



THE
INGENUITY
P R O J E C T

2021–2022 Annual Report

**LEADERSHIP
RESPONSIBILITY
COMMUNITY**



BY THE NUMBERS

\$2,104 invested annually
in each Ingenuity student

902 students served
in 2021-22

350 seats added to
the program since 2017

5 partner schools: Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Hamilton Elementary/Middle School, James McHenry Elementary/Middle School, Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School, and Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

33 talented math and science teachers delivered Ingenuity's advanced curriculum in 2021-22

OUR MISSION

For almost 30 years, The Ingenuity Project's mission has been to prepare and launch the next diverse generation of nationally competitive STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) leaders from Baltimore City Public Schools.

WHAT WE DO

We identify, recruit, and support gifted and advanced students who represent Baltimore City. Our classrooms are enriched by the diversity of our students. We teach and mentor students driven to become leaders and move into STEM careers. We improve access to exceptional STEM programming for historically untapped students. From fifth graders to alumni, we build long-term relationships with Ingenuity students and families, empowering them as partners in their educational journeys.

Ingenuity's curriculum is developed by experienced teachers with deep backgrounds in STEM. Our curriculum provides advanced study of math and science that cultivates strong problem-solving. Through a unique high school research and innovation practicum, students conduct independent investigations into topics of interests, where research mentors guide their pursuit of scientific and technological discoveries.

We partner closely with Baltimore City schools, teachers, and the STEM research community to deliver our program.

OUR STUDENTS

24 Baltimore City
zip codes represented

46% female

67% from racial and ethnic
groups systemically untapped
in advanced STEM

42% from low-income
households; triple the
percentage since 2018-19
(from 17%)





OUTCOMES

57% increased learning

of middle school math beyond what is deemed typical

98% of eighth graders

accepted to high schools with academic entrance criteria

CLASS OF 2021 74 STUDENTS

4.54 average weighted GPA

92% passed math and

science Advanced Placement courses

62% conducted research or participated in sustained out-of-class STEM experiences

95% enrolled in competitive four-year colleges

\$14M awarded in college scholarships



DEAR FRIENDS,

It has been said on more than one occasion that the return to in-person school and work—not just the physical return, but the social-emotional aspect as well—was more challenging than anyone could have imagined. Our students and teachers have shown remarkable flexibility and determination, and we could not be prouder of all that they have accomplished. Families, teachers, and other staff members stepped up to support students during this crucial and unprecedented transition year. Mentors, tutors, and alumni volunteered time and energy to propel students forward. This year, especially, has required us all to meet students where they are, show compassion, and see their future excellence for them.

This annual report celebrates all of Ingenuity Project's many successes, such as our expanded summer programs, our first eighth grade cohort graduating from James McHenry Elementary/Middle, and our revised high school research and middle school math curricula that will inspire the next generation of socially responsible STEM leaders.

Now more than ever it is important to hold close our new vision of a future fueled by socially responsible leaders, one in which diverse perspectives not only accelerate innovation in STEM, but also create solutions that advance our society for the greater good. Future success as a STEM leader cannot—and should not—be determined solely by a test score or report card grade. We must begin to factor in the extent to which our future leaders live by a prescribed set of values while passionately pursuing their interests and talents.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to our partners and supporters: Baltimore City Public Schools, our philanthropic supporters, the teachers who deliver our curriculum, and the STEM research community that creates life-changing opportunities in their fields. Without all of you, this work would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Lisette Morris
Executive Director

Peter Griffin III
Board President





THE SUMMER SUN WAS SHINING AND THE LEARNING WAS SWEET!

For two summers (2021 and 2022), Ingenuity students in grades six to 10 from across the city participated in memorable math and science programming at Poly, thanks to a talented team of teachers and Ingenuity high school students and alumni who served as youth counselors. As a result of our expanded partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools, these have become our largest summer programs to date. Cohorts of students rotated through a variety of math and science lessons throughout each day, with their youth counselors providing mentorship and team-building activities. Bus transportation was provided from Ingenuity middle schools.



“We not only provided ways to academically support students but also emotionally connect with them. The students, coming from all different Ingenuity schools, were able to form connections and enjoy their time together.”

2022 Youth Counselor



“From last summer to this summer, there have been many noticeable improvements in the program’s structure and organization; with our increased training time and attention to details, I and my peers felt much more prepared. It was obvious Ingenuity took the time to focus on our feedback and implement those changes. It made a huge and positive difference in how smooth the academy was able to run.”

2022 Youth Counselor



TAPPING BALTIMORE CITY'S SOUTHWEST TALENT

An Update on Ingenuity at James McHenry Elementary/Middle School

TIMELINE

- 2019-2020** Our first cohort of sixth grade students (47) started at James McHenry and completed three-quarters of the year before schools closed due to COVID-19.
- 2020-2021** We added two sixth grade classes, bringing enrollment close to 100. The Ingenuity Project and Baltimore City teachers and staff collaborated to ensure students had internet and computer access in order to engage them in unprecedented virtual instruction for the year.
- 2021-2022** A total of 144 students and their teachers were supported by two Ingenuity math teachers (Conroy Ritchie and Kathy LaPlant) and a new director of middle school (Kathy Bacon). Our first cohort was in eighth grade, completing Ingenuity’s honors high school algebra I and honors physical science courses. Jocilyn Harris, Ingenuity’s dean of student and family engagement, supported 18 students and their families in their acceptance to Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (Poly)—the largest number of students qualifying for entrance to Poly in the school’s history! Of those students, seven will participate in Ingenuity at Poly.

