

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Core Principles

- Teaching is a craft and teachers are professionals
- We encourage the pursuit of excellence in the craft of teaching; students benefit from excellent teachers
- Every adult in a school is an educator
- We spend money on people, programs, and ideas
- We enhance district spending, but should never be a substitute for it
- We focus on long-term, not short-term, goals of education
- We strive for a diverse and transparent culture
- We are **not** political



In this Report:

- We Fund Professional Development
- We Honor and Celebrate Teachers
- We Engage the School Community
- We Outline our Governance
- We Thank Our Donors

Message from Our Leadership

Dear Friends.

We are pleased to share our 2021 Annual Report, covering activities from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

We all know that last year was a year like no other. Amidst the many challenges, however, were some glimmers of creativity, cooperation, and compassion that shone through.

We are proud of the fact that overall, the BEF did not miss a beat. We continued to award grants, we adapted along with everyone else to zoom meetings, and we did what we could to support the educators, administrators, and staff who helped our children learn.

We started the fiscal year strong, offering \$100,000 to the High School deans and teachers and K-8 curriculum coordinators across the District, so they could get a handle on remote learning over the summer months to be ready for the fall. The unprecedented decision to fund such a large and comprehensive out-of-cycle grant was not made lightly by the Board, but in an effort to be nimble and respond to the needs of the crisis, we acted quickly and boldly.

whose training program we have sent pairs of teachers for three years in a row. The teachers who participated in the webinar were inspiring and shed a much-needed spotlight on the hard and personal work that is involved in training other teachers to work on educational equity and diversity in the classroom.

We held our first webinar, focused on SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) to

We were thrilled to be able to host the Celebrating Teachers event -- smaller than in past years, but live (with an option to stream the event or watch the recording at another time). Caverly Award winners Betsy Davis from Brookline High School and Francesca Stark from Driscoll gave heartfelt speeches about their years of teaching in Brookline. We were inspired.

Finally, we were pleased to be able to show our support and appreciation for our amazing school nurses. In a year shaped by a worldwide pandemic, these caring and thoughtful healthcare professionals went above and beyond to ensure the safety of our students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Because nurses are so often unsung heroes, we were happy to shine a little light on them and thank them for their incredible service to Brookline schools.

We are grateful to you, our donors, for your support of the BEF, which allowed us to remain flexible to support Brookline teachers when they needed it the most. We hope that you will look through this report and browse our website to remind yourself of all the ways that Brookline teachers are honing their craft for the benefit of all our students.

Sincerely,

Catherine Burke Elizabeth Ascoli
President Executive Director





We Fund Professional Development

We fund four types of grants: Teacher, Collaborative, Idea Lab, and Systemwide.

Each year, the BEF awards grants to Brookline teachers, staff, and administrators from preschool through grade 12. These grants help educators to deepen their learning and improve their work in the classroom. Grants allow educators to develop leadership and other professional skills, to test innovative educational ideas, or to pursue a passion to share with their students. Although many 2020/21 grants were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the educators affected can be reconsidered for future grant cycles and many in fact did reapply this past Spring.

TEACHER GRANTS

AWARDS UP TO \$3,000



Guitar, hand-made by BHS woodshop instructor, Glen Gurner

Glen Gurner (BHS)

Vermont Instruments School of Lutherie Grant

Brendan McCarthy, Jim Henry, and Andrea Lynch-Bransfield (BHS)

Hydroponic Farming - 21st-Century Green Career Skills Development

Norma Gordon (District-wide)

Collaborating for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning Conference

Angela Lo (Lawrence School)

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Certification

Lindsey Shaw, Benjamin Fishkin (Pierce School)

