

A Community Commitment to Public Education

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The mission of the Bronxville School Foundation is to enhance the quality of education and sustain excellence in academics, arts, and athletics at The Bronxville School. Since its inception over 30 years ago, the Foundation has served as a unique and valued partner to the school providing over \$13 million in funding. Through the community's generosity, this funding provides expanded capacity for innovation and enhanced programs above and beyond the often-constrained public school budget.

The power of the Foundation to differentiate The Bronxville School is seen by students every day. Your generosity has funded critically important programs in curriculum such as Artificial Intelligence, Entrepreneurship, and Civil Discourse. The Bronxville School has been able to enhance the Auditorium, retrofit all Art classrooms, and outfit the Bronco TV Studio with help from the Foundation. Our Elementary School classrooms and athletic teams also benefit from the Foundation's support.

Last spring, through generous donations from community members like you, the Foundation's Board approved 32 grants for the 2024-2025 school year totaling more than \$702,000. Thank you to those that participated in our Community Drive. Each year, the administration, faculty, students, and community members continue to find new and exciting ways to propel The Bronxville School forward on the cutting edge of education. Gifts to the Foundation are more important than ever to support the best of these ideas.

This year, the Foundation will depend on your generosity to accomplish this work and every dollar counts. While donations range from \$25 to \$20,000, a gift of any amount makes a difference. To maximize your contribution, we ask that you check the matching gift programs within your household to see if your company will match part or your entire gift. The Foundation also accepts donations of securities, which may be tax efficient.

We hope we can count on your support this year. In advance and on behalf of the Foundation Board, thank you!

Sincerely,

Wendy Rousswelt Faling

Wendy Fahy Chairperson

arman

Anthony Civale VP, Development

177 Pondfield Road Bronxville New York 10708 914-395-0515 bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org October 2024





# NURTURING THE HEART OF THE BRONXVILLE PROMISE

Annual Report June 2024

# **OUR MISSION**

The Bronxville School Foundation was incorporated in 1991 to enhance the quality of public education in our community by engaging the support and energies of educators, citizens, parents, students, and alumni. The Foundation awards grants for projects that do the following:

- Strengthen the curriculum by serving as a catalyst for the development and promotion of innovative programs.
- Support additional training for faculty members and enhance educational resources available to them.
- Provide financial assistance for special school facilities and equipment.
- Increase awareness and support for the school.



The Bronxville School Foundation's partnership and collaboration with The Picture House has continued to grow. This year, the Foundation awarded a second grant for National History Day coaches to work with students, including a professional documentarian from The Picture House, and two new grants were added: A program to help First Grade students to create "How To" videos and a series of guest speakers for Bronco TV & the Film Club.

## FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends,

It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that I thank you for your support of the Bronxville School Foundation. As a result of your time and generous giving, the BSF has been able to fund curriculum, projects, equipment, and professional development that help the Bronxville School maintain its level of excellence and commitment to innovation.



As this annual report highlights, the BSF was able to fund 32 grants totaling \$702,885 this past year that support the Bronxville Promise in all three schools. Grants were written by teachers, students, parents, and the administration to fund new curricula, professional development training, equipment, and facilities. Many of the grants awarded this year focus on nutruring the heart of the Bronxville Promise, such as Equine-Assisted Learning for Special Education Classes, Civil Discourse Training Bootcamp for High School teachers, the development of Curriculum for Belonging as part of the revision of the Middle School Advisory Program, a Playground Peace Path which encourages Elementary School students to adopt peaceful conflict resolution strategies, and many other innovative enhancements.

Foundation grants touch every Bronxville student from kindergarten to twelfth grade, enriching academics, the arts, athletics, and student support services. One particularly significant grant to our entire school community this year is funding for the construction of a new security vestibule at the Pondfield Road entrance, which will increase the safety and security of everyone in the building. Many of the grants approved last spring are already up and running this fall, demonstrating how quickly and energetically fundraising dollars are put to work.

We ask you to support the BSF, either for the first time or once again, as we aim to continue our mission to provide an excellent educational experience for our students. We are hoping for 100% participation from Bronxville School families and continued strong support from our alumni. Every level of gift supports our mission of enhancing the quality of education for all Bronxville students.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Foundation, please do not hesitate to reach out to bsfoundation@bronxvilleschool.org. Donations and pledges can be made online (BronxvilleSchoolFoundation.org) or via the enclosure, and we also encourage you to explore corporate matching opportunities inside your household.

