



INVESTING IN BALTIMORE CITY'S ADVANCED STEM EDUCATION



The Ingenuity Project

2022–23 Annual Report

ABOUT INGENUITY

OUR MISSION

To prepare and launch the next diverse generation of nationally competitive STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) leaders from Baltimore City Public Schools.

OUR VISION

To educate and support a diverse cohort of Baltimore City students for seven years (grades 6-12) through an advanced, socially responsible STEM curriculum and leadership program that cultivates a passion for excellence, deep sense of curiosity, and strong desire to innovate and change systems for the greater good. Through an affirming and inclusive culture, Ingenuity students will build the integrity, self-reflection, resilience, and cultural competency necessary to listen, exchange ideas, and collaborate with diverse groups of people now and as STEM leaders in the future.

WHAT WE DO

From fifth graders through alumni, Ingenuity builds long-term relationships with students and families, empowering them as partners in their educational journeys. We work closely with Baltimore City Public Schools, their teachers, and the STEM research community to deliver our program.

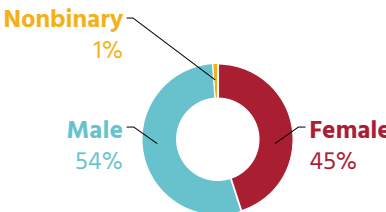
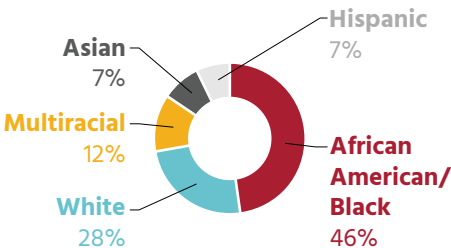
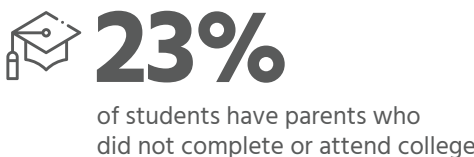
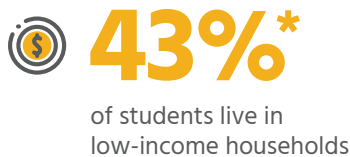
WHO WE SERVE


Ingenuity served 879 students in five Baltimore City locations in SY 2022-2023. Ingenuity's advanced STEM programs are offered in four citywide middle schools (Hamilton, James McHenry, Mount Royal, and Roland Park), and hosts a single advanced STEM high school program at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

We identify, recruit, and support gifted and advanced students who represent Baltimore City. In doing so, we improve access to exceptional STEM programming for historically untapped students.

Disclaimer: The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Baltimore City Public Schools and the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations does not imply endorsement by City Schools.

INGENUITY STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL



 * Since 2018, Ingenuity has nearly tripled the number of sixth and ninth grade students entering the program from low-income households—up from 17% four years ago. Low-income household data is reported by applicant families and determined by income and the number of dependents, according to federal guidelines.

FROM OUR LEADERS



CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL:

As I leave the board of the Ingenuity Project, I am grateful to the directors and staff who served with me during the last six years and proud of the level of engagement of our board to advance Ingenuity's mission and vision. Together, we increased access to advanced STEM programming for Baltimore students, especially for students historically untapped in advanced STEM. By growing enrollment from 547 to 879, we created an accessible program that fully reflects the city we serve.

Peter J. Griffin III
BOARD CHAIR



The Ingenuity Project began 30 years ago with highly able groups of sixth-grade students at two middle schools who embarked on a rigorous program that would accelerate learning and prepare them for high school. Today, Ingenuity is in five schools, serving nearly 900 scholars. As we prepare to celebrate Ingenuity's 30th anniversary, we reflect on the many students, families, and school communities we've partnered with in the pursuit of academic excellence for Baltimore City Public School students. We look forward to continuing to innovate and implement a rigorous STEM curriculum that prepares Baltimore's future STEM leaders to improve their community and the world around them.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We extend our deepest appreciation to our partners and supporters: Baltimore City Public Schools, our philanthropic supporters, the teachers who deliver our curriculum, and the STEM community that creates transformational opportunities for our scholars.