KEY STATS

27 elementary schools represented at James McHenry

20 students came from James McHenry’s elementary school

11 eighth Graders offered placement in Ingenuity at Poly

Ingenuity’s staff and teachers extend deep gratitude for the partnership of James McHenry’s teachers and school leaders, especially Principal Danita Plain and Assistant Principal Ian McNamara, who brought the community together after a long quarantine.



CELEBRATING STUDENT DISCOVERIES AT OUR STEM RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

As STEM develops solutions to lead us out of the pandemic, and to address the greatest social issues of our time, Ingenuity's mission to develop future STEM leaders is more important than ever.

On May 25, 2022, a crowd of over 250 students, families, research mentors, district leaders, teachers, and alumni gathered at Poly for our first in-person Symposium in two years. Our students' research and innovation discoveries had even greater significance considering what it took for them to persevere through a prolonged period of distance learning due to COVID.



Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Baltimore City's Health Commissioner, delivered an inspiring keynote address.





STEM RESEARCH MEETS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ingenuity's Research and Innovation Practicum, two flagship high school experiences, begins in 10th grade with the Introduction to Research Curriculum. During the summer of 2021, Dr. Nicole Rosen, Ingenuity's research director, redesigned the final 10th grade project to align with two key Community Commitments. Students now start by identifying a social problem and finding two STEM solutions that are, or can be, applied to the problem. This shift has resulted in our largest-ever cohort of sophomores expressing high levels of interest in research!

TWO COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS IN ACTION

- Provoke and encourage critical and ethical questions about science, technology, engineering, and math, and the societal status quo.
- Provide avenues for students to see STEM as a way to understand and improve their world and take actions that combat inequities.



WHAT IS THE NEXT GENERATION INTERESTED IN DISCOVERING?

How Public Green Spaces in Urban Environments Can Improve Peoples' Health [Ava Pevsner](#)

Ecohealth is Mental Health: How We Can Combat the Mental Health Decline Due to Air Pollution [Camille Coffey](#)

Cultural Health Care Misconceptions and Their Implication on Patient Care in Hospitals [Zoë Hong](#)

How Intention and Technology Can Curb the Opioid Epidemic [Vladimir Gapeev](#)

Microplastic Exposure Stifles the Growth and Development of Marine Life [Brandon Isbell](#)

Heat Waves and Their Effects on Agriculture and Health [Kei Leigh Mese-Jones](#)

How Alternatives to Traditional Chemical Pesticides Can Reduce Pollution [Stephenie Providence](#)

Mental Health Challenges in Minority Communities [Cecelia Reichelt](#)

How Virtual Reality and Neuroscience Can Be Used to Study and Treat PTSD and Drug Use From Trauma [Penelope Schenkel](#)

Mass Incarceration's Effect on Black Women's Health [Margaret Schmitz](#)

Reducing and Reusing Industrial Pollutants Through Reinvented Processes [Anson Stine](#)

Effects of Batteries on our Environment - Solutions Using Chemistry and Electronic Engineering [Finn Dyer](#)

Reducing Concentrations of Industrial Heavy Metals [Henry Fancher](#)

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Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Hamilton Elementary/
Middle School
James McHenry Elementary/
Middle School
Mount Royal Elementary/
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Roland Park Elementary/
Middle School

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THE WILL POVELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Will Povell was a treasured member of our community. He participated in the Ingenuity Project for seven years, graduating from Poly in 2016. Will attended Brown University where he studied computer science and served as a teaching assistant and mentor to high school students. Tragically, Will passed away on January 25, 2019. To honor his legacy, his mother, Maryann Povell, made an unprecedented gift to the Ingenuity Project that will benefit students for years to come.

"The Will Povell Memorial Scholarship was designed to remember Will's legacy by supporting similarly gifted and perseverant students. Thanks to Maryann's generous donation, a committee of Will's friends selected Angelique Allen, class of 2022, as the recipient of this first annual scholarship. Angelique's excitement, accomplishments, and vision for service embodied the kind of person Will was and would want to see succeed. The committee was overjoyed to award her a no-strings-attached \$10,000 scholarship as she heads to Wellesley College in the fall."

Harry Huntley, Ingenuity Poly Class of 2016, Selection Committee Chair

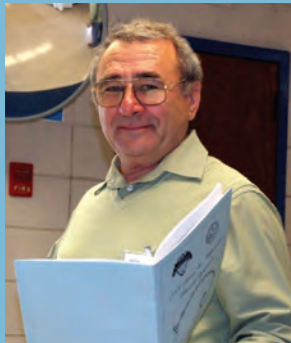
MATH LEGACIES WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Two Ingenuity math teachers who dedicated their careers to the cultivation of student mathematicians have retired. Their legacy lives on in the students who have continued into college and careers using advanced math.