Comprehensive IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training

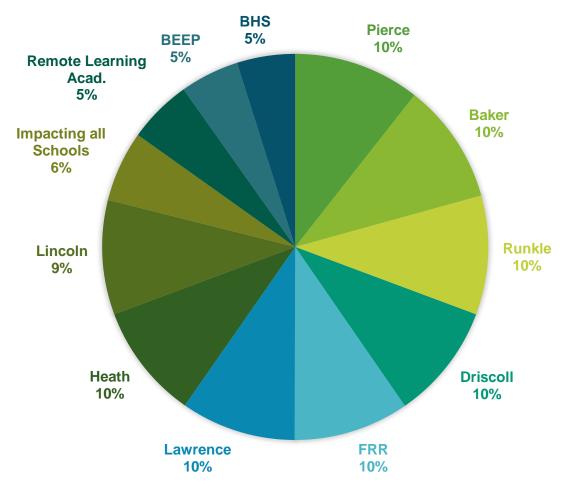
Helen Greeley (Pierce School)

Wilson Reading System Level 2 Certification Training



Lindsey Shaw and Benjamin Fishkin displaying new tools for the Pierce Learning Center.

FY21 All Grants (Completed) by School



"This grant was a game changer, particularly for the Social Studies department. The effort to create a heterogeneous 9th grade course was deeply influenced by the models of project-based learning that we practiced and developed at the summer workshop. Our whole understanding of how to set up and frame the units in the course shifted as a result of this grant."

~ Stephanie McAllister Poon, BHS

COLLABORATIVE GRANTS AWARDS UP TO \$20,000

Association (AOTA) Annual Conference

Erin McQuaid (Pierce), Sarah Moynihan (BEEP), MaryAnn Biele (Lincoln), Constance Kumi Wauthier (BEEP), Cora Finley (Driscoll), Kate Siegel (BHS, District), Joanna Pascar (FRR) Joan St. Peter (FRR, Baker, Runkle), Jocelyn Hesse (BEEP @ Putterham), Rachel Barber (Runkle), Deborah Caruso (Lawrence), Nadene Moll (Administrator), Jennifer Baum (Heath), Priscilla Perry (Runkle, Pierce)

Museum of Science Middle School Immersive Science Institute

Emily Speck, (K-8Curriculum Coordinator), Joe Mitchell (Baker), Megan Goodwin (Lawrence), Mark Goldner (Heath) Becky Paysnick (FRR), Melissa London (Pierce), Alejandra Munoz (Lincoln), Tracy Bare (Pierce), Sue Zobel (Lincoln), Christine Moodie (Lawrence), Adrienne Pascucci (Driscoll) Desiree Schreck (FRR), Brandon Chan (Lawrence), Yasameen Sharif (Baker), Bob Miller (Heath), Eric Hazlinsky (Driscoll), Danielle Goldie (Baker), Djems Domerson (Runkle), Eileen Pushee (Pierce), Chad Pelton (Runkle)

The Classroom is All Around Us: Gardening and Outdoor Learning for All Students

Lisa Karalis (Baker), Marney Krupat (Baker), Amy Lewin (Baker), Nicole Chasse (FRR), Carolyn DiPierro (FRR), Daniel Lipton (FRR), Ashley Haese (Runkle), Caroline Cadwell (FRR), Randy Bradley-Campbell (FRR), Jo Bouquet (Driscoll), Olivia Reyelt (Driscoll), Bob Miller (Heath), Karen Shashoua (Heath), Sue Zobel (Lincoln), Jodie Waldesbuhl (Lincoln), Martha Gammie (Lincoln), Lauren Ockene (Pierce), Eowyn Daly (Pierce), Kim Barnum (Pierce), Amanda Kretschmar (Pierce), Tayna Paris (Pierce), Tim Hintz (Pierce), Jonathan Norwood (Lawrence), Peter Sakura (Lawrence & Lincoln)

Teachers As Scholars Collaborative Grant

John Andrews (BHS, English Curriculum Coordinator), Greg Porter (Lawrence), Jillian Watts (Runkle), Elizabeth Cook (Lincoln), Erin Yang (Pierce), Catherine Fischer-Mueller (FRR), Alison Kerr (Heath), Karim Azeb (BHS), Sophie Gorlin (BHS), Jasmine Ha (BHS)

Building a Culture of Critique @ Baker

Matt Picard, Lisa Karalis, Danielle Anderson, Marney Krupat, Yasameen Sharif, Courtney Martin, Cori MacDonald, Susan Balogh, Danielle Goldie, Dylan Rossi, Summer Cannon-Cosgrove, Joe Mitchell, Jacqueline Hallo, Meredith Ritter