We made the following investments in our community commitments during the 2022-23 school year:

- **Welcomed talented leadership and teachers** to the organization to advance our vision;
- **Honored our growing Student STEM Research and Innovation community** by holding the 21st Symposium at Morgan State University;
- **Engaged middle school students in STEM** both in the classroom and the community;
- **Celebrated the launch of 48 Ingenuity Scholars** from James McHenry Elementary/Middle School into Academic Entrance Criteria and Specialized high schools over the past two years, including 14 Ingenuity Poly scholars; and
- **Invested in our future** by exchanging ideas with peer STEM schools and their educators through the National Consortium of Specialized STEM Schools (NCSSS).

Above all, Ingenuity scholars achieved, served, competed, learned, and experienced enrichments that deepened their STEM proficiency and supported academic growth and leadership.

Thank you to all who support us in this important work.

Lisette Morris
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Ingenuity high school scholars take advanced math and science courses in place of the standard curriculum with opportunities to participate in unique out-of-class college-level research.

THE INGENUITY AND POLY COMMUNITY WELCOMES DEPUTY DIRECTOR DR. SELENE WILLIS AND ADVANCED MATH TEACHER ELISA NO



Dr. Selene Willis, Ingenuity's new deputy director, now leads the Ingenuity high school team in carrying out Ingenuity's vision for socially responsible STEM leadership. In her first year, she listened to teachers, students, and parents, and examined data—with her team—to shape the future pillars of the Ingenuity high school experience: academic excellence, advanced coursework, out-of-class STEM research or problem solving, and the demonstration of core values in action. Dr. Willis is invested in enhancing the high school science curriculum to ensure that all Ingenuity students have access to long-term research experiences.



Poly also welcomed Ingenuity's advanced math teacher, **Elisa No**. Ms. No teaches Ingenuity's AP Calculus courses and collaborates with math teachers at Poly and Ingenuity middle schools. Through her study of biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, she brings a passion for the application of mathematics in the classroom. This spring, she challenged her students to use various calculus skills such as curves, volume of 3D shapes bound by functions, motion, and kinematics to build working amusement rides with K'NEX kits. »





Scan the QR code to access the 21st Annual Symposium program, which has full descriptions of Holland, Kaif, and Louis' research findings.



» Morgan State University hosts Ingenuity's 21st Student Research and Innovation Symposium

Morgan State University's Student Center was the perfect venue for this highly anticipated annual event, featuring a ballroom filled with 65 student presenters; a stunning auditorium for our welcome address by Brooke Story, worldwide president of Integrated Diagnostic Solutions at BD; and modern classrooms for our seniors' oral presentations.



» Ingenuity Research Seniors celebrate 14 submissions to the 2023 Regeneron Science Talent Search!

Kaif Ur Rehman (left) and **Holland Low** (right) were selected as the Top 300 Scholars among 1,949 students in the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

"Research has been the most positive experience of my academic life, thanks to Ingenuity's [staff and students]... I'm extremely thankful for that."

— *Kaif Ur Rehman*





HIGH SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS

» A Gates Scholar at Johns Hopkins University

Iris Zheng arrived in the United States when she was 8 years old and did not speak any English. In her speech at the Donor Appreciation Breakfast, Iris thanked Ingenuity for being her “village.” She is continuing her studies as a Cummings and Gates Scholar at Johns Hopkins University.



» Louis Lapp attends International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Texas

As the overall winner at Morgan State University’s Science, Math, and Engineering Fair, **Louis Lapp** traveled to Dallas, Texas, to participate in the world’s largest global pre-college competition.

“I studied the potential for combining mathematical and machine learning models to predict Arctic sea ice both numerically and visually. Ultimately, I hope my well-performing model contributes to resilience, adaptation, and mitigation efforts in response to sea ice loss.”

