

EXPLORATION. INSPIRATION. EXCELLENCE.



**BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
INNOVATION FUND**

Annual Report
2016-2017

OUR BEGINNINGS

In December 1998, a small group led by then-Headmaster Bob Weintraub gathered at the home of Sandy ('51) and David Bakalar to discuss an idea that would allow Brookline High School to continue (into the 21st Century!) its long-held leadership in testing new ideas in public education. Many of the attendees were alumni of the high school and parents of students at the school, and some were both alumni and parents. There has never been a shortage of ideas at BHS but, like at every public school, funds are not always available for new approaches. Those at the Bakalar home that night started by asking: "What if you had the money to try?" During the next year, more than \$400,000 was committed, most of it that night, to launch the Fund. Many individuals, families, foundations and corporations have joined the effort since then, but we have a special debt of thanks to that forward-thinking group we call our Founders.

We continue to question, grow, and evolve. Our mission remains the same. Read on to hear about our new name and logo.



the bhs 21st century fund

EXPLORATION. INSPIRATION. EXCELLENCE.



Dear Friends,

Let me begin by introducing you to our new brand: this year we unveiled a new name and logo, one that would continue to express the energy and forward thinking the Fund has become known for. We are now the BHS Innovation Fund! Thank you to everyone who helped us make this meaningful change for their time, thought, and energy.

This year, the Innovation Fund launched three new programs and supported four ongoing efforts, an extraordinary level of activity that has significantly broadened our impact at Brookline High. In this report, you'll hear for the first time about the 10th grade Racial Awareness Seminar, new strides with Engineering Innovation and Design, and a class called Film as History/History as Film, where each student concluded the year with an independent — and impressive — documentary film project.

And the Fund's ongoing work? Innovation Fellow Elon Fischer focused on connecting students with community members, engaging BHS in a number of exciting projects. In this, its second year, the Planning Grants program awarded both teachers and students with opportunities for academic exploration. Both the Mindfulness Initiative and EPIC/A Senior Year Alternative grew even stronger, working with more students and faculty to support the thoughtful, intellectual environment that is BHS.

We are proud to be part of the Brookline High School community, and we are grateful that the Fund's work means so much to you, our supporters. It speaks volumes about your belief in our incredible faculty, and your desire to give our students unparalleled opportunities for learning. Thank you so much for supporting the Innovation Fund. We couldn't do any of this without you.

Elizabeth Zachos, *Chair, Board of Directors*

“The Innovation Fund's role is to spur and foster innovation at Brookline High School. To me that means supporting teachers and their interesting ideas that would benefit the students. There's a tremendous amount of energy and expertise in this community, and I think the Fund provides a key way to support the school using that energy.”

ANTHONY MEYER, BHS HEADMASTER



Our Mission:

The Brookline High School (BHS) Innovation Fund

is a catalyst and incubator for innovation that fosters academic success for all students. Through courses, programs, forums, and research, we support inventive, faculty-led initiatives that energize teachers, inspire students, and support the excellence of BHS. Our mission is to empower the BHS faculty and community by fostering a culture of innovation and supporting the development of new ideas and initiatives that will enable our students to thrive in the future. Our vision is for Brookline High School to provide an unparalleled education by instilling a passion for academic exploration and a commitment to innovation.



EXPLORATION. INSPIRATION. EXCELLENCE.

We are the innovation arm of BHS. Support for the Innovation Fund is an investment in the creativity of our faculty, the energy of our students, and our community's commitment to public education. Since its founding in 1998, the Fund has engaged faculty, students, parents and alumni and the community at large to invest in the future of Brookline High. Our town's budget finances BHS' major operational and capital needs, but the Fund supports the development and implementation of innovative curriculum that cannot be tested using public dollars. Private donations play a critical role in the success of BHS by making it possible to try new ideas, new approaches for facing challenges and for seizing opportunities. If you wish to donate, please visit **BHSInnovationFund.org**.

