

GLOUCESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FY2022 Impact Report



The Gloucester Education Foundation drives innovation, encourages creativity, expands student opportunities, and empowers educators to strengthen teaching and learning in the Gloucester Public School District.



THIS HAS BEEN a year of triumphs and trials, of challenge and change. Seeing the Gloucester schools fully in-person again gave us hope for a path out of the crisis of the past two years. At the Gloucester Education Foundation, we've used this year to refocus our investments on programs that foster active, engaged learning; support students as they transition through the Gloucester schools; and encourage them to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively—to "Think the Best".

Your support this year helped jump-start the elementary band after a long hiatus, and provided 1-on-1 music lessons to O'Maley Innovation Middle School students to get them ready to join The Docksiders at Gloucester High School. Students performed music and theater for live audiences again, to thunderous applause and standing ovations. You brought Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics courses to all of our schools, including solar panels in the Auto Shop installed by Electrical Technology students. With support from the new Jim Dowd Fund, we launched the first-ever GEF Student Advisory Committee. The Mentor Project, in partnership with GHS and Wellspring House, is pairing juniors with community mentors, and Gender Equity in STEM is introducing students to strong women leaders in science and technology.

Your collective commitment to Gloucester's youth inspires us, and we're so thankful for your support. As GEF's new Executive Director and Board President, we look forward to connecting with you in the coming months. As we reflect on the year behind us, we're ready to do great work together during the year ahead!



Emily Siegel,
Executive Director



Anna O'Connor,
Board President

"Seeing firsthand the students' pride and accomplishments from the work they have done in our schools touches your heart. Realizing that those feelings of achievement and success could not have been possible without GEF makes you want to be a part of it."

—TED COSTA, GEF BOARD MEMBER



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**Joined the GEF board in March 2022

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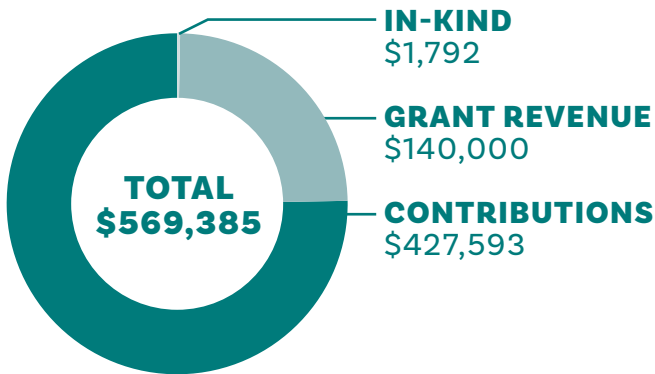
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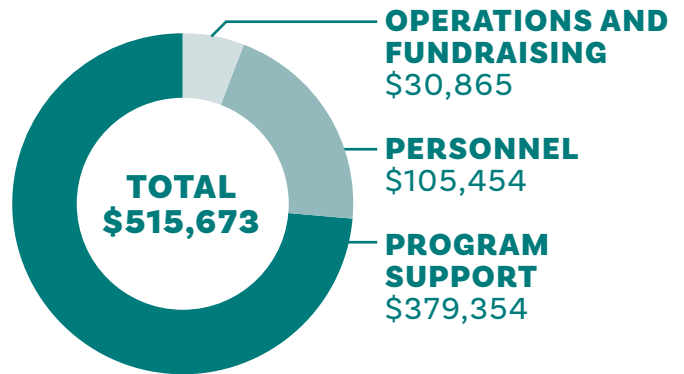
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FINANCIALS

FY22 REVENUE



FY22 EXPENSES



The above figures are unaudited. Audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2022 will be available from GEF later in the year.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS



13 GHS Robotics students moving on to post-secondary engineering programs



75 students exploring electric vehicles in the auto shop, thanks to Lyon-Waugh Auto Group



300 students performed theater for a live audience



320 hands connected to heart-beats during mindfulness practices



97,300 corn and wheat seeds planted in O'Maley's school gardening program

"After an 18-month pandemic-related hiatus, GEF helped launch a new beginning for the O'Maley music program! With over \$65K donated, we were able to fund eight consecutive months of instrumental lessons for our participants. Thanks to GEF and its donors, we can confidently say: The Band is Back."

