

## Barnstable Intermediate School – Proposed Program

Barnstable Intermediate School (BIS) is in the beginning phase of a fifteen-month whole-school redesign with the support of a Mass IDEAS planning grant. Part of the bold vision for the redesigned school is to align middle school learning to our current and evolving high school career pathway offerings by developing an integrated curriculum that explores careers and makes discipline related connections to industry partners as early as sixth grade. Teachers at BIS are currently engaging students in individual conversations about careers and interests as the topic arises as there is no unified curriculum employed that addresses this area of learning. Creating a strong continuum of career explorations that spans grades 6-12 will not only provide students exposure to an array of careers, but it will also serve to intentionally develop a robust set of relevant transferable skills in Barnstable graduates.

With the backing of an American Student Assistance (ASA) grant we will be able to support our teachers to design and develop rigorous and relevant curricula focused on career readiness, provide essential professional development for faculty, equitably finance engaging experiential learning experiences for all of our students, and procure the essential materials and resources to ensure our students are exposed to the most recent best-practices in developing career confidence in middle school students. The following is an outline of how we envision career explorations evolving in the coming years for students in grades 6-7 at BIS:

Career Awareness Planning and Pre-work will begin in April 2019 with the identification of a teacher to lead the work of researching, planning, and writing a career awareness/explorations curriculum to be implemented in September of 2019 for all 6th & 7th grade students. This stage will include the development of an Individual Learning Plan (ILP), or My Career and Academic Plan (MyCap), for every student through the Naviance software. The ILP instrument and software will organize and house student's information and goals. This will be a means of encouraging communication with families, staff, and other stakeholders about careers that our students are interested in and want to learn more about.

Phase 1 will begin in September 2019 where BIS will begin offering a Career Awareness & Explorations elective for all students in 6th & 7th grade. Because BIS is a two-year school, the initial curriculum will be the same for both grades. The main goal of the course will be to create career awareness for our students about the career opportunities in their own back yard. The course will specifically explore the Cape Cod regional industries such as engineering, public safety, aquaculture, ocean science, environmental science, computer science, construction, as well as the more traditional industries of tourism/recreation, teaching, healthcare, etc.

As part of this phase, the career explorations teacher will work on developing relevant and meaningful partnerships with regional community agencies and industry leaders. We want to leverage existing partnerships at the high school by expanding these to BIS. Ultimately, we want to begin developing a database of community partners that identifies areas of expertise and the ways in which partners want to engage with each school. As a result, the exploratory course will include regular experiential opportunities for students to engage with industry partners to not only explore their desired fields, but also to understand and begin developing transferable skills. These experiences will include, but are not

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limited to, field trips, guest speakers, peer mentoring with high school career pathways students, and, more generally, creating scaled down versions of real-world career experiences in the classroom.

The exploratory teacher in conjunction with BIS colleagues and the support of the ASA grant will plan and pilot a 21st Century Learning Conference centered on career awareness and exploration. This conference will focus on a 21st century learning theme and invite teachers, community partners, family members, and industry leaders to contribute their knowledge and skills to mini break-out sessions that students can choose to attend. This event will serve as a culminating event for the Career Awareness/Explorations class that students will have a part in designing and curating. This type of learning event is a whole-school effort that invites students to see themselves as designers, learners, partners, and potential employees that showcases their learning, investigates their interests, and develops transferable workplace readiness skills.

We want to provide the teachers at BIS with ongoing professional development with the support of the ASA grant to build their capacity to integrate career connections and opportunities into their core content coursework to further career awareness with our students. Teachers at BIS will be given dedicated professional time to redesign curriculum with colleagues and work in collaboration with the Career Readiness Counselor at the high school to identify key internship opportunities available in order to incorporate job skill preparations into the curriculum. The goal is to start this professional development in the Fall of 2019 and maintain this focus for the duration of the year to ensure teachers are prepared to launch the integrated career exploration curriculum in content subjects at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level in the Fall of 2020. This will ensure that our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade class will further gain career experiences when they enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall of 2020.