Community Events held in 2016-2017:

GALA-RAMA: *November 2016*

Master Class/Back to School with the Fund: *December 2016*

Fireside Chat with the Innovation Fellow: *February 2017*

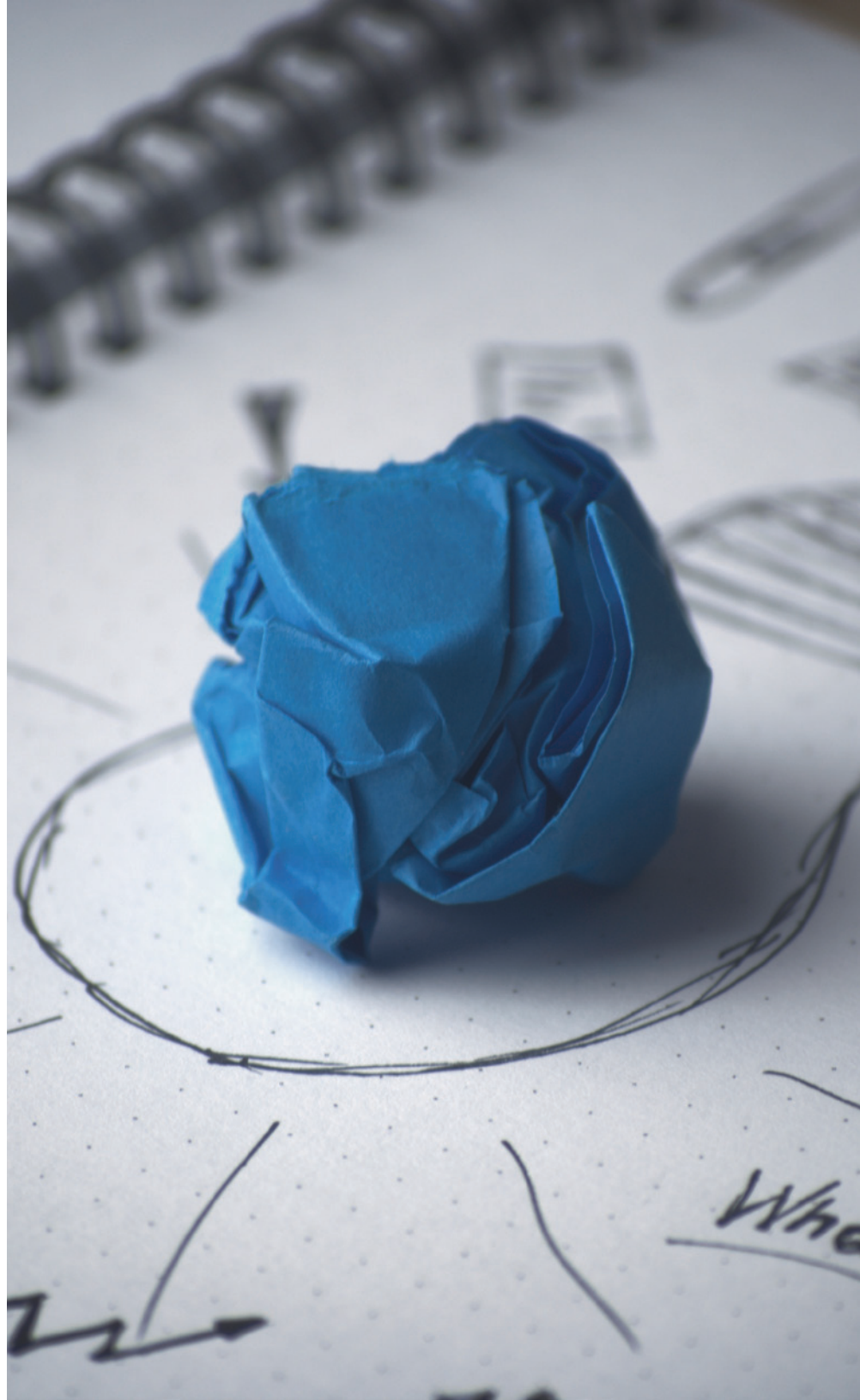
Rising 9th Grade Wine & Cheese: *April 2017*

Engineering Innovation & Design (EID)

LAUNCHED 2016 | In the process of creating a new “maker space” within the Brookline High School campus, the Engineering Innovation & Design class is designing a space where creativity can flourish. In addition to a “dirty” space for equipment that creates dust and needs to be separate from other spaces, they also have an area with allows students to move beyond 2-D drafting into the creation of real (3-D) products that are functional and aesthetically pleasing.

EID produces a fundamental course in innovated design for skills to be acquired, as well as a space where students can immerse themselves independently in their projects. Students learn to work in groups, recognize their strengths and weaknesses and collaborate as a team around a skill set, as they approach a series of projects/ challenges. Taught by both an art teacher and an engineering teacher, particular attention is drawn to aesthetic choices and choices based on engineering expediency, and the trade-offs involved in taking both into consideration.

2016-17: In development, program begins the 2017-18 school year, led by Aubrey Love (Engineering) and Andrew Maglathlin (Visual Arts)



“Having the Innovation Fund at BHS has made me a better teacher because it allows me to keep thinking big.”

“Being able to create curriculum that spans four years is an incredibly amazing thing to be able to do.”





