



A School | *a home*  
 Boarding at Sandy Spring Friends School  
 Grades 9-12

# Living at SSFS



Students who board at SSFS have an exceptional opportunity to extend their learning experience beyond the classroom to one of the nation's most vibrant cities and its surrounding region.

The campus is remarkably well situated: it occupies 140 peaceful, rural acres in Sandy Spring, Maryland, yet is only 16 miles from Washington, DC.

Boarders are an integral part of the School and contribute to the safe, vibrant, and close-knit community. As a school rooted to Quaker values—and deeply committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice—students feel a deep sense of belonging and are able to cultivate meaningful relationships with their peers and faculty.

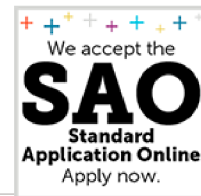
SSFS fosters a sense of curiosity and confidence in our students and provides ample support as they identify and develop their passions, excel academically, and gain the independence and self-advocacy skills needed to thrive in college and beyond. Through a robust experiential education model, our talented faculty inspire our students to let their lives speak in and outside of the classroom in ways that equip our students to positively impact the current and future world.

## The Dorm Community

Our dorm's 40 Upper School students, 4 dorm parents, and 14 faculty and staff who reside on campus and support the boarding program. Together, we create a rich and supportive environment for community life.

## Admission Process

- Step 1: Submit Inquiry in Veracross
- Step 2: Start Your Application and Submit Application Fee
- Step 3: Request Teacher Recommendations
- Step 4: Submit Academic Records
- Step 5: Schedule Student Interview and testing via Vericant
- Step 6: Submit Character Skills Snapshot



## Boarding Options: 5- & 7-Day

Both five- and seven-day boarding options are available: five-day boarding students return home after classes on Friday and arrive back at school on Sunday evening, while seven-day boarders participate in a variety of weekend activities led by dorm staff.

“As a 7-Day Boarding student, what I've experienced here is “home.” SSFS has taught me to be myself, to speak up for what I need, and to share my concerns. I don't think you could have this kind of experience anywhere else.”



—Cody Xu, SSFS 7-Day Boarding Student, Class of 2025

“Living only 20 minutes away from SSFS, I didn't need to live in the dorm. However, I'm so glad I did! SSFS prepared me for college, both academically and socially. Being a part of the dorm community helped me learn how to live away from my family, how to share spaces with others, and prepared me for college life. I also took AP and advanced courses as SSFS, which helped get me into the college mindset because they are on par with the college courses I take now.”



—Mecca McCain, SSFS 5-Day Boarding Alum, Class of 2020

# Weekdays in the Dorm

Boarding students are able to access all the many offerings that take place during and after the school day, including academic classes, athletic games, arts performances, clubs, and more.



# Academic Support

- Sunday-Thursday evening proctored study halls
- After school faculty support and meeting hours
- Two Upper School Learning Specialists during school hours
- Learning Specialists visit the dorm on Monday and Wednesday evenings

# Social-Emotional Support

- Two Upper School Counselors during school hours
- Counselors visit the dorm on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings (Counselors are on-call during the week)
- Bi-weekly social-emotional support seminars
- Mentor meals every Thursday focused on building community with peers and trusted adults

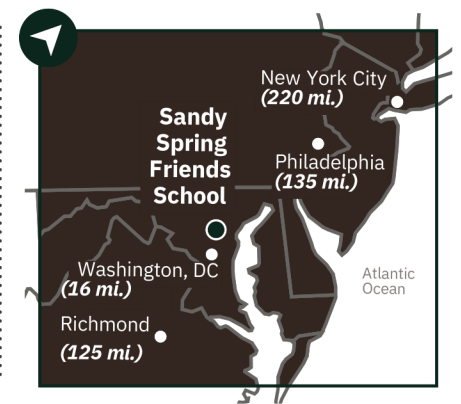


Our boarding students come from all over the United States as well as 16 countries, including:

Azerbaijan China Jamaica **BHUTAN** Mexico  
VIETNAM Thailand GHANA Lebanon **KOREA**  
United Kingdom Japan El Salvador Ukraine Spain

# On the Weekends

Sandy Spring's proximity to Washington, DC, makes a wealth of weekend activities available to students. Trips to the nation's capital have brought students to the Museum of Natural History and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and regional sports outings have included Baltimore Orioles and Washington Nationals baseball games. Other weekend activities range from coffee houses, dorm challenges, and community service projects to SAT courses, athletic competitions, and outdoor adventure trips—including hiking, rock climbing, and skiing. Boarding students have additional opportunities to interact with the broader SSFS community through various cultural celebrations, festivals, dinners, and assemblies throughout the school year.



Philadelphia College Visits  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
Washington, DC



The Adventure Park  
Sandy Spring, Maryland



We're known as the Beests, short for wildebeests.

## Athletics

11 interscholastic sports:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Climbing
- Cross-Country
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

**2**  
Gymnasiums  
including an  
Athletic Complex  
with a fitness center

**40-foot**  
Climbing Wall

Conference competition in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference (PVAC)



Our athletics & physical education program complements the academic and spiritual life on campus and helps promote a sense of community, as well as providing opportunities for every student to realize their potential as an individual athlete and a team member.

—Dr. Bruce Nkala, Athletic Director



## The Arts

The SSFS culture encourages individual artistic expression. Students at all levels, from beginner to highly advanced, participate in our extensive offerings and can take advantage of our studio spaces and state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. With a wide range of visual and performing arts classes from woodworking, photography, and ceramics to a storied dance and drama program, boarding students have extensive opportunities to exhibit, choreograph, and perform.



The Performing Arts Department is a vibrant part of the greater school community. Students investigate ideas and celebrate each other's achievements in our robust theater, dance, and music programs.

—Michelle Puhl-Price, Upper & Middle School Arts Dept. Head

# College-Bound Students

One-on-one college counseling sessions beginning junior year, regular meetings with families, and a series of college workshops help each student find the best college fit.

**100%\***

\*Some students elect to take a gap year before college.

of students apply and are accepted to college

“ Quaker education is about self-reflection, and our college counseling department approaches the college process with that mindset. Students reflect on their own experiences and let that inform their college selection process. As college counselors, we ask students “What is the best for YOU?” and then we work alongside each student to achieve their goals.



—Chris Miller, Director of College Counseling

## College Destinations

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| American University          | New York University               |
| Boston College               | Northwestern University           |
| Bowdoin College              | Oberlin College                   |
| Bryn Mawr College            | Penn State University             |
| Carleton College             | Princeton University              |
| College of William and Mary  | Reed College                      |
| Concordia University         | Rochester Institute of Technology |
| Cornell University           | University of Pennsylvania        |
| Elmhurst College             | Virginia Tech                     |
| Emory University             | Washington and Lee University     |
| Fordham University           | Wellesley College                 |
| George Washington University | London School of Fashion & Design |
| Haverford College            | Loughborough College              |
| Ithaca College               | Trinity College Dublin            |
| Juniata College              | Universidad Europea               |
| McGill University            | University of Edinburgh           |
| Middlebury College           | University of Victoria            |

### CONNECT WITH SSFS ADMISSION

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