Classroom Educator Orton-Gillingham Training

Meghan Walsh, Kathleen Kane, Quinn Gosselin (All Runkle)

Students with Social/Emotional and Behavioral Needs--Understanding the Most Challenging Students

Helen Greeley, Dawn Dunleavey, Dawn Galolo, Emily Follett, Marlene Goncalves, Eileen Pushee, Kate Sullivan (All Pierce)

Enriching the Math Classroom with Coding in Python and SNAP!

Shoshanna Kostant, Grace Wang, Josh Paris, Christine Shen, Julie Padgett, Meghan Kennedy-Justice, Juan Paniagua, Sarah Ladner-Apollo, Adam Fried (All BHS)

Be the Change: Pierce School Sixth Grade Learns How to Serve Others

Chris Smith, Melissa London, Amy Woogmaster, Joeanna McPherson, Stephanie Goodman (All Pierce)

Social Justice Through Art and Storytelling

Lauren Kelley, Jordan Bonin, Olga Lithoxopoulos, Tanya Paris, Kathy Sullivan, Tatyanah Berlin, Jamie Oates (All Remote Learning Academy, Kindergarten)



Little Uprisings bringing their special storytelling magic to RLA kindergarteners.

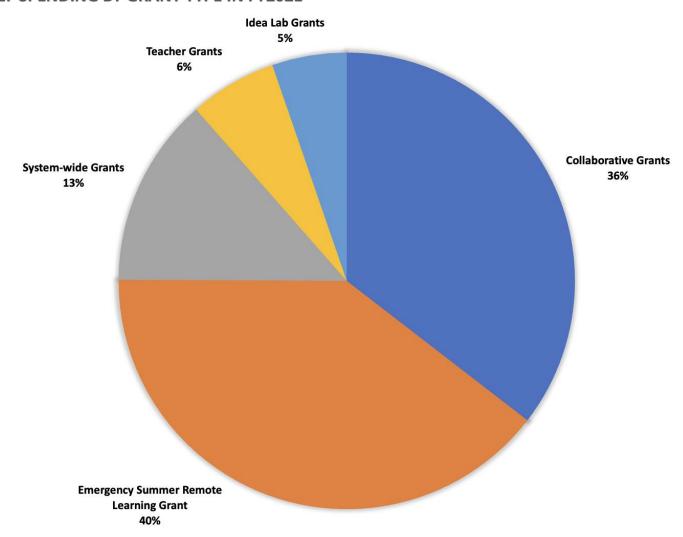
All of these grants took place, despite the pandemic and limited in-person instruction for most students. Some grants took a different form than first envisioned, but these educators' desire to push through adversity to bring new learning to their 'classrooms' is admirable.

SYSTEMWIDE GRANTS

These grants are designed to support growth and innovation in the Brookline school system as a whole and address specific areas of need that are not able to be met within the PSB budget. These grants were developed in collaboration with Dr. Jim Marini, Interim Superintendent of Schools, and the Office of Teaching and Learning and Office of Student Services.

- Remote Learning Training at Teachers College, Columbia University
- Reading Between the Lines: Equity, Reading, and Early Intervention (Year 2)
- District Membership in Massachusetts Partnership for Youth

BEF SPENDING BY GRANT TYPE IN FY2021



IDEA LAB GRANTS

Farm-to-Table Hydroponic Farm

Britt Stevens, BHS

Funds used to purchase a hydroponic garden for use in the culinary program at BHS, providing fresh produce for the school restaurant and culinary classes as they work toward sustainability. The garden is a shared resource experience that will be supported by student interns and students from the ACE program at BHS.



Snowshoeing for Winter Wellness

Carlyn Uyenoyama, District-wide, Phys.Ed Grant purchased snowshoes for use in all K-8 schools as part of a new winter wellness program. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, Health and Wellness needed to look for new ways to take physical education outside, even in winter months. A set of snowshoes will rotate around all K-8 schools during the winter months.