EPIC for Seniors: Experiential, Project-based, Innovative Capstone

LAUNCHED 2015 | For the past several years, the Experiential, Project-based, Innovative Capstone program has given seniors the opportunity to learn through a high-quality, hands-on, project-based experience centered around their own interests. This year, students were offered 3 opportunities to do short-cycle projects in the fall before choosing their final topic. As a result, they were able to determine what was successful or not, which helped them learn their best working process.

One student was able to help herself process a personal situation. Another student decided to design clothes that would fit him better than those he could find in stores. Through these and other projects, students learn how to work better creatively, how to address road blocks when they occur without panicking, how to use resources available in the high school and the community, and how to incorporate feedback from others.

2016-17: 23 Students participated, led by Ben Berman (English) and Stephanie McAllister (History)



Film as History/ History as Film

LAUNCHED 2016 | Bridging both Social Studies and Visual Arts, this course explores how history is recorded in written and documented form, and helps students learn to maneuver both word and image to be effective communicators. Students start with a research paper and then move on to create innovative documentaries where they learn about their school, institution and community. They acquire skills in developing a story, researching and writing, interviewing outside experts, recording and using film editing software. Students receive direct instruction and support around how to call, interview, and follow up with people; a very valuable skill to have before graduation!

2016-17: 17 students participated, led by teachers Mark Wheeler (History) and Thato Mwosa (Visual Arts)

“I absolutely believe that opportunities with the Fund help us to attract and retain talented, committed teachers and support them to help lead the school.”

ANTHONY MEYER, BHS HEADMASTER



CONTINUALLY LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAMS

The BHS Innovation Fund provides funding for model programs that are designed to improve academic achievement for all students. Since our inception, the BHS Innovation Fund has launched 21 programs, of which six are current investments and of the remaining 15 programs, 11 have become fully incorporated into the Town of Brookline budget.



“It is unique to be in a high school where teachers can dream up classes that they would love to teach and that students would benefit from taking and get funding to go and do it...that's special!”

Since its inception, the BHS Innovation Fund has provided exploration, inspiration, and excellence to more than 5,500 BHS students.

BENEFITS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The BHS Innovation Fund has been instrumental in creating programs that have benefitted the entire BHS student population. Advisory occurs once a week during homeroom and offers opportunities for community building to all BHS students. The Mindfulness Initiative is a school-wide program that integrates strategies for managing stress and building resiliency. Tutorial provides small-group academic support outside the classroom to students with mild learning difficulties. The Content Reading Initiative (CRI) gives teachers tools to improve the literacy skills of all students across all content areas.

“Advisors have so much knowledge, about mid-terms, electives, and specific classes. It really informed my decisions.”

In addition to its school-wide initiatives, BHS Innovation Fund programs served almost 600 BHS students in the 2016-2017 school year.

BHS Innovation Fund Programs by Theme

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AT BHS

Medical Interpretation and Translation (2012)
Arts Infusion Lab (2008)
Family Partnership Program (2007)
African American and Latino Scholars Program (2003)
BHS Tutorial (2002)

FACULTY PASSION AND INSPIRATION

Innovation Fellowship (2016)
Innovation Summit (2011, 2014)
Headmaster Action Plan (2013)
Content Reading Initiative (2012)
Tripod Project / Critical Friends (2003)
Teachers Mentoring Teachers (2000)

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES / NEW CURRICULUM

Racial Awareness (2016)
History as Film/Film as History (2016)
Engineering Innovation & Design (2016)
EPIC (2014, 2015)
Drawing for Understanding in Field Science (2013)
A Human Math Experience (2012)
Global Leadership (2010)
Social Justice Leadership Program (2007)
Engineering By Design (2006)
Good Citizen in a Good Society (2001)

SCHOOL-WIDE PROGRAMS

Mindfulness Initiative (2014, 2015)
BHS Writes/The Writing Center (2010)
The Ithaca Advisory Program (2008)
Political Literacy (2008)
CyberCitizens (2001)

