

GLOUCESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION



FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Gloucester High School Students relax between classes in fall of 2019 Photo courtesy of Rumi Thomas

www.thinkthebest.org

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of the generous community of supporters that makes Gloucester Education Foundation's work possible. The projects highlighted in this report are your projects, too. We hope that you are as proud of them as we are.

2020 has been an interesting year to start our new posts as GEF's Executive Director and Board President. The coronavirus pandemic has thrown all of us into a new normal that we never could have predicted.

Like so many other organizations, GEF has shifted and stretched to meet immediate community needs, while planning for how we can best support future learning in our schools, in an environment that is still to be determined.

And yet, despite the uncertainty around us, GEF's mission has never felt more relevant. **Driving innovation. Encouraging creativity. Expanding opportunities. Empowering educators.** These goals are a road map for stability and effective action, now and in the future.

With this strong vision, and with you as our partners, GEF's path is clear. We will walk alongside our teachers and students to help them navigate and excel within a new learning environment, and provide a foundation of steadfast support for years to come. Thank you for partnering with us in this work, and for your commitment to education in Gloucester.

With gratitude,



Aria McElhenny
Executive Director



Serena Low
Board President



Gloucester Public Schools Arts Festival
This beloved annual community event is a partnership among Gloucester Education Foundation, Sawyer Free Library, Cape Ann Museum, The City of Gloucester, and the Gloucester Public Schools. An all-day celebration of the artistic gifts and creativity of our students, the Arts Festival is a showcase of student visual and performance art, including painting, ceramics, photography, woodworking, poetry, theater and music from every school in the district.

OUR MISSION

GLOUCESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION DRIVES INNOVATION, ENCOURAGES CREATIVITY, EXPANDS STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES AND EMPOWERS EDUCATORS TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.



Advanced Placement (AP) Prep Classes

Gloucester High School offers 10 AP classes, with a 32% participation rate. GEF is pleased to support summer AP prep classes, which enable students to get a head start on their AP classwork before the school year starts, and helps prepare them for the AP exams in the Spring. AP classes play a large role in college admissions, and supporting Gloucester's students as they progress towards higher learning is an important part of GEF's work in the schools.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you, Dr. Safier for your invaluable partnership with GEF during your time as Superintendent. We will miss you and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

For the last nine years, I have had the privilege of working collaboratively with the Gloucester Education Foundation. In that time, GEF has made an enormous contribution in support of the Gloucester Public Schools.

This support has vastly enriched the learning opportunities that we now provide for our students. In the areas of literacy, science, art, technology, professional development, grant acquisition, and even the renovation of facilities, GEF has been a proverbial backbone for innovation and enhancement of programs for students in all grades and at all levels.

Recently, in the midst of the pandemic, GEF took the initiative to fund the production of face shields using our 3-D printers, manufactured by Gloucester

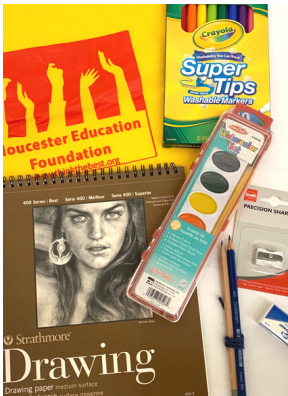
teachers. Like so much of their work, this was an extraordinary gesture on their part fueled by GEF's commitment not only to Gloucester schools, but to the community at-large.

I cannot thank the Gloucester Education Foundation enough for its support of the District's efforts to fulfill its mission. Their efforts to help the District create a culture of excellence is equally matched by the dignified manner in which they offer that support. The district and I are, to say the least, profoundly grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "R. Safier".

Dr. Richard Safier

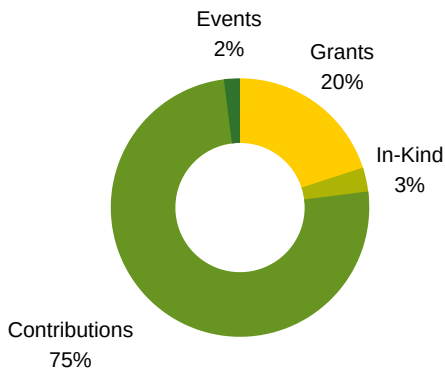


When coronavirus forced us to cancel several events and school projects, GEF pivoted to support the community in new ways. Our Power of Art project provided art supplies to students at home to help them creatively document their experiences of living through a pandemic. The Gloucester Face Shield Project produced over 2500 face shields in school 3-D printer labs made by teachers and volunteers. The Shields were provided for free to local front line workers.