—CARLOS MENEZES, JR, O'MALEY BAND DIRECTOR

180

youth musicians participating in elementary and middle school bands

150

handwritten student thank you notes to donors



FY22 PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Jumpstarting elementary band with after school instrumental lessons

MINDFUL TOOLKIT

Providing in-class sessions in mindfulness, meditation and breathing for grades K-2

ELEMENTARY PERFORMING ARTS

Theater and music across the elementary schools, culminating in live performances this spring

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Partnering with fellow Gloucester non-profits on the annual event welcoming Kindergarteners and families into the Gloucester Public Schools

DAY-IN-THE-LIFE VIDEO

Creating a new video to educate students, families and the community about the elementary school experience in Gloucester

GORDON ENGINEERING AND CODING CAMP

Expanding the districtwide summer STEM program for 4th and 5th graders

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ACORN PRESS PRINTMAKING

Printmaking workshops on the Folly Cove Designers' Acorn Press

O'MALEY ACADEMY

Supporting summer and after school enrichment programs for 200+ students in grades 6-8

O'MALEY SCIENCE CENTER

Installing new countertops in the O'Maley chemistry lab, part of the ongoing GEF-funded consolidation and expansion of the O'Maley Science Center

O'MALEY GARDENING

Growing the gardening curriculum to the 8th grade with a new "Agriculture, People, and the Environment", in partnership with Backyard Growers

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Integrating 1-on-1 and small group lessons for grades 6-8 into the school day

HIGH SCHOOL

AUTO TECH PROGRAM

Supporting a robust, state-of-the-art automotive technology program

WHITEBOARDS FOR STUDENT COLLABORATION

Establishing a set of portable, large-scale whiteboards for student collaboration in the World Language department

CVTE PROGRAM EXPANSION

Launching the expansion of the GHS Career/Vocational Technical program to add a new program of study

"APES" LABS

Piloting new, hands-on labs for AP Environmental Science

SUMMER SEMINARS FOR AP STUDENTS

Summer courses to prepare GHS students for success in AP classes

GHS MENTOR PROJECT

Collaborating with Wellspring House to connect GHS students with mentors to develop post-secondary plans



ELECTRICAL TECH SOLAR PANELS

Installation of solar panels on the Auto Shop by Electrical Tech students

DECA*

Providing the opportunity for 18 students to compete in the DECA State Tournament

ROBOTICS EQUIPMENT

Equipment upgrades for robotics and engineering to keep offerings current

GENDER EQUITY IN STEM

Establishing a GHS club focused on exploring STEM careers and the gender dynamics at play in these fields

**Though outside of our normal scope, GEF funded these proposals given that student fundraising activities were difficult during the pandemic.*



"Thank you for the generous funding that went to Gloucester DECA this year. This year 18 individuals qualified for the state competition... Initially, finances were going to keep a plethora of kids from competing, but thanks to GEF's generosity, every child could afford to attend."

—ELIANA FARIA, GHS SENIOR AND PRESIDENT, GHS DECA

GEF 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the past 18 months, GEF’s board and staff have worked to create a new three-year strategic plan to guide our work moving forward. Below is a summary of the 12 goals of this plan, four each in our three work areas: Programs, External Affairs, and Internal Affairs.

This plan was developed with the Gloucester Public Schools’ Plan for Ongoing Improvement in mind, to ensure alignment between the strategic priorities of the school district and those of the Gloucester Education Foundation.

“It’s terrific to have a partner in the Gloucester Education Foundation that understands our district’s improvement path and has incorporated some of our priorities into their own strategic plan.”

—SUPERINTENDENT BEN LUMMIS

GOALS BY AREA OF WORK



PROGRAMS

1. Fund a diversity of programs that provide all types of students with the opportunity for active, engaged learning in a wide variety of disciplines
2. Support two to three big, transformational ideas that have the potential to impact many students, for many years, and shift district culture in a specific, lasting way
3. Focus on the transition of students from elementary to middle to high school and beyond, to include a better “vertical handoff” where students are supported to continue in subjects they’re interested in, and are informed about opportunities.
4. Work with the Gloucester Public Schools as they develop their district improvement plan, and refine the role GEF plays to support their goals through our programs



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

5. Broaden and diversify our funding base so we can adequately support school programs
6. Improve marketing and communications to generate new donors, volunteers, and excitement about GEF
7. Diversify the board as members rotate off and new members join to ensure it reflects the students served by the Gloucester Public Schools
8. Partner with the Gloucester Public Schools on shifting the narrative about and perception of our schools



