



Boston Green Academy welcomes diverse students of all abilities, educates and empowers them to succeed in college and career, and prepares them to lead in the sustainability of our community and our world.

November 21, 2019

Dear Friends,

Empowering leaders to change our world - that is what BGA commits to doing every day when we open our doors to almost 500 students in grades 6 through 12.

You know this about us because you receive our e-letters, you attend our celebrations and events, and you have contributed generously in the past to help support the ever-growing list of enrichment opportunities available to our students but not covered by our district budget. And thus our dilemma: what can we tell you about the remarkable journey of BGA and its community of students, families and staff that you don't already know?

Maybe you've heard that BGA received both state and national Green Ribbon School awards for our consistent efforts to become and remain a sustainable school. But did you know that our Career Technology and Education program in Environmental Science will graduate its first cohort of 20 seniors in 2021? They are juniors now, and working hard to balance their full academic schedule along with the demanding CTE curriculum, and deciding how to use their new skills and credentials in determining which colleges and careers to consider after graduation.



Spanish teacher Matt Johnston, a student and parent, and an exuberant middle-school class all celebrate the national Green Ribbon School award which will eventually be displayed prominently at BGA after completing its celebratory tour.

If you follow our numbers closely, you know that 100 percent of graduates who applied to college in 2019 (86%) were accepted to their college of choice, but did you know that 90% of our students are the first in their family to go to college and that 97% of our first-generation students applied to and were admitted to college? The class of 2019 received 175 offers of admission from colleges and universities including Boston University, Ithaca College, Rutgers University, and Emerson College.



BGA maintains high expectations for all students so when they graduate, they are ready for for both college and career.

You’ve doubtless heard us mention more than once that of the schools that do not select their students, BGA is one of the most successful schools in the Boston Public Schools. What you may not know is that BGA students with high needs, students of color, and students with disabilities perform at high levels in the BPS district in comparison to *all* schools.

So yes, we are doing well. We have grown in size, enrollment, performance, and aspirations. We are looking to the future and embarking this year on our first ever strategic planning process. We are adding new partners to provide even more real-world, practical experience for our students, including a fully outfitted makerspace, courtesy of generous partners Gensler Architects and Turner Construction. We also continue to promote our green and sustainable programming and to prepare our students for tomorrow’s jobs in the “green collar” sector. However, did you know that the cost of purchasing a container farm is the same as the cost of providing 11 students with a full year of education and opportunities at BGA? Or that the conversion of our 125-year old auditorium into a multi-purpose space would relieve crowded classrooms, provide additional room for fitness classes, peer and interest group meetings, tutoring, and events, would free up our library which is now the "extra" space that we often need to support testing for students, and larger meetings that cannot be held in administrative offices.

Since the BGA library (below) was redesigned, renovated and outfitted through the generous, in-kind services of Gensler Architecture and Turner Construction, it has become the heart of the school.



The bright wall graphics that proclaim our mission and our norms, support everything from a parent counsel meeting (right) to MCAS testing, quarterly CTE PAC meetings, staff meetings, and events. It is a beautiful space--and we want it to go back to being a full time library. The only way that can happen is if we convert our old-school auditorium (above) to a multi-use space and free up the demands on our library.



BGA is on the verge of beginning our next chapter; using our strategic planning process to take stock of where we've been, where we are, and visioning the next five years of our work. So much is unknown about the world our 6th graders will find waiting for them when they cross the stage to receive their diplomas in 2025. What we do know is that we take our responsibility for preparing them to thrive in that world very, very seriously. It is our job, but more importantly, it is the mission of everyone who works at BGA and every partner we engage, to ensure that every single student receives the full complement of teaching, learning, leading, and support services that we offer. To that end, we are asking for your help.

In this school year, 2020, we must raise \$75,000 over our allocated budget to bridge our funding gap. We do apply for grants from public and private foundations, but we are one of dozens and dozens of organizations that make our case to funders and there are thresholds for need that we sometimes do not meet. And for those of you in the nonprofit world, you also know that grant cycles rarely conform to the academic year.



BGA students participate in a variety of activities that bring attention our environmental crisis. Here, they march at the Climate Change Conference in September.



Team sports are an important part of BGA student life. Here, the girls volleyball team takes a moment before heading off to play in the State Tournament in October.

In this, our annual appeal to our supporters, we ask that you again consider making a gift to BGA to help us bridge this gap and help our students experience the richness of a comprehensive high school education; one that opens doors to their future, provides them with the tools they need to meet their goals, and empowers them to become the leaders they aspire to be.

Thank you so much for your support in the past and for your support moving forward. It makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

Matt Holzer
Headmaster



Please consider making a donation to Boston Green Academy

Donations by check:

Please make check out to Boston Green Academy Foundation and mail to:

Boston Green Academy
PO Box 35487
Brighton, MA 02135

Secure online donations can be made by visiting the BGA donations page at:

<https://www.bostongreenacademy.org/donate>

When you click on the "Donate" button, you will be taken to a PayPal donate page and will be able to donate using your PayPal account or credit card.



Thank you!