10TH ANNIVERSARY ~ OUR VOYAGE CONTINUES
Trinity Monteiro ’13 graduated in May with an award for outstanding extracurricular contribution from Tabor Academy, where she received a four-year scholarship. She will be attending UMass Amherst this fall. Inspired by her daughter’s OSS experience, Trinity’s mother went back to school and will receive her bachelor’s degree in Human Services in December. This is just one of the many stories in OSS’s first decade of how the School transformed its students, their families and our community.

We are about to embark on our second decade. We want to build on our mission of providing a transformative educational experience for the young girls of New Bedford by focusing our resources on People, Program and Place. When you visit OSS, you experience the heartbeat of our school at work—our teachers, staff and volunteers, and the extraordinary commitment and passion they bring to the School. We will continue to invest in professional development, and the hiring and retention of outstanding teachers who embrace the School’s innovative curriculum and the importance of social and emotional learning.

OSS has refined and solidified its robust core curriculum in the humanities, math, science and visual arts. Our emphasis will enhance STEAM instruction (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), create a well-rounded health and fitness program, and an outdoor classroom with lessons and activities to develop our students’ observations skills, creativity and innovative design thinking.

OSS is first and foremost a school of people, hence our exciting concept of “Community as Campus.” We will further partner with New Bedford’s organizations, businesses and nonprofits to create experiential teaching and learning opportunities. Personal exploration beyond the classroom makes student learning relevant, and our girls develop a sense of pride in our city. We will expand classroom and physical educational spaces to support our students and the goals of our programs.

We ask for your partnership to set OSS on this exciting course for the next decade. As the School is ineligible for state funding, you, our loyal supporters, have been the wind at our backs on this remarkable journey. We will continue to strive to ensure that every OSS student has an exceptional education through the pure joy of learning in an empowering and positive environment. Please join us on this next leg of our extraordinary voyage!
Our true purpose is to equip our students with the foundation they need to pursue higher education, achieve their dreams and help build their communities! For that, we know, they also need healthy self-esteem, unfettered aspiration, and resilient determination.

This is our work.
OSS GIRLS: Alumnae: 91 • Currently attending college: 30 • Currently attending or have attended independent schools: 30 • Currently attending or have attended public high schools: 61 • Total independent school scholarships for 9th grade students in 2017-18: $292,050 • Aggregate independent secondary school scholarships for 7 graduated classes: $3.5 million
CLASS OF 2011 – CLASS OF 2017

Public Secondary Schools:
Bristol County Agricultural High School
City on a Hill Charter School
Dartmouth High School
Fairhaven High School
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School
Masters Regional Academy
New Bedford High School
Old Rochester Regional High School

Independent Secondary Schools:
Bishop Stang High School
Dana Hall School
Falmouth Academy
Lincoln School
Loomis Chaffee School
Milton Academy
Phillips Academy Andover
St. Andrew’s School
St. George’s School
Tabor Academy
The Wheeler School
Westover School

Colleges:
Amherst College
Bates College
Berklee College of Music
Bridgewater State University
Bristol Community College
California State University, Fullerton
Curry College
Framingham State University
Fisher College
Mount Ida College
Roger Williams University
Salem State University
Texas Christian University
UMass Amherst
UMass Boston
UMass Dartmouth
University of New Hampshire
University of Southern California
Wagner College
Let us expand professional development and learning opportunities, and more-competitively compensate our staff members for their enthusiasm, compassion and devotion that nurture and inspire our students and graduates to grow and flourish.

There is an art and a craft to both teaching and learning. Our dedicated faculty strives to create a student-centered and rigorous educational program that encourages deep learning. The best education takes place in an environment where the teachers, students, parents, volunteers and trustees — our PEOPLE—work together to pursue common goals. OSS fosters an environment of ideas and ideals to bring the community closer together. Our faculty is committed to personal growth for themselves and their STUDENTS, as they transform lives in our laboratory of learning. They work collaboratively and empower our girls to embrace the OSS core values of Excellence, Community, Citizenship and Leadership.

Ariana Wohl
Humanities teacher and department head
Our educational PROGRAM has a strong interdisciplinary focus where students gain a substantial body of knowledge, along with the ability to discover connections in different areas of learning. Teachers apply multiple approaches to content and outcomes to develop a solid foundation that supports and challenges our girls to achieve their greatest possible potential. Our profound dedication to excellence in academic programming will continue in all our curricular expansion, as we maintain high standards while innovating and attending to the needs of each individual student.