With Deep Appreciation, Werdy Pousual Falue Wendy Roosevelt Fahy

## 2024 GRAN TAWARDS



Tech Class Recycling Equipment



**Flexible Furniture** 



Program & Curriculum Development

Artificial Intelligence Classes

Civil Discourse in High School

College Essay Workshop

Equine-Assisted Learning for Special Education

Mental Performance Coach for Athletes

Middle School Mental Health Training

Middle School Advisory Curriculum for Belonging

#### Partnerships with The Picture House

Creating "How To" Videos in First Grade

Guest Speakers for Bronco TV & Film Club

#### **Professional Development**

AP Conference for World Languages

AP Conference for Social Studies

Finland Trip for Educators

Critical Thinking Professional Development

Gilder Lehrman Professional Development

Nat'l Convention of Teachers of English

Nat'l Council for Social Studies Conference

# TOTAL: 32 GRANTS

#### Facilities

Community Garden for Special Education

Flexible Seating for First Grade Classrooms

Flexible Seating for Third Grade Classrooms

Framed Performing Arts Photography

Security Vestibule for Pondfield Road Entrance

Sound System for Main Gymnasium

#### **Health & Wellness**

Bronxville Promise Spirit Steps Harlan Cohen Speaking Engagement Playground Peace Path Strength & Conditioning Specialist "Visualize the Bronxville Promise" Mural

#### **Equipment & Materials**

Baroque Bows Fine Arts Technology Upgrade -MacBooks, iPad Pros & Apple Pencils Middle School Technology Class Recycling Equipment Bronxville Football Sleds

Playground Musical Equipment

## AMOUNT: \$702,000



**Playground Equipment** 



Performing Arts Initiatives



Strength & Conditioning Specialist

Visual Arts Technology

### LIGHTHOUSE AWARD



#### **Thomas Henningson** 2024 Lighthouse Award Recipient

The Bronxville School was founded in 1922 as a Lighthouse School, dedicated to the ideal that children are unique individuals with a right to an education that helps them achieve their highest potential at every stage of their development. In 1999, the Foundation established the Lighthouse Award. Each year, the award goes to member(s) of the junior class who exemplify the school's educational ideals of enthusiasm for learning, pride of accomplishment, self-discipline, self-esteem, and consideration for the ideas and values of others. Voted on by his classmates and the faculty, Thomas Henningson is the 2024 Lighthouse Award recipient. Thomas possesses the qualities of mind, spirit, and service that the Foundation supports.

#### THE ANNUAL KATIE WELLING RUN & WALK November 30, 2024



Please join us for the Katie Welling Memorial Run & Walk, a Thanksgiving weekend tradition honoring the memory of 2002 BHS Graduate, Katie Welling. Hundreds of runners, walkers, and supporters participate annually in this wonderful community event. For maximum flexibility, we will also offer a virtual component to the event that will run from November 15-30.

#### FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

At the Bronxville School, our purpose is deeply rooted in bringing the Bronxville Promise to life. In an everevolving world, it serves as our foundation and North Star, ensuring success for all students. At the heart of the Promise is our unwavering commitment to teaching students to be compassionate, empathetic and supportive of others, to be collaborative by listening to others, handle discord responsibly and work toward a common goal, and to demonstrate perseverance, self-confidence and integrity.



The Bronxville School Foundation plays a vital role in this journey, supporting the Bronxville Promise by enhancing educational opportunities and providing essential resources for students to embody the four key dispositions at the heart of the Bronxville Promise:

Innovating is being curious, recognizing the opportunity for improvement and taking risks to create or design solutions that add value, serve a need or inspire.

Leading is acting and inspiring others to work toward a positive outcome.

Engaging as a citizen is becoming informed and acting to make an impact.

Critical thinking requires disciplined processes to deepen understanding, evaluate possibilities and construct a reasoned judgment.

These values are proactively discussed with students, parents, faculty and staff throughout the school year. The generosity of the BSF contributes to the unique character of our school community and fortifies the core of the Bronxville Promise. By setting an example of leadership, the BSF amplifies the skills we cultivate in our students – compassion, collaboration, integrity, perseverance, inclusivity, social and emotional well-being, and a deep sense of belonging.

Thanks to BSF grants, the Bronxville Promise continues to thrive in our schools with a diverse array of programs and offerings that reflect the dedication of our faculty and the passion of our students. From computer sciences to music composition, performing and visual arts, athletics and physical conditioning, teen mental health training, and professional and curriculum development, each initiative brings new dimensions of learning and growth into our classrooms.

The Bronxville School District is incredibly fortunate to have the Bronxville School Foundation as our partner in education and grateful for its generous investment of resources. I am profoundly grateful for the many years we've worked together to bring out the best in our school.

achel L Kelly

Rachel L. Kelly, Ph.D. U Superintendent of Schools



# NURTURING THE HEART OF THE BRONXVILLE PROMISE

# Every Grant Beg ins with an Idea

# EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING



Occupational Therapist Jenna Fanelli and Physical Therapist Nicole Abbate proposed a grant for Equine Assisted Learning, in which Special Education students work with horses to enhance social-emotional skills, build relationships, and gain confidence. This unique program targets improving communication, fine and gross motor skills, body awareness, sensory integration and modulation, and time management skills.