— *Louis Lapp*



» A visit to JHU’s Chemistry Department

Deputy Director Dr. Willis and Poly chemistry teacher Mrs. Lindstrom led AP Chemistry students on a trip to Dr. Goldberg’s Chemistry Lab at The Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Students spent the day practicing Redox reactions, learning about chemical catalysts and luminol, and making silver mirrors with Dr. Goldberg’s graduate students..



100%

of Ingenuity students passed last year’s rigorous Chemistry AP Exam

BY THE NUMBERS



87%

of Ingenuity 9th & 10th grade STEM classes earned an 80 or higher



271 AP EXAMS IN STEM FIELDS

taken by 149 students



66%

of those AP STEM tests received a passing score, compared to 62% nationally



2,898 HOURS

of tutoring were provided by Ingenuity students to other Ingenuity students

Collectively, Ingenuity's Class of 2023 (78 students) achieved the following milestones:



4.24 GPA

collective weighted grade point average



\$9.7M AWARDED

in scholarships among 49 seniors*



99%

were accepted into college and 87% were accepted into competitive colleges & leading STEM programs



62% CONDUCTED

out-of-class research or hands-on STEM experiences



* 63% of the 78 seniors shared their scholarship award information

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Ingenuity middle school scholars take advanced math and science courses designed to prepare them for deep mastery of high school algebra and honors high school science courses by the end of eighth grade.

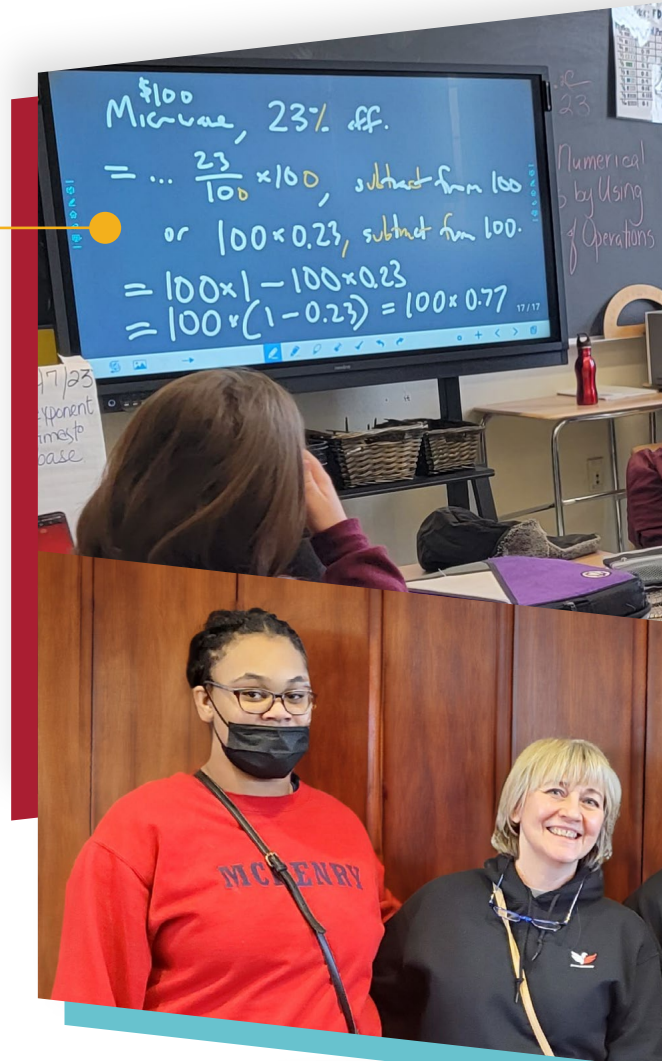
MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM ENRICHMENTS!