Maya Spicinetkiy, born and educated in math and physics in Moldova, an Eastern European country, came to the United States as a refugee in 1995. She began teaching with Ingenuity in 2000. For 22 years, Mrs. Spicinetkiy educated hundreds of Ingenuity students and inspired their love of math.

"I had the pleasure of learning from Mrs. Spicinetkiy. She was always willing to help me and encouraged me to come to Ingenuity at Poly. I can't thank her enough for her influence on my education." *Hal Yezzi, Ingenuity Poly Class of 2023*



Mikhail Goldenberg was born in Ukraine and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics. He was a college professor in Russia for 33 years. In 1997, Dr. Goldenberg came to the United States as a refugee and in one month became the Ingenuity high school teacher at Poly. Alumni from over two decades confirm the impact Dr. Goldenberg has

had on their mathematical thinking and pursuit of math-related careers. Dr. Goldenberg developed Ingenuity's high school math sequence and projects. He prepared dozens of students for the Johns Hopkins University Future Scholars Math program, qualifying them for college courses while in high school.

"Dr. Goldenberg was the perfect teacher for an advanced STEM program like Ingenuity. His deep knowledge of mathematics meant that he knew what we would be learning in college and graduate school. His enthusiasm for problem-solving meant that his class was always fun and never boring. After having Dr. Goldenberg, I could hardly resist becoming a math major in college." *Saul Wilson, Ingenuity Poly Class of 2010*



MATH HAS POWER AND CONTEXT: MOBILIZING CORE VALUES IN MATH CURRICULA

To achieve our Community Commitments, Ingenuity launched a multi-year project to revise our middle school math curriculum. Ingenuity math teachers convened monthly in 2021-22 to provide input on the first round of revisions to our honors pre-algebra course. Our revisions incorporate our Core Values for STEM Leadership, with a focus on curiosity, collaboration, and social responsibility. We are committed to developing STEM leaders who use math responsibly and ethically to benefit society, our environment, and the greater good. This starts by modeling how students can pose meaningful questions to complex problems using math and making connections between the skills learned in math and the application in science and technology. Math classrooms can be empowering spaces for students to seek out multiple perspectives, and learn to exchange ideas with others who possess a deep sense of curiosity.

Thanks to Justin Kuk, Mount Royal Middle School Ingenuity teacher, for spearheading the pre-algebra revisions.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2020 through 2021

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$809,943	\$605,893
Accounts receivable	\$159,813	
Contributions receivable	\$662,000	\$563,467
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$12,280	\$4,780
Property and equipment, net	\$18,622	\$31,481
Total Current Assets	\$1,662,658	\$1,205,621
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$1,181	\$15,368
Accrued expenses	\$34,737	\$25,504
Note payable	\$214,260	\$205,500
Total Liabilities	\$250,178	\$246,372
NET ASSETS		
Donor undesignated	\$685,352	(\$90,751)
Donor designated	\$727,128	\$1,050,000
Total Net Assets	\$1,412,480	\$959,249
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,662,658	\$1,205,621
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$1,136,954	\$1,097,075
Contributed rent	\$9,160	
Special events	\$15,035	
Grants from governmental agencies	\$588,306	\$417,700
Other revenue	\$338	\$303,454
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$1,749,793	\$1,818,229
EXPENSES		
Program services: Education program	\$1,137,270	\$1,131,650
Supporting services:		
Management and general	\$227,975	\$188,365
Fundraising	\$136,817	\$168,586
Total Expenses	\$1,502,062	\$1,488,601
Change in Net Assets Before Extinguishment of Debt	\$247,731	
Extinguishment of Debt - Paycheck Protection Loan	\$205,500	
Change in Net Assets	\$453,231	\$329,628
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$959,249	\$629,621
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$1,412,480	\$959,249

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BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

Ingenuity's Board Members signed an Emeritus role into its bylaws in 2021 to recognize Members who served with distinction and excellence. With an overwhelming majority, three Board Members were voted into this distinguished role.

Bonnie Legro
The Abell Foundation (Ret.)

Gary Pasternack, M.D., Ph.D.
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STUDENT BOARD ADVISORS

Four Ingenuity Poly students were selected to participate in board meetings for the year to provide student voice and input on policies and priorities. Taylor Chase-Bynum, Nico Del Pino, and Muswe Pembamoto (class of 2022) and Saigayathri (Sai) Kurup (class of 2023) were selected for their contribution to Ingenuity's 2025 Community Commitments.

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Jesse King
Development Director (2022)

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Office Administrator

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Data & Evaluation Manager

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Mathematics Lead Teacher

Shani Ortiz
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Nicole Rosen, Ph.D.
Research Director

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Jocilyn Harris
Dean of Student & Family Engagement

Judy Egerton
Hamilton Math Teacher

Kathy LaPlant
James McHenry Math Teacher (2022)

Conroy Ritchie
James McHenry Math Teacher

Jetaime Ross
James McHenry Math (2021) & Mount Royal Science Teacher (2022)

Alka Sharma
Mount Royal Math Teacher

Maya Spicinetskiy
Roland Park Math Teacher



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