FY 2020 FINANCIALS (April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020)

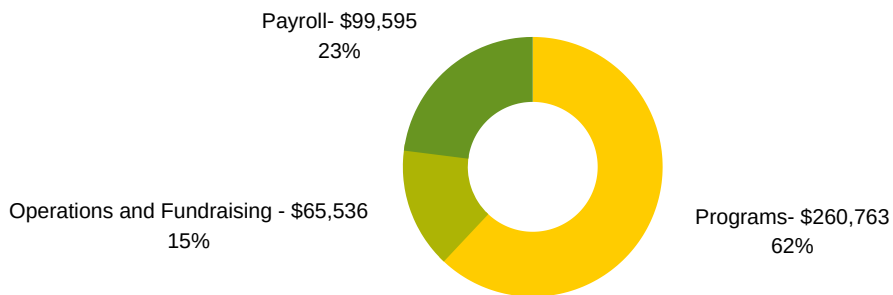
Since 2005, Gloucester Education Foundation has raised more than \$8 million to support the Gloucester Public Schools, and has assisted with raising an additional \$1.23 million in grants that have gone directly to the Gloucester Public School District for innovative school programs.

INCOME: \$393,437*



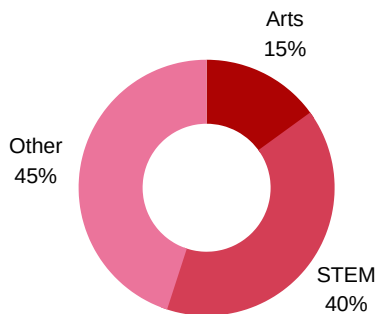
*Gifts to the GEF endowment fund are not included in this summary.

EXPENSES: \$425,898*

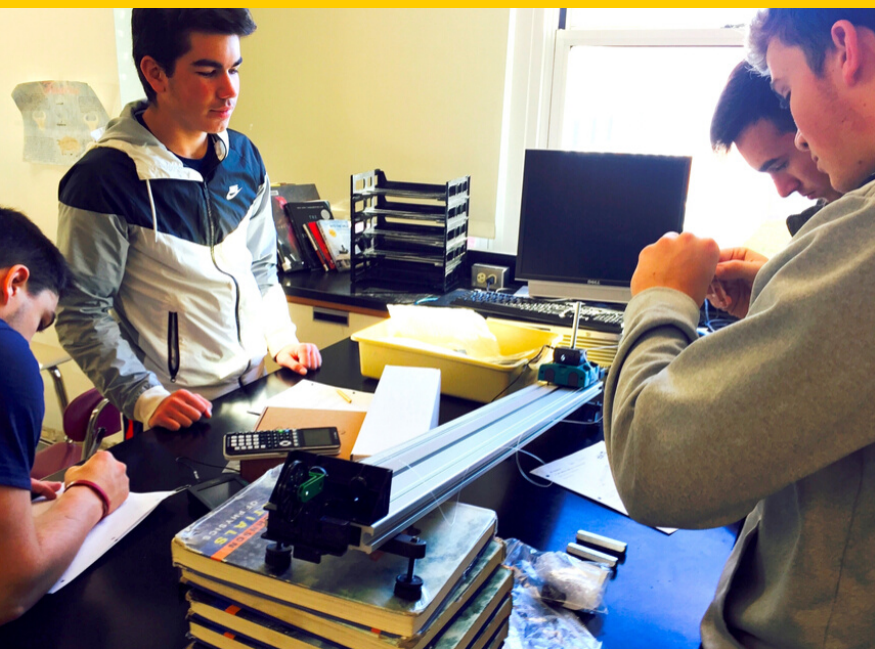
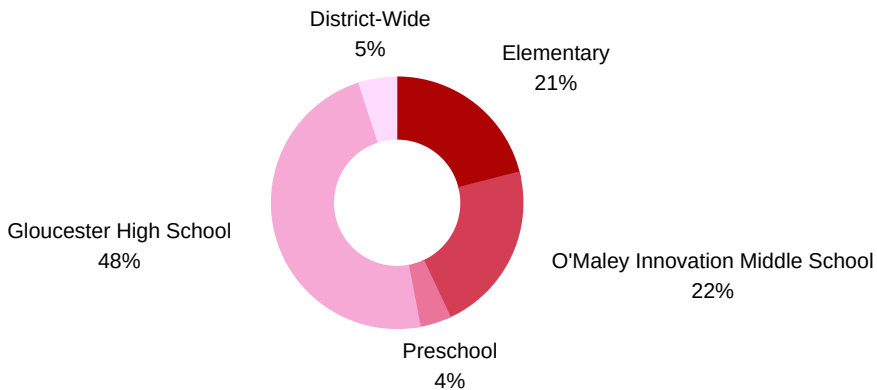


*Revenue for some FY20 programs was received in the prior year.

PROGRAM FUNDING BY DISCIPLINE



PROGRAM FUNDING BY SCHOOL



STEM at Gloucester High School

A 2019 Grant from Applied Materials Foundation enabled GEF to provide teachers across all STEM disciplines at Gloucester High School with resources to strengthen inquiry-based learning practices in their classrooms, helping students to develop higher order thinking skills in science, technology, engineering and math.



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Countdown to Kindergarten engages families, educators and the community in a citywide effort to enhance early learning opportunities and to support the transition into kindergarten. GEF is proud to partner with numerous other community organizations to support this annual event.