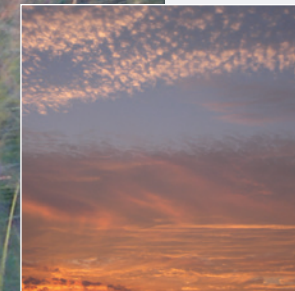
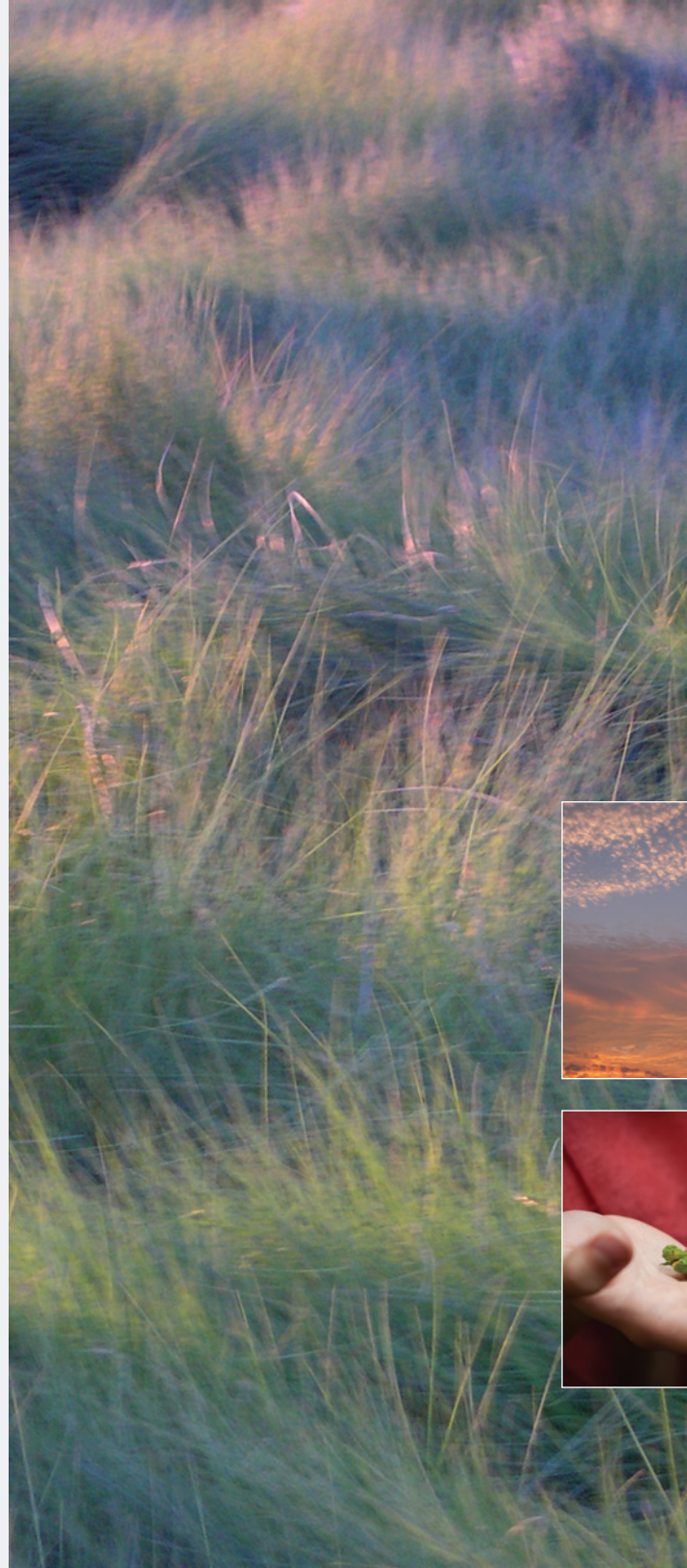
The Mindfulness Initiative

LAUNCHED

2015 | Again this year, the partnership with Mass General Hospital's Benson-Henry Institute and Mindful Schools has allowed the BHS Innovation Fund to bring formal training to students and faculty in mindfulness and stress-response relaxation methods. This school-wide initiative integrates

strategies for managing stress and building resiliency, which can help to transform BHS into a healthier and less stressful place to learn and work.

2016-17: School-wide, led by Elizabeth Gorman (Spanish and Health & Fitness)



Racial Awareness Seminar

LAUNCHED 2016 | This sophomore Social Studies elective explores the complexity of race within national, local and high school communities. The course focuses on awareness/vocabulary; reflecting personal identity; awareness of other identities; and how to be antiracist—in action and responsibility. Students read two books over the course of the year, along with shorter essays throughout and are given questions to reflect upon with family members. They write weekly reflections on personal accountability, as well as an end-of-course paper, and are also required to get involved in clubs, leadership or social justice issues, to show their response to racial issues. Students learn how to talk about sensitive topics in an informed and thoughtful way. Students taking this class showed more self-confidence, thoughtfulness and activism as they progressed through the course. Many of them have taken the course to heart, and either want to go out and do something, or have become introspective on their own beliefs. The class environment gives the students a comfortable space in which to explore.

