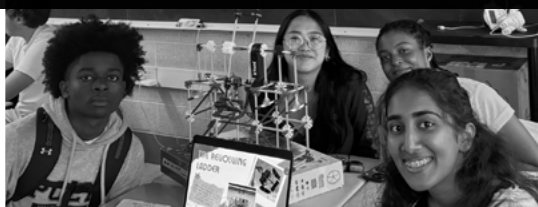


# IGNITING CURIOSITY INNOVATION — AND — COLLABORATION

The Ingenuity Project



# Our Shared Pursuit of STEM Excellence

The success of our 886 students in 2023-24 is a testament to the combined efforts of teachers, school staff, families, and a dedicated network of research mentors and STEM professionals.

High School

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**87%**

of the Class of 2024 earned a 4.0 GPA or higher

**67%**

of seniors earned qualifying scores on the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB exam, exceeding state and global averages

## OUT-OF-CLASS STEM ENGAGEMENT

**72%**

of the Class of 2024 conducted out-of-class research or participated in a rigorous STEM experience (10% higher than the Class of 2023)

## COLLEGE SUCCESS

**99%**

of seniors were accepted to college, with 82% enrolled in competitive colleges/STEM programs

## COLLEGE-LEVEL STEM

**95%**

of seniors took at least two AP STEM classes

**67%**

of seniors took four or more AP STEM classes

Middle School

## MATH ACHIEVEMENTS

**100%**

of eighth graders completed high school honors algebra, exceeding state proficiency rates

**82%**

of all middle school students earned a grade of 80 or higher in honors math classes

## SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENTS

**61%**

of middle school students met or exceeded median annual growth in science, making Ingenuity students 22% more likely to excel than the national average

## HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE

**89%**

of eighth graders qualified for leading high schools

**80%**

selected Baltimore City's academic entrance criteria and specialized schools

**42%**

qualified and enrolled in Poly



## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

The 2023-24 school year marked a significant milestone for Ingenuity as we celebrated 30 years of advancing STEM education for Baltimore City Public School students. To commemorate this anniversary, we proudly held a STEM Student Leadership Conference in partnership with Poly's AP Capstone program to ignite curiosity, innovation, and collaboration in STEM.



Our collective efforts led to several significant achievements and milestones:

- » We drew on the power of mentorship to cultivate student leadership.
- » Our Mathopoly and 4th Grade Matters efforts are identifying talented students city-wide.
- » Our students, from grades six to 12, led the way in regional science competitions.
- » Our students experienced success in and out of the classroom using calculus.
- » From Arizona to Singapore, we shared models for advancing access to advanced STEM with national and international educators.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners and stakeholders: Baltimore City Public Schools, our philanthropic supporters, the dedicated teachers who bring our curriculum to life, and the vibrant community that creates transformative opportunities for our students.

Above all, our Ingenuity scholars have excelled, served, competed, learned, and enriched their STEM expertise, fostering both academic growth and leadership.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a vital part of our journey.

Ariel S. Bowers

**BOARD CHAIR**

Ingenuity Poly 2009 Alum

Lisette S. Morris

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



## THE FOUNDERS AWARD

**Honoring the Abell Foundation's 30-year  
Commitment to STEM Excellence**

The Abell Foundation has been an engaged partner in advancing our mission since day one. At this year's Symposium, the Abell Foundation was presented with the Founders Award in honor of Ingenuity's 30th Anniversary.

*(Left to right: Seniors **Camille Coffey** and **Louis Lapp**, Abell Foundation President **Robert Embry**, Board Member Emeritus **Bonnie Legro**, and Executive Director **Lisette Morris**)*

# 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 six to 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.

## WHO WE SERVE

Our program operates in four citywide middle schools (Hamilton, James McHenry, Mount Royal, and Roland Park) and hosts its high school program at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

From fifth graders through alumni, Ingenuity builds long-term relationships with students and families, empowering them as partners in their educational journeys. We identify, recruit, and support gifted and advanced students who represent Baltimore City and improve access to exceptional STEM programming for historically untapped students.