Phase 2 will begin in September of 2020 where we will be maintaining 6<sup>th</sup> grade with the awareness course and implementing the more in-depth exploratory experiences for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students within core content areas. Data collected from year one, will help develop an integrated curriculum whereby units of study have embedded opportunities for career explorations for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. We will be utilizing The Next Generation Learning Challenges MyWays Framework and Project-Based Learning as reference points for how the curricula will develop to include rich and relevant opportunities for students to not only apply their content learning, but also see how it connects to their broader career goals.

During phase 2 another goal is to reimagine the role of teachers to include a clear mentoring role for students and to redesign how time is distributed for teachers and students to allow for rich, individualized conversations about topics such as careers and goal setting. The mentor will work to encourage, support, and guide the purposeful planning required to merge a student's academic and career goals. Our hope is to utilize educational technology to drive the personalized learning, which would be supported through this grant. This means that students and teachers will have access to a personalized learning platform that houses all of the student's academic data alongside the student's career goals and planning - an integrated portal that drives student learning inside and outside the classroom.

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Starting in September of 2021 the final phase will be reached; at this point we will be receiving feedback from teachers and reviewing data from a cohort of students who fully completed the career awareness/explorations pathway. We will use this information to guide conversations about how our learning and curriculum redesign could inform the alignment and scaffolding of K-12 practices in building career confidence in our students.

Our district and school leaders have reviewed the regional labor market demand, have assisted with the Cape and Islands Regional Workforce Blueprint, and have reviewed the Blue Economy work presented by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Cape & Islands Workforce Development Board. We understand there is a large demand for high-quality career pathways in our school systems. In order to do our part in assisting these organizations with their objective of preparing and educating the workforce we can start that initiative in the classroom by allowing our students to explore career opportunities available to them right here on Cape Cod. It is our hope that by exposing students at an early age to the careers available here on Cape Cod that we will boost the local economy by dispelling the myth of “there are no good jobs on Cape Cod”.

The support from the ASA grant will allow us to thoughtfully learn, plan, and implement a redesigned student learning experience in the middle school years that regularly includes a career explorations element. While we will be using The Next Generation Learning Challenges MyWays model and Project-Based Learning as our reference points for developing integrated units of study, we will also be relying heavily on guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding Individualized Learning Plans/MyCaps. With the successful implementation of Project Lead The Way at the high school, we will look to learn from their model of developing in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through the pathways in computer science and engineering. Reviewing research that comes from these organizations will help ensure that the exploratory courses we implement at BIS are rooted in evidence-based research and have evaluation tools to monitor the implementation success.

We believe that redesigning our student learning experience at Barnstable Intermediate School to include career explorations and experiential learning is essential to a relevant and rich public school educational experience in the 21st century. Because the middle school years are a time of exploring one’s identity, interests, and passions, it is also an opportune time for students to explore what they may want to become in the future. Providing opportunities to build career confidence at this age level in ways that are deeply embedded in the academic curriculum will prepare our students to more smoothly transition to high school where they will continue to hone their college and career readiness skills. Exposure to a robust variety of career pathways that are connected to the local economy not only helps make learning exciting, relevant, and purposeful for our students, it also will inextricably link our school and community in ways that will strengthen and sustain our local economy. We believe that students who are exposed to career pathways and build career confidence early in their educational careers will graduate from our district prepared with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about their futures and, thereby, be more likely to contribute to creating a just and sustainable world in the 21st century.

## Barnstable Intermediate School - Background

The Town of Barnstable is approximately 72 square miles and is the largest community on Cape Cod consisting of seven villages and is the home of 45,193 year round residents. The current public school system serves approximately 5,177 students with Barnstable Intermediate School (BIS) housing almost 740 sixth and seventh grade students. The student population at BIS continues to increase in its diversity. During the 2017-2018 school year, the student body consisted of 47.5% identified as High Needs, 34.2% identified as Economically Disadvantaged, 7.6% identified as English Language Learners, and 15.3% identified as Students with Disabilities. Even though Cape Cod often times is considered a tourist destination, we are still facing many of the socio-economic challenges that other urban communities face, such as the opioid crisis, homelessness, unemployment, lack of education, corruption, poverty, etc. Many of our students are dealing with one or more socio-economic hardships throughout their educational journey.