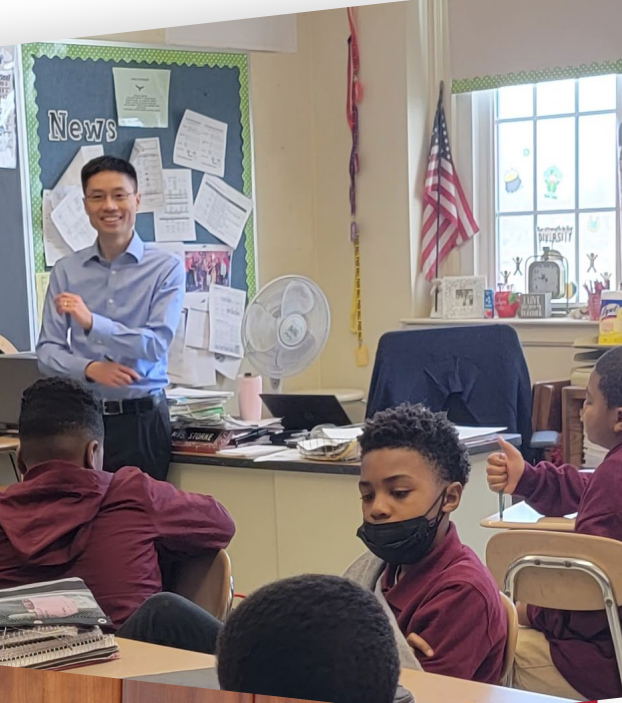
Ingenuity supported middle school teachers in bringing highly engaging STEM experiences to students both in and out of the classroom. This included trips to the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) and the NASA Goddard Visitor Center; the opportunity to engage with the weeklong BioEYES curriculum; and a visit from **Dr. Loh** (pictured at right), a mathematics professor from Carnegie Mellon University. »

CONVENING COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

With a team of mathematicians and educators—from Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Towson University's STEM Center for Excellence, the Morgan State University Math Department, UMBC's College of Engineering, American University, Urban Teachers, and the Community College of Baltimore County—Ingenuity teachers and staff came together to design a curriculum rubric to inform Ingenuity's future planning. Grounded in Ingenuity's core values, cognitively demanding math practices, and culturally relevant pedagogy, the rubric will also serve as a tool for community learning and dialogue. Ingenuity thanks the team for its commitment to this process.

(Pictured at right: **Justin Kuk, Judy Egerton, and Alka Sharma**, dedicated Ingenuity math teachers) »





STUDENT SUCCESS AT JAMES MCHENRY

In 2018, Ingenuity opened its newest site in southwest Baltimore, a community with limited access to advanced academic programming.

For our first two cohorts who will graduate high school in 2026 and 2027, 64% (48 students) were accepted into Academic Entrance Criteria and Specialized high schools. From these two cohorts, 34 were accepted to Poly, of which 14 are Ingenuity Poly.



» MathCounts @ The McDonogh School

Ingenuity's algebra teacher, **Kathy LaPlant**, prepared James McHenry's first-ever MathCounts team for the regional competition on February 9, 2023 at The McDonogh School. The team (pictured at left with Mrs. LaPlant) consisted of **Ja'Nasia Hall, Daniel Carter, Thierno Aw, and Marcus Johnson**.

"I especially love the Ingenuity program because they give me work that is actually more challenging. In my previous school, I used to go through the work in a very short amount of time. It is a good environment and the people are really nice, super polite, and supportive. Whenever I need help, I can go to them." — *Marcus Johnson*



» Science-Math-Engineering Fair @ Morgan State

All James McHenry Ingenuity students completed independent science fair projects in 2022-23 and showcased them at a school-based fair for parents, teachers, and community members. A group of students was selected to participate in Morgan State University's Science-Math-Engineering Fair on March 11, 2023. Sixth grader **Kalila Richards** (far right) won first place for her project entitled "Chemical vs. Electrical Reactions." Marcus Johnson (eighth grade) won fourth place for his "Hearing Sounds in Space" project. Fiona Sheehan (sixth grade) and Cecelia Soko (eighth grade) both earned honorable mention for their projects.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



» Summer Academies help our students shine

Ingenuity welcomed to our 2023 Summer Academies 356 middle schoolers from all four schools as well as rising fifth grade students from elementary schools. Led by our middle school teachers, dean, director, as well as our current high school students and recent alum, our Summer Academies are a blend of learning, educational enrichments, and fun. The goal is to reinforce class work learned during the school year, while also providing learning extensions and opportunities for team building. A highlight of this summer was a visit to the Maryland Science Center, where the students were able to enjoy all of the exhibits and test some of their newly acquired science experiment skills.