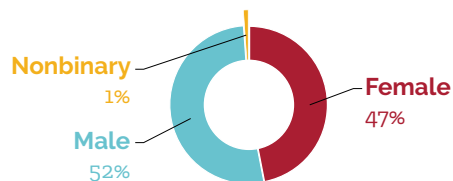
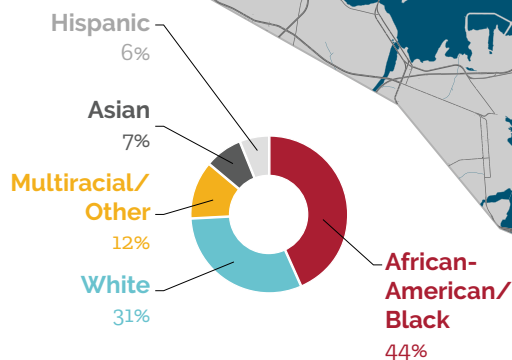
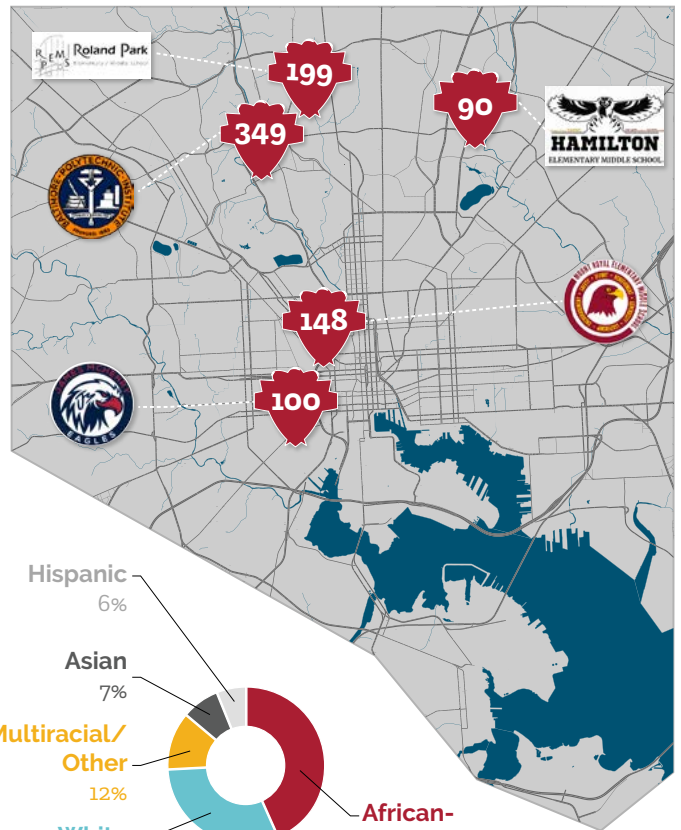
**ALL 30 RESIDENTIAL ZIP CODES**  
in Baltimore City represented by enrolled students

**886 STUDENTS**  
served across five Baltimore City locations

**47%\***  
of students live in low-income households

**24%**  
of students aspire to be the first in their family to attend college

**↑\*** Since 2018, Ingenuity has nearly tripled the number of sixth and ninth grade students from low-income households, from 17% to 47%. Low-income household data is reported by applicant families and determined by income and the number of dependents, according to federal guidelines.



# Curiosity Starts Here

## EARLY AWARENESS PAYS DIVIDENDS

**I**ngenuity Project received 943 applications for our 2024-25 middle school program from all zip codes across Baltimore City. This was an 89 percent increase from applications received for the 2023-24 school year. Ingenuity is making a difference by launching two initiatives to educate families and inspire elementary school students to pursue advanced STEM.

499

(2023-24)

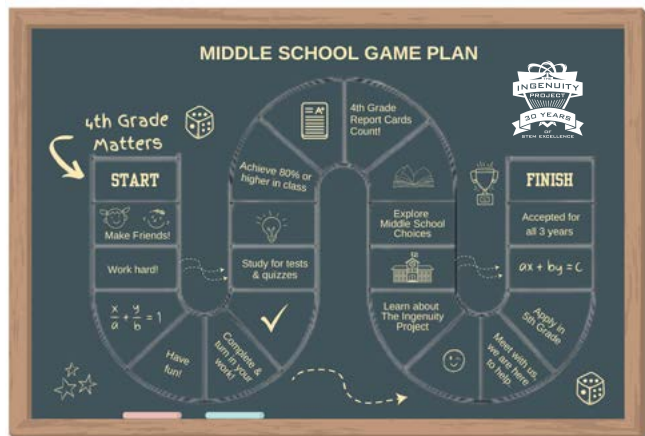
943

(2024-25)

## FOURTH GRADE MATTERS

### A Middle School Game Plan

For most families, the transition to middle school comes quickly, and in Baltimore City, families are faced with choices that rely on their child's elementary school success. In fall 2023, Ingenuity's admissions manager, **Keyha Royster**, piloted an initiative to educate fourth grade families and help them formulate a game plan as they prepare to apply for competitive middle school programs like The Ingenuity Project. The initiative is expanding in 2024 to more communities.