BHS Arts 'Zine - CATALYST AWARD

Donna Sartanowicz/Andrew Maglathlin, BHS BHS Studio Art students each created a multi-panel single page comic which told their personal story and experience during COVID. The stories were then combined and self-published in 'Zine form for the BHS community.

Expanding Social Emotional Resources at Runkle School

Rachel Mekler and Lauren Vulcano, Runkle Grant expanded the library and games available to guidance counselors and school psychologists. Additionally, these items became part of a lending library for classroom teachers who want to bring these SEL lessons to their classes.

BHS Virtual Orchestra Performance

Nina Bishop, BHS

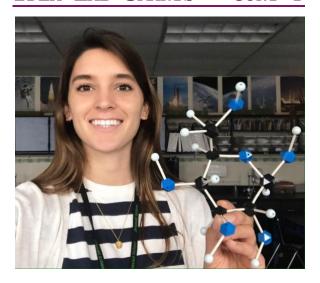
This grant provided professional concert video production for BHS orchestra students. The students performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is considered to be the African American national anthem. Virtual Choir Net then combined all of the student's individual performances into one cohesive group performance that was shared with the community.



Stepping into Citizenship

Sara O'Shea and Elyse Terry, Heath
This project brought theater educators to
help guide the teachers and students in
process drama learning sessions. This
improvisational role-playing allows students
to challenge their own perspectives by
stepping in and out of character in the
discussion of citizenship.

IDEA LAB GRANTS - CONT'D



Making Chemistry Visible

Adrienne Pascucci, Driscoll

In 8th grade, students explore chemistry and the building blocks of matter, atoms and molecules. This grant purchased molecular model kits so students could visualize how and why molecules are made using these hands-on manipulative models.

Bringing the Mock Caldecott Program Online

Colleen Carney & K-8 Librarians, Heath During a year of online learning, the K-8 Librarians transformed the Mock Caldecott Award into a town-wide virtual project. The funds were used to purchase a diverse collection of e-books of past Caldecott nominees, winners, and possible contenders for the 2021 award.

STEM Kits for FRR 2nd-Grade

Daniel Lipton, FRR

This grant provided STEM kits to all Ruffin Ridley second graders. These kits included materials for hands-on, independent learning with which the students will invent something and were distributed to all 2nd grade families.

Digital Storytelling

Amelia Black, Pierce

This grant funded the equipment needed to create a stop-motion animation center in the art room at Pierce School. This new creative art station will introduce students to stop-motion animation using a number of mediums, such as claymation, drawing, and objects.

Coding with Micro:bits

Matt Picard, Remote Learning Academy
The 5th-grade classes in the RLA were able
to learn coding in conjunction with the energy
science unit. This hands-on learning brought
design thinking into the remote curriculum by
providing every student with their own
Micro:bit to program.

Citizen Science at RLA

David Vitale-Wolff, Remote Learning Acad. HATCH is a citizen conservation science project facilitated by Zoo New England. In this program, RLA students gave a 'head start' to endangered Blanding's Turtles. By caring for these local endangered species for the school year, students were then able to see their turtles being reintroduced into the wild in the Spring.



IDEA LAB GRANTS - CONT'D

Peacemakers Around the World

Keumjoo Armstrong, Baker
Baker ELL (English Language Learner)
Students researched peacemakers or peacemaking efforts from their home countries or elsewhere. The students then took what they learned and created a poster or video utilizing new vocabulary and unfamiliar technologies in the production.

Driscoll Civil Rights Public Art Project

Laura Zientek, Driscoll

This project brings working public artists as mentors into the Driscoll art classrooms to help the students explore and create their own public arts projects tied to the 5th-grade unit on civil rights in American history. This grant also provided materials and supplies for student's artwork which culminated in a public art installation.





Driscoll students with the finished mural of civil rights icon and former US Representative John Lewis painted by artist Brian Lewis. As part of this project, students also created their own public artworks to display at the school.

From a participant in the Teachers As Scholars grant: "It's help shoot some much needed 'life' into me, and in turn, my classroom. The BEF's generosity and support of teachers' intellectual life helps make Brookline a community where teachers want to stay and grow."

