*

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