

# 2020 ANNUAL APPEAL



## FOUNDATION FOR BELMONT EDUCATION

*Making a Difference in the Belmont Public Schools*

November 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope that you and your families are well. We are writing to thank you for your past support of the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) and ask you to consider a 2020 contribution to the FBE's Annual Fund. The FBE exists to enrich curriculum, professional development, innovative programs, and technology in the Belmont Public Schools. With the generous support of the Belmont community, the FBE has funded over 900 innovative projects totaling more than \$4 million in grants during the past 26 years.

This school year has been unprecedented for our teachers, staff, and students as they navigate learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to continue our support during this challenging time, the FBE has recently launched a **Rapid Response Grant Initiative**, in addition to our regular grant cycles. These grants offer quick and responsive funding for needs that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and assist our teachers with the delivery of education during the pandemic.

To illustrate further why we are so passionate about the FBE's mission, we are sharing with you some recent school programs\* that would not have been possible without the support of annual fund contributions like yours. To read about other grants awarded, please visit our website at [fbe-belmont.org/grants](http://fbe-belmont.org/grants).

We depend on donations from our community to make a meaningful difference in the education of every Belmont student. Every level of charitable giving makes a difference, and we thank you for supporting the tradition of excellence in our Belmont Public Schools.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Nott Davis*

Melissa Nott Davis  
President, FBE

*Martha Brown*

Martha Brown  
VP of Fundraising, FBE

### HOW TO DONATE:

Please mail your donation to the FBE using the enclosed envelope, or donate online at [fbe-belmont.org/giving](http://fbe-belmont.org/giving). We welcome any donation amount to help us **support enrichment and innovation** in the Belmont Public Schools.

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#### INNOVATIVE TEACHING INITIATIVE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT TEACHING A GROWTH MINDSET IN MATH

58 elementary teachers, special educators, specialists, and principals from all grade levels and schools took part in an online course organized by the author of *Growth Mindset in Math* and Stanford Professor Jo Boaler. According to one Belmont teacher: **"The course totally changed the way I run my math block. There is so much more group work and math discussion now!"**

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#### LEARNING EXCELLENCE GRANT WINDOWS AND MIRRORS: LOOKING AT THE WORLD THROUGH DIFFERENT LENSES

A book grant that, in addition to helping meet the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework, introduces students to issues related to race, identity, ethnicity and nationality. A Wellington 4th grade teacher said, **"We needed books that serve as both 'mirrors' and 'windows', and this grant allowed us to purchase those books. 'Mirrors' allow children to see their own identity reflected in their school community, and 'windows' challenge students to look outside themselves and respect, understand, and appreciate the cultures and identities of others."**

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#### SPECIAL INITIATIVE GRANT DIVERSITY DAY PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES AT CHENERY AND BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Visiting artist Darryl Gane-McCalla investigated media literacy in visual art by encouraging students to explore topics like environment, immigration, and body image through collage, and to question images that they are familiar with seeing in print, television, and movies.

Foundation for Belmont Education  
P.O. Box 518, Belmont, MA 02478  
617 484-7989 | [www.fbe-belmont.org](http://www.fbe-belmont.org)