20152016 REPORT



WHO WE ARE

The Brookline High School 21st Century Fund is an 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.

MISSION

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 21st century.

OUR VISION

is for Brookline High School to provide an unparalleled education by instilling a passion for academic exploration and a commitment to innovation.



DEAR FRIENDS.

It has been a breathtaking year, full of new activity and incredible faculty commitment.

This year at the 21st Century Fund, we supported two ongoing programs and launched two new ones. We also initiated a new program of Planning Grants, offering faculty short cycle funding opportunities. And we established the Innovation Fellowship, where each year, a BHS faculty member has unstructured time to pursue creative projects of his/her own design, sharing a unique perspective on innovation with fellow faculty members, students, and parents.

All of this mission-driven work was supported by powerful

outreach, allowing us to connect more often and more deeply with all of you, our community. We turned our

Annual Gala into

a gigantic bowling party, welcoming more attendees than ever for an evening of fun, food, and fundraising. We held a Fireside Chat, where our inaugural Innovation Fellow, Sam Dickerman, talked about technology projects he was bringing to the classroom. Our What's the Big Idea? forum became a three-part, participatory series investigating "Race and Community."



See what I mean? Takes our breath away. And all of it was possible because of you, our supporters. You bring your curiosity, energy, and passion to the 21st Century Fund all year. You make it possible for academic innovation to push the envelope and to flourish at Brookline High. You are the Fund. Thank you.

Elizabeth Zachos

Chair, Board of Directors

In my role as Program Liaison, it was a joy to help provide 'behind the scenes' support to the BHS teachers impacted by the 21st Century Fund. BHS is an incredible place to teach. There is a constant "hum" of energy in thinking how we can do better for our students and push them to be more amazing than they already are. Through the Fund, teachers can become leaders, as shown by the success of the in-house professional development experience provided by CRI, and the subsequent realization of the need for a Dean of Faculty, and students can become leaders, through social justice programs and the Global Leadership Academy. And no matter what challenges BHS faces, the 21st Century Fund continues to look forward, rallied by parents and supporters of the Fund, tirelessly creating new opportunities for the students to shine.

Gaelen Harrington

Program Liaison, 2007-2016

BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL 21ST CENTURY FUND

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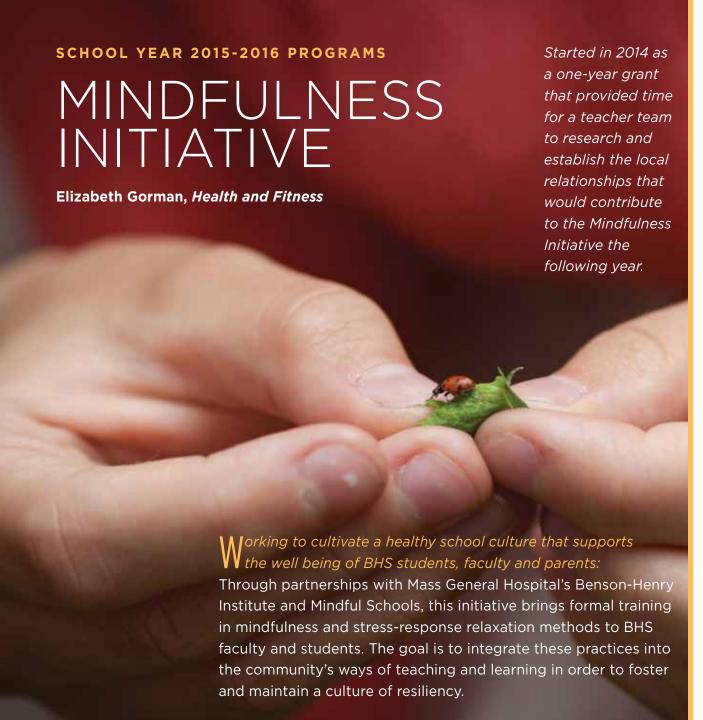
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We are the innovation arm of BHS, a fund for students, teachers, school officials, parents, alumni, and public school advocates.

Support for the 21st Century Fund is an investment in 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 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 bhs21stcenturyfund.org/donate-online



Planning grants are smaller grants (up to \$1500)

for projects to be executed and presented within the school year. Launched in school year 2015-2016, this endeavor is designed to provide BHS faculty with opportunities for exploring a culture of innovation, academic experimentation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and engagement with ideas beyond BHS.

Everyday Science: Design an alternative course that incorporates the fundamentals of biology and chemistry in a way that helps students make connections between these two closely-related disciplines.

