

Beaver Country Day School
Strategic Priorities
2011

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2011 - 2014

This is an extraordinary time to be in education. Our rapidly changing, complex, highly connected world demands skills and competencies that go well beyond mastery of content. Beaver Country Day School is deeply committed to providing educational experiences that inspire students to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and creative problem-solvers who will succeed and lead in a new era.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PRIORITIES

A Beaver education will include both a solid grounding in fundamental knowledge and skills as well as the capabilities needed for the advanced understanding, analysis, and solution of complex real-world problems. Extraordinary teaching and student faculty relationships are integral to this.

1. INTEGRATION OF OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY, COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS THAT STRESS CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING AND INNOVATION INTO LEARNING, TEACHING, AND CURRICULUM

- Beaver will demonstrate the efficacy of the studio model in teaching students to learn more creatively and adaptively and present more effectively.
- Beaver will create a framework for middle school students to experience complex, collaborative, multidisciplinary, hands-on projects
- Beaver will encourage students to pursue independent research focused on solving real world problems throughout the greater Boston community and beyond.

2. ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE SCIENCES

- Beaver will adapt its science program in grades 6 through 12 to respond to rapid developments in the sciences and maximize the potential of its new facilities
- Beaver faculty will design a curriculum that combines traditional scientific disciplines to better reflect how science is used in the real world and will offer all students courses in new, convergent sciences such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, engineering, and robotics
- Beaver science faculty will experience professional development to assist them in designing and delivering best-in-class curriculum in both conventional and convergent science
- Beaver will continue to develop and strengthen its relationships with scientific experts and leaders in the new knowledge and practices that have the capacity to improve learning.
- Beaver will ensure its facilities are regularly updated to maintain state-of-the-art status.

3. ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN LANGUAGES

- Beaver will improve its offerings, curricula, and instruction in the languages to best meet the needs and interests of all students and develop a comprehensive and consistent philosophy on language study
- Beaver will provide professional development to build the language faculty's capacities in designing and delivering best-in-class curricula
- Beaver will align language study with ongoing work in civic engagement and global awareness through professional and program development and through strategic partnerships

4. EXPANDING FACULTY CAPACITY TO APPLY EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE LEARNING

- Beaver will demonstrate how teaching with technology elevates student performance in writing, analysis, presentation, communication, and collaboration
- Beaver will continue to develop and strengthen relationships with experts and leaders on emerging technologies that have the capacity to enhance learning
- Beaver will provide ongoing faculty development to integrate technology into teaching in a superior manner

5. INTEGRATION OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INTO LEARNING, TEACHING, AND CURRICULUM

- Beaver will identify and pursue targeted, substantive partnerships with organizations on whose work our students' participation will have a measurable impact while inspiring them to engage deeply with and rethink their place in the world
- Beaver will continue to emphasize genuine engagement with real-world issues and problems as part of classroom teaching and curriculum across all disciplines and grades

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION PRIORITIES

Beaver will tell its story in words and actions that match the excellence of its programs and student experience.

1. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN. Beaver will develop a comprehensive communications plan incorporating multiple media and platforms and based on clear, consistent language to tell its story in ways that serve the requirements of all functions in the school (administrative, academic, advancement and athletic) and is responsive to all audiences.

2. ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP. Beaver will establish itself as a thought-leading institution through expanded presentation and publication of the most outstanding and innovative work by Beaver faculty and staff and by sponsorship of programs to support the advancement of teaching and learning.

3. SCHOOL CULTURE. Beaver will clearly articulate high expectations for personal behavior and hold all members of the community accountable for a commitment to academic endeavor and authentic engagement with the community.

4. VISITOR EXPERIENCE. Beaver will ensure that it communicates in every way the excellence of its programs and student experience to all the audiences it interacts with in whatever capacity.

FINANCIAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES

Beaver will need to significantly increase its financial capabilities to achieve the priorities we have articulated above and meet the needs of our students, teachers and programs.

1. DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL PLAN. Beaver will develop a detailed plan of financial priorities to present to the community that addresses program development, faculty development, improved communication, and the integration of civic engagement into learning, teaching and the curriculum.