## MATHOPOLY

### A Winning Formula

Fifth graders from eight Baltimore City elementary schools gathered at Poly to test their math skills at Ingenuity's Mathopoly competition in December. Teams completed a series of math games and solved Olympiad-style math problems on a life-sized Monopoly-inspired game board. Ingenuity will invite fourth and fifth graders from additional schools to compete in 2024.





# Collaboration in Action

## DRIVING OUR STEM STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**D**esigned to foster inclusivity and collaboration among our students, The Ingenuity Project partnered with the AP Capstone Program at Poly to convene a STEM Student Leadership Conference in May 2024 at Morgan State University. Ingenuity's board of directors formed a 30th Anniversary Committee to ensure the event had the necessary resources for success.

### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 315 ninth and 10th grade Poly students who attended the event experienced interactive sessions led by 38 STEM professionals and students, including:

- » Baltimore Bolts
- » BD Integrated Diagnostic Solutions
- » Institute of Maritime and Environmental Technology (IMET)
- » Morgan State University's Math Department
- » Northrop Grumman
- » RF Safety Laboratory, LLC
- » UMBC's Applied Math Department
- » University of Maryland, Clark School of Engineering



Left to right: **Josh Headley, Deja Duncan, Dr. Bria Macklin, Anne Blonder-Martino, Vasilious Phillippous, Phoebe Sandhaus, and Lisette Morris**

Students then gathered to hear from a panel of Ingenuity and Poly alumni. At lunch, each table of students was joined by a STEM professional or alumna, to whom they asked questions about their STEM career. To end the day, the ninth and 10th grade students were given the opportunity to interact with the research exhibits of their 11th and 12th grade peers.



***"We have the right people, in the right place, at the right time. After 141 years of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, 30 years of The Ingenuity Project, and eight years of the AP Capstone program, we are just getting started. It's an exciting time to be teaching research here. Buckle up!"***

— JOSH HEADLEY, POLY AP CAPSTONE COORDINATOR AND VETERAN TEACHER

*Left and opposite page: Students participate in the STEM Student Leadership Conference activities with peers and mentors at Morgan State University.*

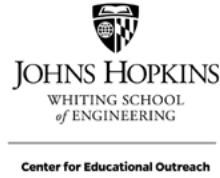
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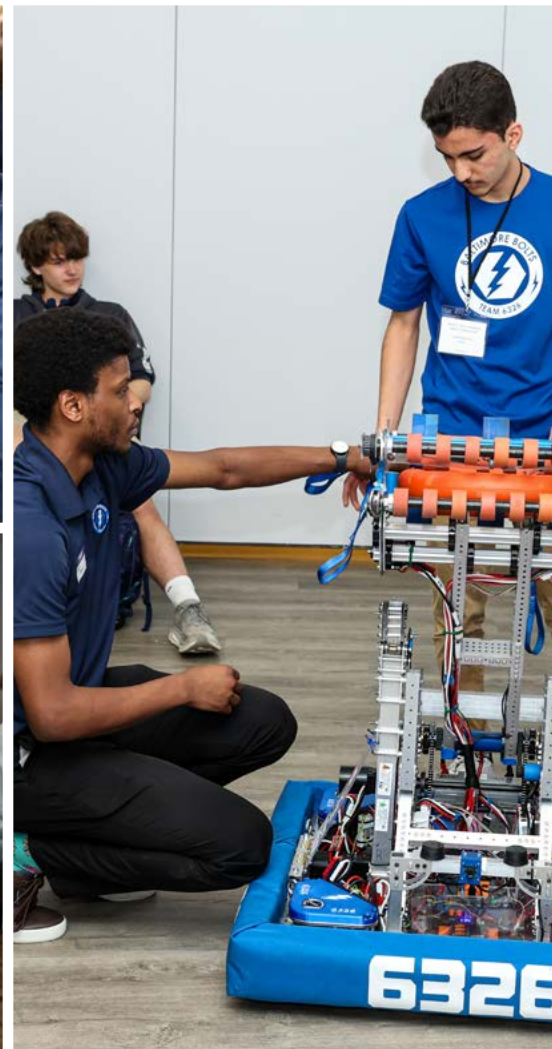
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# Igniting the Future

## HOW OUR RESEARCH CONTINUUM INSPIRES STEM INNOVATION

**A** STEM education that fosters research and discovery from middle school to high school is critical in shaping the next generation of innovative scientists, engineers, and thinkers. Ingenuity prepares students to conduct independent investigations from grade six through 12 by cultivating deep scientific knowledge that allows students to tackle increasingly complex challenges as they progress. We engage students in solving real-world problems and contributing to scientific discovery so that they become active participants in the advancement of knowledge, empowering them to drive innovation and address the pressing issues of our time.