FACULTY: Jill Sifantus, *Biology* & Barbara Weiffenbach, *Chemistry and Biology*

World Language and Culture: Survey teachers and students to see how more authentic cultural experiences can be brought into the World Language curriculum.

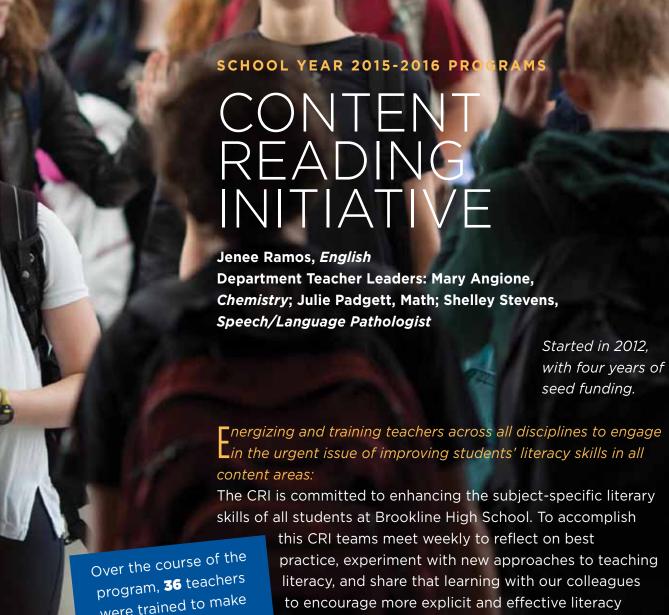
FACULTY: Rachel Eio, World Languages

Developing a Global Leadership Pathway:

Planning for a Global Leadership competency-based pathway for BHS students. The idea is to develop an Academy-type approach that students could select after their 9th grade year. It would have a global focus, including international relations, international economics/business, international diplomacy and human rights. The course would enable students to have coursework and extracurricular experiences that focus on global education, as well as a possible capstone experience with the idea of earning a Global Leadership Pathway certificate before graduating.

FACULTY: Ben Karhl, Social Studies





instruction school-wide.

were trained to make adjustments to their teaching practice in order to incorporate explicit subject-specific literacy practices.

Getting students to ask themselves questions while reading [was a huge takeaway].

BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL 21ST CENTURY FUND

A History of the Fund's Programs

Over the years, the Fund has supported programs in a variety of areas:

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AT BHS

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

FACULTY PASSION AND INSPIRATION

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**

EPIC (2014, 2015) Drawing for Understanding in Field Science (2013) Perspectives of a Mathematical Mind (2012) Global Leadership (2010) Social Justice Leadership Program (2007) Engineering By Design (2006) Good Citizen in a Good Society (2001)