2016-17: 24 students participated, led by teachers Malcolm Cawthorne (History) and Kate Leslie (History)



2016-2017 PLANNING GRANTS

Planning the Design and Logistics of ACE (Alternative Choices in Education)
On-line Courses\$910

Research and develop plan for ACE On-line Courses

Amy Bayer

Hydroponic Greenhouse\$1,500

Supply Brookline Food Pantry by building a new mini-farm

Elon Fischer, Erik Nakamura, Joseph Pierre, Bobby Stitt, Oliver Priebe

PostSecretU by Active Minds.....\$1,100

Campaign to collect and display postcards for students to share/destigmatize secrets

Jackie Perelman, Becky Perelman, Kelly Sagar, Mathew Dubois



“It’s helped me as a teacher to be more thoughtful about what I expect from my students.”

Innovation Fellow

2016-17 | Elon Fischer

Lessons from Innovation Fellowing



As I come to the end of my term as Innovation Fellow, I want to take this opportunity to thank the 21st Century Fund — now the BHS Innovation Fund — for giving me this

year-long opportunity to experiment. While in the past I had been able to do some innovation work in the context of my classes, having a course release to solely focus on getting these projects going gave me the extended time necessary to establish what I hope will be more long-lasting projects. Time is one of the greatest gifts that a teacher can receive as there's never enough of it. As a school system, we need to come up with more ways to release teachers to think, plan, reflect, and meet (with other teachers, but also with students) if we want to see innovation flourish at BHS. Change takes time.

Some programs that had their start in
Elon Fischer's year of innovation ➔

BHS BIKEON

BHS BikeOn is a bicycle repair shop based in the BHS Unified Arts Building. The goal of BikeOn is to promote biking in the town of Brookline by building a community of bikers. The shop is run by students who are passionate about bikes and are eager to help the biking community grow. In the last year the shop collected and worked on over 40 bikes donated by community members. Students were able to quickly repair and tune up 30 of them. With the help of Steps to Success, the bikes were given to young Brookline riders-to-be.

For more information visit the program website:
bhsbikeon.strikingly.com



TRADEUP

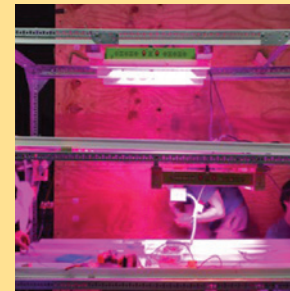
Trade Up is a manual arts program designed to introduce high school students to the world of green construction. Teens participated in a week-long hands-on workshop where they received an up-close introduction in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing trades while constructing a small house in the BTC Makerspace. As a result of the house build, six students were awarded paid summer internships.

Students attended workshops on plumbing, on-the-job safety, job site communications skills, air sealing, and electrical work, all of which were directed by professionals in the construction industry. The workshops gave the to-be interns a brief overview of the trades.

For more information visit the program website:
bit.ly/brooklinetradeup

HYDROPONIC GREENHOUSE

Four seniors combined their talents and ideas to design and build a fully automated, hydroponic greenhouse, with the goal of supplying fresh produce to the Brookline Food Pantry.



Spring of 2017 saw much progress on the technology behind the greenhouse: a lighting system, electronic control, and further development of the software.

The greenhouse has been an incredibly collaborative project, and is ongoing — as younger BHS students work to carry it forward. When it is up and running it will be even more versatile as a teaching tool.

BROOKLINE MUSIC PROGRAM

This program provides students with free music lessons, given by BHS students who are members of local youth orchestras and area music programs. Currently there are over 25 students who are offering lessons in instruments that range from clarinet to piano to guitar to ukulele to drums to voice. The group provided other aspiring musicians with lessons through the summer and into the fall.

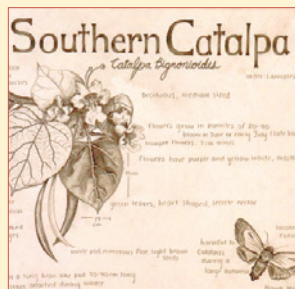
Eight students from the new Brookline Music Program presented their music lessons program to students in the Pierce After Hours University program in mid-March of 2017.

For more information, visit the Brookline Music Website:
brooklinemusicprog.wixsite.com/brookline

2016-2017

Program Spending

Mindfulness Initiative	\$52,033
EPIC (Senior Year Alternative)	\$38,691
Film as History/History as Film	\$35,192
Engineering Innovation & Design	\$34,622
Racial Awareness	\$34,392
Innovation Fellow	\$21,495
Planning Grants	\$3,510
Events/Faculty/Administration	\$50,666
TOTAL PROGRAM SPENDING	\$270,601



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