» Yelena Schwartz retires after 27 years of teaching at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

Mrs. Schwartz came to the U.S. in 1995 from Ukraine. She was recruited by The Ingenuity Project one year later to design its unique middle school math curriculum sequence and teach these classes. In 1997, she began coaching Roland Park's long-standing MathCounts Competition Club, supporting dozens of individual students and teams to achieve regional and national recognition in math problem-solving.

The school and program are grateful for the legacy she leaves in mathematics excellence and the mentorship she provided to many teachers across the city over the years.



“I love watching my students grow—going to high schools and colleges, becoming professional scientists, teachers, mathematicians, doctors, etc. My estimate of American students who have been through my classroom counts around 3,000+, and I love seeing them come back and share their successes, their goals, and talking to my current seventh and eighth graders about their plans, goals, and careers.”

— Mrs. Schwartz

BY THE NUMBERS



86%

of Ingenuity 8th graders completed high school honors algebra or honors geometry with a grade of 80 or higher



66%

of gifted learners (top 10% nationally) met or exceeded math growth (according to iReady)



65%

of Ingenuity's first-generation college-bound students met or exceeded median annual growth in science



558 STUDENTS

participated in the 2022-2023 school year



96 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

from across Baltimore City were represented



82%

of 8th graders over the last two years enrolled in Baltimore City's Academic Entrance Criteria and Specialized high schools with 52% enrolling at Poly



CELEBRATING OUR DONORS

On January 31, 2023, Ingenuity welcomed 100 donors, funders, and students to our first Donor Appreciation Breakfast.

The event was attended by Poly Principal Jacqueline Williams and other notable Poly alums. Also in attendance were Mr. Robert Embry, president of the Abell Foundation; Ms. Brooke Story, president of BD; Ms. Stacy Van Horn, vice president of the T. Rowe Price Foundation; and Ms. Misty Gibson from the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds. The event included presentations by Ingenuity Scholars Iris Zheng, Holland Low, Kaif Rehman, R'Reeyah Mabry-Francis, and Jalen Henson. Peter J. Griffin, III, Ingenuity board chair, opened the event by thanking everyone for their support, and legendary inventor Dr. James West of Johns Hopkins University delivered the keynote address. Dr. West spoke about other notable Black inventors who are alongside him in the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



Left to right: Pat and Robin Tracy, Executive Director Lisette Morris



Mr. Robert Embry, president of the Abell Foundation, speaks with a guest

Government Funding

Baltimore City Public Schools
Baltimore Civic Fund
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Hamilton Elem./Middle School
James McHenry Elem./Middle School
Mount Royal Elem./Middle School
Roland Park Elem./Middle School

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\$500-\$999

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INVESTING IN STEM EXCELLENCE



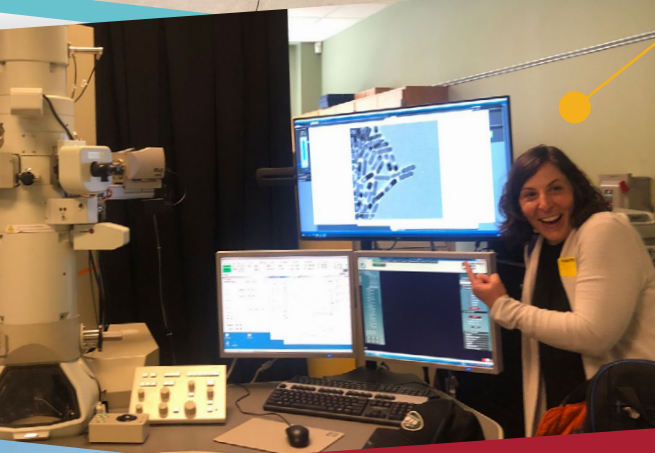
» Sharing innovative practices at Atlanta professional conference (November 2022)