### INGENUITY PROJECT RESEARCH SEQUENCE

6 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	7 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	8 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	9 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	10 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	11 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	12 <sup>th</sup> GRADE
Independent science fair & Team Capstone projects			Small group research & science fair	Independent socially responsible STEM research	Independent research with university mentors & advisors	National competitions & publications
						Regional competitions & conferences

Communicating findings and discoveries while increasing complexity in research skills

### EXPLORATION IN ACTION

#### Transforming Ninth Grade Biology with Research and Investigation

In the 2023-24 school year, **Sarah Avery**, Poly's award-winning biology teacher, in partnership with Ingenuity's Deputy Director **Dr. Selene Willis**, embedded a new research project into the Ingenuity honors biology course. Students investigated problems that impact the Chesapeake Bay watershed by testing Jones Falls water samples. The project's success sparked Ingenuity's interest in seeking out a new biology curriculum that aligns with Ingenuity's core values for STEM leadership.

Through participation at the National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) conference, Dr. Willis and Ms. Avery identified a phenomenon-driven, storyline science curriculum used across the country and internationally that Ms. Avery is thrilled to pilot with Ingenuity ninth graders this year.



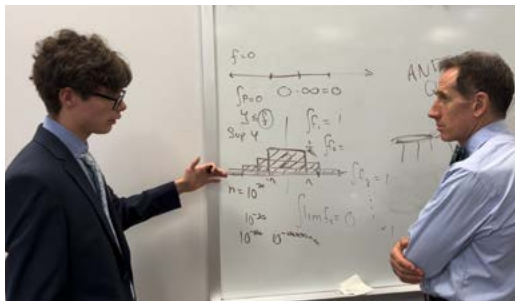




## INNOVATION UNLEASHED

### Highlights from Ingenuity's 22nd STEM Research Symposium

Our annual STEM Research Symposium in May, the culmination of research for juniors and seniors, was held at Morgan State University. This year, 48 student presenters from Ingenuity and AP Capstone programs filled the ballroom with their research discoveries. Among the students, 15 Ingenuity seniors successfully submitted their research to the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science research competition for high school students.



Above, left: **Antonio Romerio**, Ingenuity senior, explains his math model to **Dr. Stephen Schenkel**, parent and University of Maryland School of Medicine professor; center: **Ariana Stephens**, AP Capstone senior, shares her research; right: **Victoria Pitt**, Ingenuity junior, with her research mentor, **Dr. Candice Marshall** from Morgan State University

## SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

### Celebrating the Stars of the Morgan State Science-Math-Engineering Fair

Ingenuity students were well represented at the Morgan State Science-Math-Engineering Fair in March. Among the middle school winners and those receiving honorable mentions were four students from Roland Park, six from Mount Royal, three from Hamilton, and one from James McHenry. **Keyla Hernandez** (pictured on cover, top row, center) of James McHenry won the Promising Engineer Award. Ingenuity Poly students had 11 winning projects and five honorable mentions, the most by any single school in the region. **Lavender Hall** (above, with Dr. Nicole Rosen) won the overall award and presented her research at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles.



## ACADEMIC TRIUMPH

### High School Junior is Second Author in Research Paper

In July, **William Allen** became the 27th Ingenuity high school student to author a peer-reviewed publication. Thanks to the mentorship of Dr. Clair Hur and Harrison Khoo of the Johns Hopkins University Department of Chemical Engineering, Will became the second author of "Rapid prototyping of thermoplastic microfluidic devices via SLA 3D printing," an article in *Nature Scientific Reports*.



## CHAMPIONS OF DISCOVERY

### Taking Center Stage at the National JSHS

Four seniors were selected to present at the regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) in February at St. Mary's College. **Louis Lapp** and **Camille "Mimi" Coffey** won first and second place, respectively, and traveled to the National JSHS competition in New Mexico in May, where Camille's research placed third in oral presentation. (Left to right: **Maya Molina**, **Camille Coffey**, **Kei Leigh Mese-Jones**, and **Louis Lapp**)



# Inspiring Mentorships

SHAPING TOMORROW'S STEM LEADERS

**I**ngenuity is deeply committed to supporting the development of tomorrow's STEM leaders by harnessing the power of leadership cohorts, as well as near-peer and peer-to-peer mentorships.