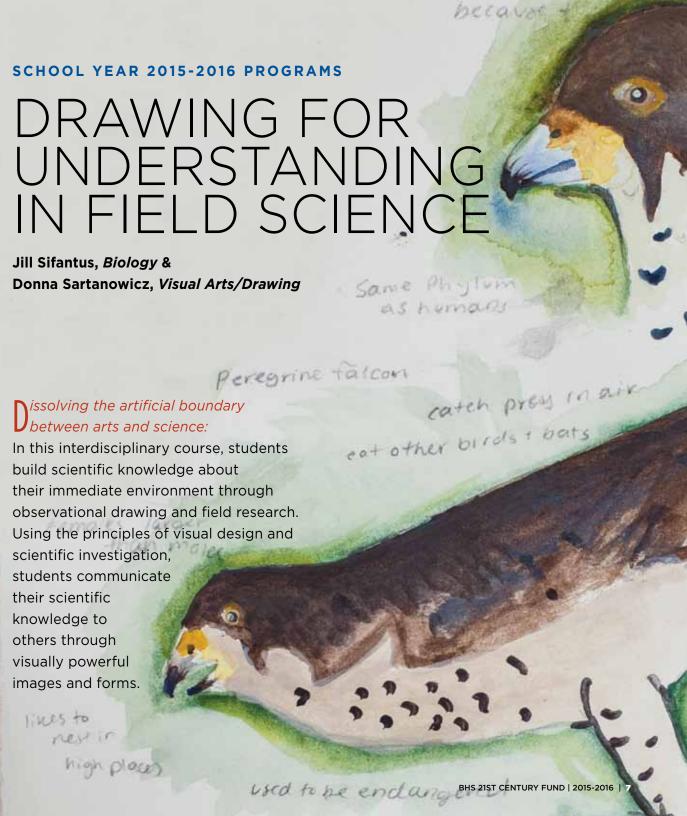
SCHOOL-WIDE PROGRAMS

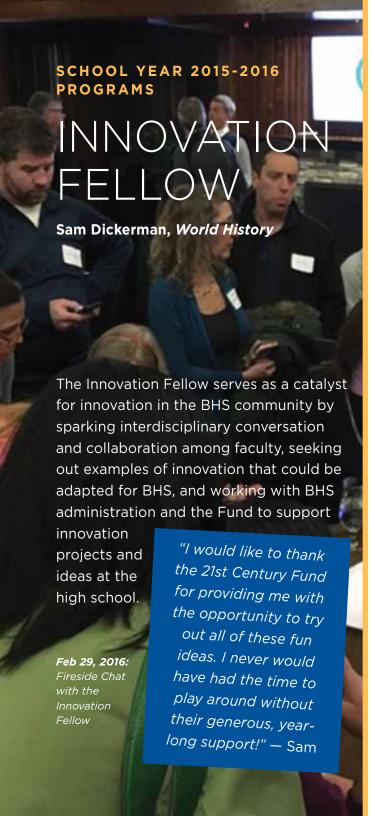
Mindfulness Initiative (2014, 2015) BHS Writes (2010) The Ithaka Advisory Program (2008) Political Literacy (2008) CyberCitizens (2001)

Program Spending Budget

Planning Grants	\$3,400
Innovation Fellow	\$40,000
Drawing for Understanding in Field Science	\$40,800
EPIC (Senior Year Alternative)	\$46,500
Mindfulness Initiative	\$52,300
Content Reading Initiative	\$137,900
TOTAL	\$320,900







Inaugural Year of Catalyzing Innovation within and among the BHS Faculty:

As the 2015-16 Innovation Fellow, Sam Dickerman worked on four projects. leveraging his background as a software developer.

The first was a web site to help students make their way through the research process. Sam built a database-driven application that allows students to plan their research question, record their sources, take notes on those sources, and organize an outline for writing a paper. Sam's 9th grade students recorded almost 500 sources and took over 2000 notes. Student feedback was very positive.

A **second** project was created in response to requests from the school Dean Teams. Each spring, rising Juniors apply to be Junior Mentors in the coming year's Freshman Advisory. There are often over 200 applicants for 80 or so spots. The dean's teams ask teachers to provide feedback on the character and reliability of the applicants to help identify who should get the position, often a very cumbersome process. Sam created a web site that used historical Canvas data to present teachers with known students, enabling a very fast and easy way to rate students and leave feedback. The 10th grade dean's team then had access to the tabulated and sortable results in real time, with positive results.

The **third** project was inspired by the discussion of bias that has been part of the national and local debate this year. The idea would be to take in student work from Canvas and show it to the teacher without identifying whose work it is. This would make grading easier for teachers (to grade all the answers to a single test question at a time for example) but would also eliminate bias (of all sorts) that a teacher might have regarding a student. It is hoped that this can be rolled out to the community next year.

The **fourth** project was in response to the issues raised by technology in the classroom. Phones and laptops both draw students' attention away from the group and inhibit important communication and learning. Yet digital devices are a way of capturing data that can be valuable. Using a small microprocessor, a battery and an accelerometer, Sam created a plastic cube that is essentially, a digital input device which students can turn to different colored sides. reporting its orientation to "the cloud." He created six working prototypes and wrote the software that runs on the cubes, and hopes next year to receive a PTO grant to build a full class set of cubes. Aside from simple uses like polling the class on a given question, students have also identified ways of using this device. such as creating a discussion queue system so that students can manipulate their cubes to get in line to participate. This would allow the students to regulate their own debates and discussions without having to be call upon. The possibilities are very exciting!

What's the Big Idea? Forum

This year's Forum topic was Race and Community — Seeing the World Through a Different Lens.

A series of three events brought together students, parents, teachers and experts for this important discussion. The BHS 21st Century Fund presented the series in collaboration with the Brookline Department of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations; the Brookline Community Foundation; Steps to Success; the Brookline METCO Program; the Brookline Interactive Group; and members of the BHS faculty.

MARCH 17, 2016 COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS: STUDENT VOICES ON LIFE AT BHS

Students shared their stories in the parent-oriented take on the *Day of Courage*.

APRIL 4, 2016 RACIAL EQUITY IN EDUCATION

The speaker panel featured Susan Naimark, consultant and author of *The Education of a White Parent*, and Maanav Thakore, Associate Director at the Interaction Institute for Social Change

MAY 4, 2016 WORLD CAFE: A DISCUSSION OF RACE IN BROOKLINE

Students, educators, parents, community members, and Town officials came together in a collaborative way to identify challenges we face as a town around race, and try to identify action steps we can take to address them.



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