~ submitted by grant leader John Andrews, BHS, English Chair

Summer Remote Learning Grant

In March of 2020, our world was turned upside down by the COVID pandemic, and what started as a temporary closure of schools became a full Spring of remote learning. It was clear that everyone, students and teachers alike, were struggling during those closing months of school.

In June, the BEF Board of Directors voted to fund a special emergency grant of \$100,000 to the Brookline Public Schools to help teachers get the training and support they needed to return to school in the Fall with a robust remote learning plan.



For the K-8 schools, the BEF supported time for Curriculum Coordinators to work with department members to develop a more cohesive learning experience for all students. With coordination across all schools and all grade levels, the district work to streamline content and lesson plans created a more consistent and uniform experience for all Brookline students.

At BHS, this grant allowed for extensive teamwork over the summer. The organizers setup groups of teachers (140 in all) to explore various topics, research new ways of teaching, and share best practices and new collaborative technology. The results of their work were reported back to the full BHS staff during "Unconference," a virtual conference held on the two professional development days at the beginning of the 2020/21 school year.

I so appreciated the time to be able to share this summer's critical and transformative work. BHS educators have undergone massive pedagogical shifts (for the better!) since this summer, and I can't even begin to thank you and the BEF leadership for your support in this challenging time.

~Julia Mangan, Unconference Co-Coordinator

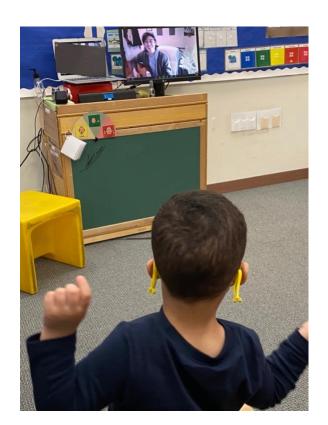


Brookline Early Education Funds

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the BEF is thrilled to support all Brookline Early Education Program classrooms with two special funds, the BEEP Opportunity Fund and the Vicki C. Milstein Early Education Fund. Typically, the BEF supports music & movement across all BEEP classrooms. However, this year, due to COVID restrictions on singing and sharing materials, BEEP's music program was severely limited. Fortunately, the BEF was able to make a special grant to BEEP's RISE program to support virtual music therapy for these youngest students diagnosed with autism.

The **BEEP Opportunity Fund** supports special art programs in BEEP classrooms.

The **Vicki C. Milstein Early Education Fund** supports the professional development of preschool and kindergarten teachers through the BEF's Teacher, Collaborative and Idea Lab grants.



As a BEEP RISE teacher, I am committed to providing as many opportunities as possible to inspire, educate and promote social communication for my students. Through the Idea Lab Grant, I was lucky enough to observe my students' joyful participation and community building through the amazing and skillful work done by Lyle Shaw, music therapist extraordinaire! His ability to connect with children, by recognizing their strengths and preferences, to engage them in the group music sessions, even virtually, was an extremely valuable experience for all of my students.

~Allyson Poole-Foster, BEEP RISE program

We Honor and Celebrate Teachers

Elizabeth (Betsy) Davis and Francesca Stark 2021 Caverly Award Recipients

We were so pleased to be able to receive nominations for the **Ernest R. Caverly Award** for Excellence in Teaching in the Spring. Teachers had been through so much, and the selection process was difficult given all the passionate nomination letters. Ultimately, the Committee selected **Francesca Stark** from Driscoll School and **Elizabeth (Betsy) Davis** from BHS. The Celebrating Teachers event was held in an intimate format and streamed live with the help of Brookline Interactive Group. It was the first in-person event the BEF held all year, and it was so lovely to be able to gather, safely, and honor these two incredible educators.



From Left to Right: Elizabeth Ascoli, BEF Executive Director, Betsy Davis, World Language, Brookline High School, Francesca Stark, 5th Grade Driscoll School and Catherine Burke, BEF Board President.



Watch the Celebrating Teachers event and two Caverly speeches on the BEF YouTube Channel!