INTERNAL AFFAIRS

9. Strengthen operations and staffing, distributing responsibilities among staff, board, volunteers, and consultants
10. Establish stronger fiscal oversight, analysis, and forecasting
11. Improve the capacity, capabilities, and impact of the GEF board
12. Support the executive director to ensure growth and retention in role



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY AT GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL



Walking into Jack Porter and Budd Maciel's classroom isn't like walking into other classrooms. No desks, no chairs, no chalkboard. At first, it seems like no students. But then you look closer, and there they are: behind the open hood of a 1957 Chevy, feet sticking out from under a 2015 Honda, huddling at the dashboard of a 1998 Ford. They work independently or with a peer, occasionally calling out to their teachers: "Are these the right bolts, Mr. Maciel?" and "When does that customer need this job finished, Mr. Porter?"

This is the Gloucester Automotive Technology program. GHS is one of the few comprehensive high schools in the region to have a Career/Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) program. Over the years Auto Tech has expanded, today serving 46 students with Mr. Porter and Mr. Maciel as their two teachers and help from retired teacher Billy Martin, a committed volunteer.

These students aren't simply learning about cars on a computer; they are working on real vehicles, every day. It's no coincidence that the students are deeply engaged and self-directed in the shop. "We work on getting them comfortable working independently and professionally from Day One," explains Porter. "We don't just teach them the nuts and bolts here. We teach teamwork, punctuality, eye contact with customers. We treat this like a workplace."

Critical to the success of the program? Additional funding, brought in by GEF, to hire the second teacher, Mr. Maciel. **GEF worked with Lyon-Waugh Auto Group, led by Gloucester's Warren Waugh, to secure \$150,000 for this purpose in 2019, and Waugh recently committed another \$150,000 over the next three years.** The second teacher in turn expands the number of students served and allows for more individualized support. Student engagement and retention is high. Current juniors and

seniors have almost all been enrolled since their freshman year. "We need automotive technicians, support staff, parts professionals and administrative candidates," explains Waugh. "If Gloucester students want to explore the automotive field, what better way for me to reach out and offer a stronger educational environment than with a yearly donation to this program?"

When asked how he knows he's been successful with a student, Mr. Porter broke into a huge grin. "They come back and tell me," he says. **"Our graduates are successful in this field.** I recently had a student train at Ohio Tech, and he came in first in the Skills USA Ohio State Competition. He went on to Nationals, and then a job at Lyon-Waugh." He can rattle off dozens of success stories like this, many involving students who struggled to find their path at GHS before discovering Auto Tech.



NEXT UP FOR AUTO TECH?

Equipment updates, they hope. As the automotive world electrifies, new tools and techniques are needed to keep this shop up-to-date. It's a big investment but one needed—and definitely possible, with GEF donor support—for the program and its students to stay current as the world around them changes.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

O'MALEY ACADEMY



If you venture into most middle schools after the last bell rings, you'll find a ghost town. Not so at O'Maley Innovation Middle School, where at 3:30 you'll discover a robotics lab full of adolescent engineers, teens taking photos all over campus, and two quiet 6th graders, knitting in a cozy nook of the library. On another day, you'll be surprised to see those same knitters belting out tunes in the auditorium as they rehearse for "The Little Mermaid", trying on a different activity to see if it fits.

This is O'Maley Academy, and it buzzes late into the afternoon with exploration and engagement.

O'Maley Academy, a GEF-supported program and a favorite of many donors, serves more than a third of O'Maley's 650 students after school and over the summer. Adolescents vote with their feet when it comes to out-of-school activities: if they don't like a program, they simply don't participate. But the O'Maley team has crafted a well-attended and much-loved program over the years. With school fully in-person this year, demand is high as many students struggle after two years of trauma and disruptions to normal routines. More than ever, O'Maley Academy serves as a way for students to find their place in middle school, extend their learning, or try something new.

"In 6th grade I was new and didn't know anybody," one student explains. "I signed up for Drama at O'Maley Academy, and I made so many new friends. It helped me feel comfortable at school. Drama Club is not just a club; you all become a family." A parent tells us: "My daughter started O'Maley Academy the summer before 6th grade. **This program was a positive way to ease into the new school...She learned to be comfortable speaking in public, to work as a team and collaborate with peers.**"

"It's an amazing experience to work with kids on something they love and watch them develop skills that will benefit them their entire lives," says Library and Media Specialist Ardis Francoeur, who teaches photography at O'Maley Academy. "I get to watch

them grow in a different way from in the classroom, as their world opens up."