Ingenuity staff and teachers led two sessions at the National Consortium for Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) Professional Conference. **Shani Ortiz and Jocilyn Harris** (pictured), Ingenuity's deans of engagement, led a session titled "Values in Actions: Tools for Student and Family Engagement and Culture Building" where they showcased ways STEM educators can bring organizational values to life in daily student interactions. Ingenuity Research Director Dr. Nicole Rosen, Executive Director Lisette Morris, and Deputy Director Dr. Selene Willis presented "Beyond Lip Service: Infusing Core Values of Equity into Curriculum" where they guided educators through Ingenuity's research curriculum redesign, centering student projects on STEM's promising solutions to local and global social problems.



» Exploring STEM excellence in Virginia and New Jersey high schools (Spring 2023)

Ingenuity organized trips for Poly and Ingenuity faculty, staff, and students to other leading STEM high schools to explore their facilities and instructional models as we prepare for renovations at Poly. We visited Bergen County Academies in Bergen County, New Jersey, and Thomas Jefferson High School and the Academies of Loudoun in Northern Virginia. (Pictured at left: **Dr. Nicole Rosen** in awe of an electron microscope in a high school facility)



» Making connections at national mathematics conference (November 2022)

Ingenuity middle school math teachers took time to connect with colleagues at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center, invigorating their passion for innovative math practices.



» Exchanging ideas at the national student research conference (June 2023)

Nine Ingenuity Poly students presented their original research findings at the National Consortium for Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) Student Research Conference. Scholars from across the country presented their research and exchanged ideas with peers. They also had fun visiting a few Chicago sites while staying in dormitory rooms at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

FINANCIALS

ASSETS	06/30/2022	06/30/2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$836,841	\$809,943
Accounts receivable	\$295,425	\$159,813
Contributions receivable	\$385,000	\$662,000
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$805	\$12,280
Property and equipment, net	\$9,563	\$18,622
Total Current Assets	\$1,527,634	\$1,662,658
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$1,712	\$1,181
Accrued expenses	\$47,518	\$34,737
Note payable	-	\$214,260
Total Liabilities	\$49,230	\$250,178
NET ASSETS		
Donor undesignated	\$1,073,404	\$685,352
Donor designated	\$405,000	\$727,128
Total Net Assets	\$1,478,404	\$1,412,480
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,527,634	\$1,662,658
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Public support		
Contributions	\$951,487	\$1,136,954
Contributions rent	\$9,160	\$9,160
Special events	\$24,526	\$15,035
Grants from governmental agencies	\$715,655	\$588,306
Other revenue	\$350	\$338
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$1,701,178	\$1,749,793
EXPENSES		
Program services: Education program	\$1,449,006	\$1,137,270
Supporting services:		
Management and general	\$227,743	\$227,975
Fundraising	\$172,765	\$136,817
Total Expenses	\$1,849,514	\$1,502,062
Change in New Assets Before Extinguishment of Debt	(\$148,336)	\$247,731
Extinguishment of Debt—Paycheck Protection Loan	\$214,260	\$205,500
Change in Net Assets	\$65,924	\$453,231
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	\$1,412,480	\$959,249
Net Assets—End of Year	\$1,478,404	\$1,412,480



78 CENTS

of every dollar was spent on delivering advanced STEM curriculum and engagement to 902 students



\$2,046

per student invested in 2022



Ingenuity Board Members, left to right:
Bonnie Legro, Ariel S. Bowers, Maxwell Eblaghie, Jenny Lindvall, Tya Kelly, Torin Caverly, and Peter J. Griffin, III

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