Let us purposefully enhance programs in the humanities, foreign language, math, arts, science, wellness and STEAM so that students can experience authentic learning in a joyous environment.

- Focus on the humanities
- Deepen critical thinking skills
- Emphasis on emotional and social learning
- Expand health and fitness program
We believe in the power of community. We strive to inspire each student to participate in her community and develop a sense of pride in our city and its people. Our unique location provides us with valuable opportunities to further collaborate with area organizations and nonprofits, thereby making learning all the more relevant. Experiential education IN the New Bedford area adds critical depth to our commitment to the “Community as Campus.” While we are achieving extraordinary results in our classrooms, we look to improve our facilities so that we can offer a more robust curriculum. With measured and creative thinking, we have identified spaces to enhance and support our students’ 11-hour program days for instruction, learning and exploring.

Let us improve our space, broaden community partnerships so to expand our students’ access to new experiences and engage in service learning. We are IN New Bedford...we are OF New Bedford.

**PLACE**

- Create flexible new physical education space
- Enlarge classrooms and STEAM Lab
- Outdoor learning for whole-person development

“Community as Campus”

- Expand place-based experiential opportunities
- Partner broadly with organizations in the New Bedford area
“OSS creates a climate of learning, values, and support that propels girls forward. Empowered by a sense of optimism, graduates have the confidence and conviction to conquer life’s challenges in high school and beyond.”

Steve Barker, former Head of School, Friends Academy

“At its heart, OSS is about developing girls’ expectations about what they can do and who they can be.”

Russell Wengle, former Head of School, Loomis Chaffee School

“It is hard work committing to so challenging and all-encompassing a program, but the reward is the opportunity for OSS students to pursue lives of their own choosing and their own making.”

John Quirk, Head of School, Tabor Academy

“OSS operates on a model that is bold in its approach and unorthodox in its execution. It would be easy to say that OSS succeeds in spite of limited resources, but the reality is the School has almost limitless resources because OSS recognizes that its campus is the entire city and its environment.”

Bill English, former Head of School, Loomis Chaffee School

William Prescott, former Head of School, The Wheeler School

**GOAL**

$1,000,000+

**OSS TRUSTEES**

Steve Barker, former Head of School, Friends Academy

William Prescott, former Head of School, The Wheeler School

Russell Wengle, former Head of School, Loomis Chaffee School

After retiring from Friends Academy and OSS Board as of June 30, 2017

**OPPORTUNITY FUND**

Enhancing OSS for the next 10 years: 2017-2027

**People, Program and Place**

**Compensation and Professional Development** $460,000+

To retain and attract the best teachers for our girls, we must increase staff salaries and benefits. Additionally, to ensure all instruction is the best it can be, we must provide opportunities for our valued staff to advance and hone their skills.

**Wellness and Fitness Facility** $250,000+

To support a more comprehensive health program, we plan to access additional space and create a gymnasium that will also function as a multi-use venue for events that build community spirit as we pursue wellness together.

**Campus Enhancements and “Community as Campus”** $250,000+

To improve teaching and student activities, we will enlarge our classrooms and safely transport our students throughout the New Bedford area for valuable experiential learning opportunities.

**Outdoor Classroom** $40,000+

To educate the whole child through lessons and activities that develop observation skills, creativity and innovative design thinking, we will build a collaborative learning facility where students can explore, problem-solve and engage in the outdoors.

**Total**

$1,000,000+
Please join us.

Our future will be built on a shared vision of success as we stay true to our core values of Excellence, Community, Citizenship and Leadership.

We will continue to empower our girls.

Every gift is important. For questions, or to join us in transforming OSS students’ lives:

- Contact Georgie Goulding, Director of Advancement, at ggoulding@oursistersschool.org or 508-994-1255
- Visit www.oursistersschool.org/donate.html; or mail your gift to OSS, 145 Brownell Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740
As an independent, tuition-free, non-sectarian middle school, Our Sisters’ School’s mission is to educate and inspire economically disadvantaged girls from the New Bedford area. OSS empowers girls to step into the future with valuable life skills and a mindset of achievement and excellence by providing a safe, supportive and academically challenging environment.

Our Sisters’ School, Inc. admits girls as students to the School regardless of their race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, creed, or sexual orientation. The School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, creed, or sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, athletic or other school administered programs.

Our Sisters’ School, Inc. employs personnel of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, religion, creed, and sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available to personnel at the School.

Photos by Andy Chin, Virginia Sutherland and OSS staff

Board of Trustees 2017-18

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