# CURRICULUM FOR BELONGING



Middle School Principal Joe Mercora and teachers Alyssa Dioguardi, Connor Mitchell, Jen Zopp and Julia Brogan are revising the Middle School Advisory curriculum to include lessons on belonging, creating an inclusive community, and anti-bullying. This grant for curriculum development includes conflict resolution and strategies for distress tolerance as well as a service learning component.

# **CIVIL DISCOURSE BOOTCAMP**



High School and Middle School administrators, including Ann Meyer and Joe Mercora, identified the need to teach students the skills of civil discourse and how to respectfully disagree on topics that matter. This grant allows teachers to participate in a Civil Discourse Boot Camp, where they review the current work on civil discourse, engage in further curriculum writing, and workshop ideas and texts with peers.

# PLAYGROUND PEACE PATH



Elementary School Principal Rakiya Adams and teacher Kathryn Westerheim envisioned a project-based learning experience to help students address playground conflicts peacefully. Designed in collaboration with the first graders themselves, the Playground Peace Path allows students to walk the Peace Path together, following prompts that include clarifying questions, active listening, and suggestions for overcoming their difficulties.

# HOW THE FOUNDATION HELPS ENHANCE EXCELLENCE

## WHY WE EXIST

The Foundation exists to fund important and innovative projects the District budget cannot cover. These enhancements are vital to creating an excellent overall educational experience for our children and keeping our school competitive.

## **OUR FUTURE**

The Foundation's work is more critical than ever given the constraints of these unprecedented times. It is only through the ongoing and generous support of the community that we will keep our school and village strong.

# WHAT DIFFERENTIATES US

The Foundation and the PTA play different, but complementary, roles at the Bronxville School. The Foundation funds grant requests, primarily from teachers and administrators, for faculty training, curriculum enhancements, and upgrades to equipment and facilities. The PTA serves as a vital link between the school and parents to support communication, after-school enrichment programs, and athletic and community traditions.



Foundation projects touch every student, elevating their educational experience in academics, the arts, athletics, and student support services.

The Foundation enhances excellence at our school by helping maintain the competitive advantages that keep our community strong and support fulfillment of the Bronxville Promise.

## WHAT WE DO

The Foundation's 30-member volunteer board works with teachers, the administration, students, and parents to identify innovative ideas that will have the greatest impact on the most students. The Foundation board performs extensive due diligence on grant proposals submitted for these ideas and raises money each year from school families, alumni, and community members to fund approved grants.

# WHAT'S COMPELLING

Foundation funds have direct and immediate impact by making many cutting-edge curricular and technology improvements possible. The grants are fast and flexible — many projects funded in May are up and running in classrooms in time for the new school year.

## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Foundation positively impacts all three schools by making facilities improvements and supporting academics, arts, athletics, student support services, and faculty. By maintaining vital connections with alumni and the broader Bronxville community, the Foundation provides a means for all constituents to partner for the Bronxville School's progress.

# WAYS TO GIVE

Most donors give during our annual fund drive in the fall when Foundation board members send letters out to the community, but gifts are made throughout the year. We also sponsor the Katie Welling Memorial Run & Walk, a great community tradition in November. Alumni support the Foundation through the Alumni Fundraising Drive and the Alumni Brick Walk in which alumni (or their families) purchase inscribed pavers for the brick walk in front of the school. Some donors give "In Memory Of," "In Recognition Of," "In Honor Of," or as planned Gifts/Bequests. Gifts may be in the form of cash, securities, or life insurance.



**Donate Now!** 

# Thanks to the generosity of our community, total contributions for 2024 were \$524,845.

#### Foundation Designated Gift Funds:

#### **Endowment Fund:**

You may choose to donate to the Foundation's Endowment Fund to provide a reserve of support for the Foundation's work. Appreciation and interest earned on donations to our Endowment Fund and a portion of Board member donations currently cover all Foundation overhead enabling every dollar of our other donations to fund grants.

#### Other Designated Foundation Gift Funds:

Coach Bob McGrath Fund for Athletics Dr. Erna Christensen Fund for Language Arts in Elementary School Fund for Science Education Fund for Special Education L. Gordon Harriss Fund for History Robert K. Jackson Theater Arts Fund

#### Honorary Gifts:

This year, donors made the following generous gifts to the Foundation:

#### IN HONOR OF:

Maureen Berenquer, Nicholas Converse '12, Gabriel & Grace Kozlowski, Food Service Staff, Margaret McAllister '19, Brenda Gill Nelson, Pam Simpson

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Virginia "Ginnie" Atayan & Lorraine "Lori" Sarhatt, David W. Foster '78, L. Gordon Harriss '64, Jane Kerr, Bob McGrath '45, Tom & Katie Welling '02

# CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Please check if your employer offers a matching gift program. The following corporations have provided matching gifts. Advent International, American Express Foundation, Ares Management, Assured Guaranty, BlackRock, CBRE, Chicago Trading Company, Citizens Charitable Foundation, Estee Lauder Companies, First Eagle Investments, Goldman Sachs & Co., Google, Hearst Corporation, Lazard Ltd., Moody's Foundation, Nike, Nomura Holding America Inc., NVIDIA, Orbimed, PepsiCo Foundation, PIMCO Foundation, Publicis, S&P Global Foundation, Thomson Reuters, US Banks Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

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KATIE WELLING RUN & WALK

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#### **ALUMNI WALK**

More than 2,500 bricks in the Alumni Walk grace the front of the Bronxville School. Created in 1994, the Alumni Walk has grown through brick purchases from graduates of all ages in a strong showing of support for the school. Entire classes, as well as families and friends, purchase bricks to honor graduates and school staff. The PTA has also graciously purchased bricks in honor of past PTA presidents. This year the following bricks were added to the walk:

Jim Agnello Conor Andrews '24 Benjamin Atkeson '24 Andrew Grant Babyak'18 Peter Graham Barnett '63 Jake Berman '23 Gabrielle Bici '24 Spencer Blumenreich '22 Ellie Brakatselos '23 Charlotte Brandes '24 Michael Branigan '78 Meredith Easton Brown '84 Abigail D. Chang '24 Class of 1973 - 50th Reunion Class of 1977 - 46th Reunion Class of 1978 - 45th Reunion Class of 1983 - 40th Reunion Gerald J. Conway '81 Jack Delaney '24 Danielle Dragoni '23 Courtney Ann Fitzgerald '98 James Edward Fitzgerald III '00 Maura Elizabeth Fitzgerald '96 Mary Adare Fitzgerald '05

Victor Samra 1984-1985 Bill Staudt 1985-1986 Alan Gray 1986-1987 Keitha Murrav 1987-1988 Madeline Oden 1988-1989 John Sloan 1989-1990 George Mayer 1990-1991 George Guimaraes 1991-1992 Linda Smith Shearer 1992-1993 J.T. Atkins 2005-2006 Richard Shearer 1993-1994 Maureen Barton 1994-1995 Michele Ruhm 1995-1996 Craig Foley 1996-1997

Food Service Staff & Margaret McAllister '19 William P. Gottlieb '24 Keyon Harrold, Jr. '24 Alice Post Heathwood '24 Nick Hommever '23 Gwendolyn A. Kirst '24 Dr. Mara Koetke Frannie Krause '24 Madeline Lescott '24 Sam Mandanas '24 Christine R. Macdonald '94 Daniel S.V. Macdonald '93 Alden Martinelli '24 Sophia McCarthy '23 Cian Filippo Merluccio '23 Ria Mueller '24 Liam Nyland '24 Liam S. O'Connor '24 Frances O'Mallev '84 Julia Perry '24 Katelin Flannery Pettee '23 Macklin Robert Pettee '21 Jennifer Francis Pettee '19

#### Past PTA Presidents

James O'Brien 1997-1998 Irena Choi Stern 1998-1999 Bill Mulrow 1999-2000 Ellen Likovich 2000-2001 Emma Oxford 2001-2002 Betty Crowley 2002-2003 Bradford Marvin 2003-2004 Barney Karol 2004-2005 Bridget Gibbons 2006-2007 Lanse Natsch 2007-2008 Ashley Hanrahan 2008-2009 Leslie Meyers 2009-2010 Julie Meade 2010-2011

Spencer Wells Pettee '18 Mark Pvtosh '23 Matthew Pytosh '19 Elle Mackenzie Reilly '24 Jack Reilly '24 Dana Ann Rogers '84 James Rohr '22 Jillian Rohr '15 Elizabeth Kiersted Rucci '24 Clarissa Russo '23 Gretchen Marguardt Seager '50 Andrew Shah '24 Ashton G. Smith '19 Madeline Stupart '24 Lucas Sulimirski '24 Aidan Sulimirski '22 Sophia Sulimirski '19 Lucia Thiessen '24 Tom M. Troja '73 Jaime Diego Valdes '23 Van Villanueva '24 Edward Preston Wardell '21 Tobias Fletcher Wardell '24 Nobuhisa Yoda '83

Nina Evison 2011-2012 Helen Knapp 2012-2013 Margaret Mager 2013-2014 Jill Pvtosh 2014-2015 Lisa Rao 2015-2016 Angela Seminara 2016-2017 Kelly Connors 2017-2018 Priscilla Bender 2018-2019 Suzette Sands 2019-2020 Lia Gravier 2020-2021 Jennifer Heathwood 2021-2022 Amy Krause 2022-2023 Deirdre Doheny 2023-2024

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Senior Class Graduation, June 15, 2024



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