The current vision of Barnstable Intermediate School (BIS) reads: “We take pride in our role as an important bridge for students as they make the transition from elementary education to secondary education on their way to becoming more self-reliant, disciplined, and caring young adults. Students and staff are engaged in challenging, differentiated instruction applying effective effort strategies to reach their maximum individual potential. Students contribute to a positive school climate that promotes a sense of belonging and connection to their school and community. Our success is measured by gains in individual student growth and academic achievement.”

Students at BIS engage in learning the core subjects of English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and history. Students are also provided with instruction in the related arts of technology, music, wellness, physical education, and visual arts. The students are assigned to teams of teachers who work together to provide a school experience that includes field trips and school community building activities.

With the assistance of the ASA grant we want to create an exploratory career pathway that will allow our students to discover their interests. Currently, students take two classes of wellness per week; we will implement the career awareness/exploration class during one of these existing wellness blocks. Ultimately, we want to create an exploratory course for students but also have exploratory experiences embedded into their core subjects to give students a chance to dig deeper into careers that interest them.

The core team working on grant objectives will include Jennifer Perry (Dir. of Teaching & Learning), Michael Andrews (Teacher), Bridget Burger (Parent & Community Partner) and Erin Eastman (High School Career Readiness Counselor). Jennifer and Michael are dedicated to providing our students with rigorous learning experiences and believe in implementing career awareness to the benefit for our students and the Cape Cod community. Erin will help to provide information about the high school career pathways, ideas about how BIS can work to link its career readiness program with the high school program, and to share existing community partnerships. Bridget currently spearheads the Cape Cod Regional STEM Network and will help us to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders in order to deliver a high-quality career awareness educational program for our middle school students. Overall, this team wants to provide each BIS student with academic experiences that provide them with a strong foundation in achieving their future education and career goals.

| <b>Barnstable - Project Budget</b>  |   |                      |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Activity or Task</b>             | <b>Justification</b>  | <b>Activity Cost</b> | <b>Start/End Dates</b>               |
| Exploratory teacher stipend         | Provide exploratory teacher stipend for their work outside of their contractual hours to assist in researching career exploration models/curriculum, writing the curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year, and for planning and implementing the pilot of 21st Century Learning Conference. (1 teacher--between 7-8 hours per week for 45 weeks at a contractual rate of \$35 per hour)                                     | \$ 13,500.00         | April 2019-June 2020                 |
| Teacher stipends                    | Contractual stipends for teachers/staff outside of the contractual days to attend summer PD, workshops, and develop units of study with embedded career explorations as essential component (25-29 total stipends at a rate of \$1,000 each--or about 29 hours at the current contractual rate of \$35 per hour)  | \$ 29,500.00         | April 2019-June 2021                 |
| Professional Development for staff  | Vendor to be determined based on research and planning associated with career exploration curriculum development and Mass IDEAS planning grant. Professional development focused on embedding career explorations into academic units of study. Funds to not only provide professional development but to sustain support for teachers and administration to ensure work is deeply embedded in curriculum and is sustained. | \$ 20,000.00         | 2019-2020 school year                |
| Travel expenses                     | Travel for a team of teachers to visit model schools implementing career explorations in the middle school years to learn about challenges and success.Travel expenses related to community partnership building.   | \$ 2,000.00          | April 2019-June 2020                 |
| Supplies                            | Supplies to support the 21st Century Learning Conference in the first and second year (including advertising, printing, refreshments, etc)  | \$ 2,000.00          | 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years |
| Supplies                            | Hosting community events, speaker series, printing, general office supplies   | \$ 5,000.00          | 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years |
| Supplies & Professional Development | Personalized Learning Platform software and staff professional development on implementation  | \$ 10,000.00         | January 2020-June 2021               |
| Supplies                            | Workbooks/texts for exploratory class   | \$ 10,000.00         | 2019-2020 school year                |
| Experiential Learning expenses      | Field trip, job shadowing, and community outreach costs   | \$ 8,000.00          | 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years |
|                                     |   |                      |                                      |
|                                     |   |                      |                                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        |   | <b>\$ 100,000.00</b> |                                      |