The BEF was thrilled to be able to recognize the outstanding school Nurses and honor them after a year like no other. These professionals had to shift their roles and practices completely, to ensure kids and staff were safe to come back to the classrooms.



We Engage the School Community

'EQUITY IN EDUCATION' Webinar











SEED Panelists: Julie Boss, Malcom Cawthorne, Lindsey Davis, Kara Lopez, Hilory Rosenzweig, and Moderator, Shalini Kasida, BEF Board member (not pictured)

This winter, the BEF adapted its programming to the virtual environment dictated by the pandemic. We held a webinar in February focused on **SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Grants in Brookline Schools**. It featured five educators who have received SEED training thanks to BEF grants over the last 5 years. Issues of diversity and equity have long been a focus of BEF grants, and we were glad to be able to share this ongoing work with interested parents, educators and community members.

"Thank you for your BEF support of SEED work in Brookline... One thing I love about the SEED project in schools is that it attracts educators at all grade levels, in all subject areas and can serve everyone connected to a school community. Sometimes students have asked for their own SEED seminars!"

~ Peggy McIntosh, Founder and Sr. Associate, National SEED Project on Inclusive Curriculum

Our Governance

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We missed seeing our wonderful board members in person this year!

Thank you all for your dedication to the BEF and its mission!

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Thank you to our faithful corporate Education Partners!



BrooklineBank



In this fiscal year, the BEF raised over \$330,000 in charitable contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations. We are grateful for every dollar and in-kind donation, which show your appreciation for Brookline teachers, and directly impact students and learning in the Brookline Public Schools, pre-K through grade 12.

Green Apple Society

Founded in 2005, the Green

Apple Society is a diverse group
of donors who make gifts of
\$1,000 or more to the Brookline

Education Foundation. Their
extraordinary generosity
strengthens the BEF's ability to
support outstanding teaching,
innovative curriculum,
administrative leadership, and
major educational initiatives,
which enhance the learning
experience of Brookline

\$10,000 and above

Anonymous

Molly Yancovitz

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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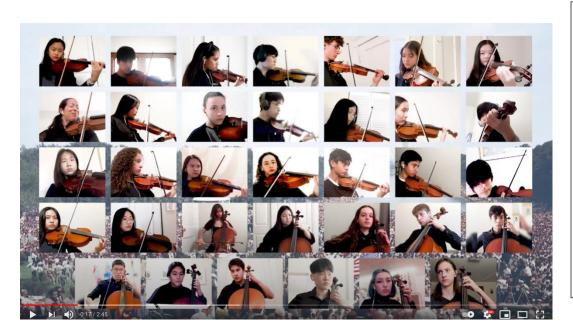
Pierce students creating stop-motion animation in their art class thanks to an Idea Lab grant!

Colleen Laduzinski

\$500 - \$999

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BHS Orchestra and Chorus students performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is considered by many to be the African American national anthem. Thanks to an Idea Lab grant, Virtual Choir Net was able to professionally sync individual virtual performances into one cohesive performance.

See it here!

\$250 - \$499

Gideon Ansell and Mary Rutkowski Philippe and Wynne Armand Jocelyn Badele and Li Chen Lindsev Baden and Sara Fazio Alex Benik and Rebecca Bermont

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\$100 - \$249

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"In an incredibly difficult year of pandemic learning, the BEF support of the Museum of Science Middle School Science Intensive allowed us to bring a sense of joy and discovery to the Brookline Middle School science students and teachers. From baking muffins, to tracking turtles, to measuring the soil nutrient levels around the school, students found purpose and excitement through their in-depth studies in the anchoring phenomena-based units teachers designed during this intensive."

~ Emily Speck, Science Curriculum Coordinator K-8

"The BEF continues to support teachers in their professional development. The opportunity for me and Shoshanna (Kostant) to share what we learned in our own practice with our colleagues in a formal setting helps bring the importance of coding into the conversation. This grant is the first step in a process of educating colleagues and creating excitement within the department in the journey to bring coding experiences to every student at BHS. Thank you!"

~ Grace Wang, BHS, Math

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