



*Blooming petunias planted by BHS horticulture students in the greenhouse last spring.*



*The exterior of the current BHS greenhouse.*

## A BHS Greenhouse Renovation Is Underway

THE BARRINGTON 220 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HELPS SUPPORT GROWTH OF HORTICULTURE EDUCATION FOR BARRINGTON 220 STUDENTS

THE BARRINGTON 220 Educational Foundation has a long history of bringing hands-on experiential learning opportunities to Barrington 220 students. Its mission is to encourage curiosity, inspire students' passion for learning and career exploration, and provide enriching opportunities through private funding. This drives the decisions the Foundation makes to grant funds for programs and projects that inspire, enrich, and encourage all Barrington 220 students. The programs the Foundation has supported over the years such as Business Incubator, BHS-TV, Project Lead the Way, and the Health Sciences Lab at BHS have helped students explore

new potential career interests and navigate their post-high school career plans.

### CURRICULUM AND GREENHOUSE UPDATES

The Foundation's latest project, "The Greenhouse—From Seed to Root", supports revamping the BHS horticultural sciences curriculum and renovating the current BHS greenhouse. With the Foundation's support, the school district will redesign and modernize the existing greenhouse by updating lighting and cooling equipment, and incorporating sustainable growing methods including hydroponic and aquaponic systems. The curriculum will focus on the principles of

horticulture and sustainable food science as well as expose students to Agricultural, Food & Natural Resources (AFNR) career opportunities for which future demand is expected to exceed the available skilled labor pool. When the curriculum and greenhouse are updated, students will be able to develop partnerships with community organizations.

"This approach will foster cross-curricular applications with the culinary/food service program, science, entrepreneurship, and engineering," said BHS Assistant Principal Ben Rodriguez, who has been working closely with the Foundation on the project. "Coursework will also include opportunities for students to gain certifications applicable to horticulture science."


With all the lettuce, spinach, and Roma tomatoes that will be growing from the horticulture work, an on-site work based culinary skills opportunity is a natural extension of the project. "The Foundation is also excited to support the development of a Culinary Internship program," said Executive Director Mary Dale.

### POST-SECONDARY AND JOB PLACEMENT SUPPORT

In the revised culinary arts curriculum, students will learn skills in nutrition, knife techniques, menu planning, food safety, and sanitation— as well as the business skills related to budgeting, marketing, and staffing of catering events. While funds from the school district referendum which was passed in March 2020 will be used for the physical expansion of the culinary lab at BHS,

the Foundation will provide the supplies, tools, and equipment needed to refrigerate, store, and transport food, as well as initial marketing and promotion materials. Upon graduation, students will be able to test for a Pro Start certification, a National Restaurant Association designation, which will assist with job placement or provide post-secondary culinary school credit.

“Our trustees recognize the importance of funding curriculum and resources that touch the lives of all students, from the youngest learners at the Early Learning Center to 12th graders,” Dale said. “We are excited that some elements of the horticulture and culinary curriculums will be incorporated in social studies and science classes at elementary and middle school levels, so students will have had an introduction to these concepts before they reach BHS and begin selecting courses.”

The Foundation uses a variety of programs to achieve its mission including Major Projects, Projects for Innovation and Enhancement Grants, Helping Hand Grants, and Community Grants. “The Foundation is grateful to our many generous donors who help to transform the learning experiences and spaces in Barrington 220,” Dale said. 

*Samantha Ptashkin is the Director of Communications for Barrington 220. To learn more about the Foundation visit [220foundation.org](http://220foundation.org), or contact the Foundation’s Executive Director Mary Dale at [execdirector@220foundation.org](mailto:execdirector@220foundation.org).*



## Barrington 220 Adopts Use of Data Gathering Software

Anyone who has had a student attend BHS or works in Barrington 220 knows there is a plethora of information to manage. From course schedules, volunteer service hours, career interest profiles and certifications, to academic grades and test scores, these are just some of the data points that are created, recorded, and accessed for each student. The Foundation is also funding the adoption of an integrated software system for the high school and middle schools called Transeo, which will unite multiple data gathering systems. This new system will provide one platform with an intuitive, user-friendly interface incorporating all necessary information for planning and succeeding in Barrington 220. The high school and middle schools are currently migrating to Transeo in the 2021-2022 year. Eighth graders will be introduced to the system when they begin working with career interest exploration tools.

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