According to Program Director Rebecca Matheson, four strengths of O'Maley Academy are:

Flexibility: Students can participate for one to four days each week during the school year, and one to six weeks over the summer

Variety: Up to 25 program options are offered each term, including favorites like Drama, Hiking Club and Healthy Cooking

Depth: Students participate in one two-hour class each day, rather than trying to fit in multiple activities each afternoon

Staffing: Most of the "advisors", as activity leaders are called, are O'Maley teachers and staff—who get to lead students in diverse subject areas and settings

Another reason for success: the program is free to all families! This eliminates a major barrier to participation and is made possible through a federal 21st Century Learning grant, supplemented with funding from GEF and GPS. However, this grant sunsets over the next two years, and the future of the program remains uncertain without this linchpin funding.



NEXT UP FOR O'MALEY ACADEMY?

Sustainability planning and fundraising to ensure the program doesn't shrink or disappear. We hope donors like you will step up to help support this program. Students deserve it, teachers are devoted to it, and families embrace it to keep their children active, safe, and learning beyond the traditional school day.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

WEST PARISH THEATER



The woman next to us in the auditorium leans over and whispers excitedly, “We drove here from New Jersey to see our granddaughter perform tonight!” Her eyes shine, teary and proud above her mask. The room goes dark, the stage lights up, and we all see a green ogre, played by 5th grader Levi Dupont. This is the West Parish Elementary School’s 5th grade play, “Shrek, Jr.”

Thanks to unwavering donor support, GEF has supported theater in the Gloucester schools for many years, across all five elementaries and through middle and high school. West Parish has worked hard to sustain their 5th grade theater program over these past three challenging years. Their 2020 production of “Cinderella” took place weeks before the pandemic closed schools; this fortunate timing meant they were the sole elementary school able to put on a play that spring. In 2021, they experimented with a performance of “Bye Bye Birdie”, nimbly adjusted as a prerecorded and streamed show for an at-home audience. In 2022, they returned to live theater with “Shrek, Jr.”

West Parish Music Teacher Marian Wolter, in their third year at the school, co-directs the shows with Heidi Dallin, a professional children’s theater educator who has worked with Gloucester schools for years and is an alum herself. “Last year was a little crazy,” Wolter admits. “It wasn’t the same as a regular performance, but we’re glad we took the plunge to try it. We were ready to return to a live performance this spring, though!”

West Parish’s current program is built on a strong partnership between Wolter and Dallin, who work together on all aspects of the production with the entire 5th grade: acting, singing, staging, props, and sets. They credit the program’s continuity to the support they receive from the 5th grade teaching team; from families; from the PTO; and from Principal Telena Imel, who prioritizes the program. For example, she makes sure 5th graders have music first period, so that their before-school rehearsals transition right into class, where they continue to work on the play.

And of course, credit goes to their students, all of whom participate in the production, a real bonding experience to cap off their 5th grade year. We had the chance to reflect with them this spring after “Shrek, Jr” wrapped. “I originally thought I wanted to work on stage crew, but learned I actually like being on stage,” said Bodhi. **“I want to do theater at O’Maley and in high school!”** Connor exclaimed. Because of generous GEF donors, he will be able to do both, through the vibrant drama programs at O’Maley Academy and GHS.

Theater looks different at each Gloucester elementary school. While most schools have a fifth grade program, others include fourth graders. With annual GEF funding, every school has the opportunity to work with theater professionals. GEF is working to maintain and grow elementary theater as we emerge from the pandemic; in particular, we look forward to supporting East Gloucester and Veterans as they join forces in their new building to build a merged theater program.



NEXT UP FOR WEST PARISH'S THEATER PROGRAM?

Wolter and Dallin know, because they begin planning months before the first audition—but they aren’t telling, not yet. “The 4th graders are itching to know what show they’ll do next year,” says Dallin, “but we’re building suspense!”

2021-2022 DONORS

This list includes contributors who made gifts between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. We make every effort to ensure accuracy; please let us know if we have made an error or inadvertently omitted your name.

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Gloucester tennis legend Avis Murray and East Gloucester School staff member Lynne Salah present GEF Executive Director Emily Siegel with funds raised in honor of GPS teachers and staff, part of the Bass Rocks Golf Club's 125th anniversary.

*"We flip for the theater, band,
and science offerings that GEF
provides to all Gloucester
students!"*

—KRISTEN AND ROB PARSONS



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