STAFF

Aria McElhenny, Executive Director
Larissa Mills, Communications and Operations Manager



O'Maley Academy is a free, year-round program, running 4 afternoons per week during the school year and 6 weeks in the summer. The Academy serves 180 6-8th grade students, introducing them to an array of curricula, from the arts, to science, to literacy, all while achieving the overarching goal of connecting students with their peers in healthy, positive and meaningful ways through collaborative activities.

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The Physiology of Mindfulness program provides the sixth graders at O'Maley Innovation Middle School with insight into therapeutic tools for regulating and calming anxiety. With anxiety disorders affecting school-aged youth at ever-increasing rates, this program empowers students to improve their own health and wellness by teaching them breathing and biofeedback techniques that have powerful, positive physiological effects.

ADVISORS

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent (Retired June, 2020)
Dr. Ben Lummis, Superintendent (July, 2020)
Sefatia Romeo Theken, Mayor
Steve LeBlanc, President, City Council
Jonathan Pope, Chair, School Committee

2019-2020 CONTRIBUTORS

This list includes contributors who made gifts between 4/1/2019 and 3/31/2020. We make every attempt to ensure accuracy; please let us know if we have made an error or inadvertently omitted your name.

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Dance Through the Decades is a district-wide elementary school program that explores popular dance from the 1920s through the 1980's, and how the events of each decade impacted American dance and culture.

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Artistic Bridges provides a vital link between the rich artistic community that characterizes Gloucester and Cape Ann and children in the schools, who can benefit from learning from local working artists. Our partnership with Cape Ann Museum enables us to bring a wide range of artistic disciplines to all of our schools.

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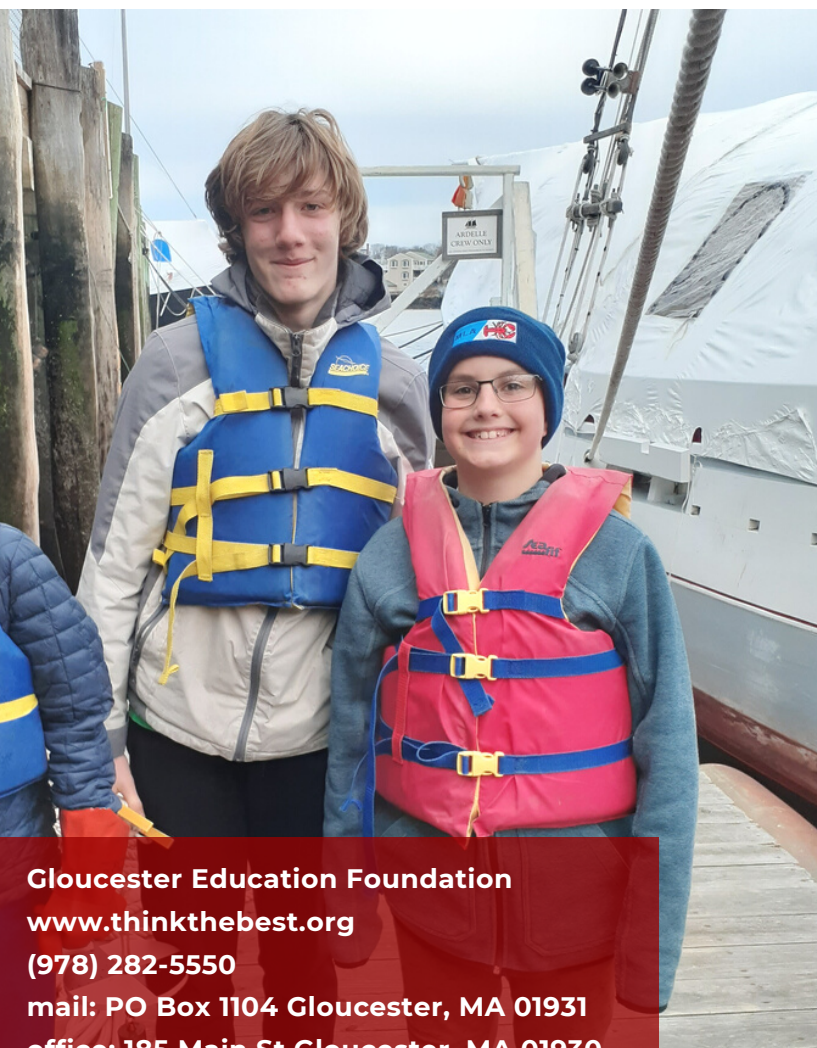
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 We are all in this Together Gloucester
 Willow Rest

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Funding from Applied Materials Foundation's Generation Girl Initiative supports **Girls in STEM** at Gloucester High School, an evolving program that will pair middle school girls with high school student mentors to encourage participation in the sciences and exploration of science-based career opportunities.



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DrainsmART is a partnership with Seaside Sustainability, funded by the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation. Students help protect the ocean and beautify the City by painting environmental awareness-raising messages and designs on storm drains.



Engineering and Coding Camp: A popular summer STEM camp developed by teachers at Beeman elementary School will expand to become a district-wide program in the next three years, with generous funding from the Gordon Foundation.