

In their words

Four award-winning BSA students reflect on their school and the arts.

BALTIMORE SCHOOL
for the **ARTS**

Saxophone player Tasja Slaughter, 2015, was one of twelve finalists selected in the **Words on Wheels** poetry competition. Her poem – “Who Will Cry?” – is featured on MTA buses in Baltimore City. “My creative work has influenced who I am because my creativity is what landed me at BSA. Without BSA, I honestly would not be who I am, mentally.” Headed to University of Maryland this fall, Tasja advises current students to “go against the grain.”



“Never give up. BSA is a tough place to get through because of its rigorous work, but it is very possible to make it through.”

–Tasja Slaughter, 2015

“I would describe an artist as somebody with a creative vision who turns that vision into a reality.”

–Chloe Bates, 2016



“My art has helped me develop my understanding of the world and the role I want to have in it,” says **visual artist Chloe Bates**, 2016. Chloe is the winner of the 2015 **Fred Lazarus IV Artscape Prize**, a member of the National Honor Society, and Web Editor of the school’s literary magazine. Her work will be on display at a solo show at MICA this summer.

“To me, art is the intentional and skillful execution of an idea expressed in a medium or media. It doesn’t have to be tangible, aesthetically appealing, original, or easily understood.”

Cellist Emily Cornett, 2015, is a **National Merit Scholarship Winner** and valedictorian of BSA’s senior class. She believes that “Art connects all people. It’s a manifestation of the common understanding and expression of the human experience. The emotions within music, for example, are preserved for hundreds of years, and we listen to the same melodies that moved and inspired people throughout history.” Emily will continue her studies at Yale University this fall. What she’ll miss most? “There is so much love at BSA.”

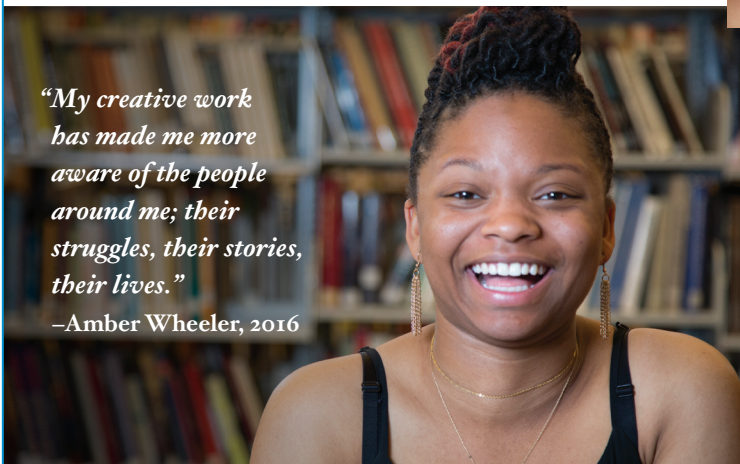


“Art and academics are intrinsically linked. You need academics to learn about your world, and you need art to understand it on a deeper and more emotional level.”

–Emily Cornett, 2015

“My creative work has made me more aware of the people around me; their struggles, their stories, their lives.”

–Amber Wheeler, 2016



Actor Amber Wheeler, 2016, describes an artist “as someone who has found a way to articulate their inner thoughts through some creative medium.” One of the ways she expresses her inner thoughts is through writing and this year she was honored in **Center Stage’s Young Playwrights Festival**. Her advice to classmates: “Do not procrastinate! It will destroy all of the hard work you’ve put in previously, and it will stress you out; avoid it at all costs.” Amber plans to continue playwriting, to become an English teacher, and to act on the side.