## WISE BEYOND THEIR YEARS

Eight Ingenuity Poly young women (*above*) founded iWISE (Ingenuity Women in STEM Engagement) in 2023 in partnership with Ingenuity Dean of Engagement **Shani Ortiz**. This student leadership cohort aims to provide a supportive space for all Poly girls to develop STEM interests and leadership skills, and to connect with female STEM professionals. Events included a presentation by **Dr. Lisa Christopher-Stine**, Johns Hopkins professor of medicine and neurology, and **Dr. Ayana Martin**, regional medical director of Amgen. Ingenuity is designing additional leadership cohorts to meet students' interests in the coming year.

## MENTORSHIP MAGIC

The Secret Sauce to One of Baltimore's Largest STEM Summer Programs

Middle School Director **Kathy Bacon**, along with alumni **Taylor Chase-Bynum** and **Mariah Scott**, hired 31 high school students and alumni to serve as youth counselors at our 2024 STEM Summer Academies (*below*). Youth counselors led hands-on projects and labs, and served as inspiring role models. In its fourth summer, the Ingenuity Summer Academies served 326 students in grades six to nine.





## GRAND SLAM LEARNING

### Near-Peer Math Tutors Make a Major League Impact

In 2023, with funding from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Ingenuity launched Path to Poly, allowing 32 James McHenry Ingenuity eighth graders to travel to Poly for math tutoring by Ingenuity Poly Near-Peer sophomores. During each of the five sessions, the tutors and Ingenuity's math outreach coordinator, **Nick Tomasino**, dove into critical algebra concepts, connecting them to lessons taught in the classroom. A difference in engagement and comprehension was reported after the first three sessions. The students also visited the Baltimore Urban Baseball Association where they explored the mathematical relationships between a batted ball's exit velocity, its launch angle, and distance traveled (*right*).



## ALGEBRA ALCHEMY

### Shaping Future Mathematicians

Upon graduation in 2022, **Marie Naka** (*right, in red*), an Ingenuity student since the sixth grade, was hired as a youth counselor for Ingenuity's Algebra Academy and has worked with algebra teacher **Kathy LaPlant** as a math coach for rising ninth graders. Marie's love of math has inspired her to pursue a career as a math teacher.

**"Marie does a great job helping students sharpen their algebra skills. I am so excited that she is going into teaching and can't wait to see the impact she will have for years to come!"**

— KATHY LAPLANT, INGENUITY ALGEBRA TEACHER



## FROM LAB TO CLASSROOM

### Igniting Middle School Minds with STEM

This spring, to show what's possible when studying advanced STEM, seniors in Ingenuity's Research Practicum designed and led activities inspired by their research for students at all four Ingenuity middle schools. (*Right: Senior **Maya Molina**, now studying environmental science at Yale University, shares her research with Hamilton middle school students.*)



# Thanking Our Donors

Ingenuity welcomed 100 donors and funders to our second annual Donor Appreciation Breakfast, held on January 31, 2024, in the Poly library.

The event was attended by **Matthew Woolston** of Poly; **Dr. Maria Sanchez** of UMBC; **Sharon Gilbert** of BD; **Andy Green** and **Joe Manko** of the Abell Foundation; **Stacy Van Horn** of the T. Rowe Price Foundation; **Misty Gibson, Esq.**, from the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds; **Dr. Sarah Manekin** of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; **Lara Hall** of the Blaustein Philanthropic Group; and three guests from the National Gypsum Company. Board members **Mike Hinkey** and **Angie Venza** opened and closed the event and three Ingenuity scholars shared dynamic stories of their experience at Poly.

## PRESENTING SYMPOSIUM SPONSOR

### Chesapeake Wealth Group at Morgan Stanley

A special thanks to Ingenuity's 30th Anniversary Board Committee, which met throughout the year to recruit STEM professionals and raise an unprecedented \$50,000 to support our flagship research program and two interactive events commemorating Ingenuity's 30 years. These valued sponsors impacted programming for 315 Poly students from both the Ingenuity and AP Capstone programs. The Chesapeake Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley led the way as the event's Presenting Sponsor of \$10,000. (Below, left to right: **Kurt Overton**, CFP, Senior VP, Morgan Stanley; **Evynn Overton**, Esq., Managing Principal, Beveridge & Diamond; **Noah Beck**, Morgan Stanley; **Mark Sawyer**, Poly Director; and **Todd Sajauskas** and **Taylor Petrick** of Morgan Stanley)

## Government Funding

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

## Foundation Funding

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# Local to Global Celebrations

## CELEBRATING OUR INAUGURAL INGENUITY JAMES MCHENRY GRADUATES

ZaRon Silver, Khadim Fall, Niyah Howard, Frank Mei, Nia Sewell, and Malak Kardiss (below, left to right) are members of both Ingenuity Poly's Class of 2026 and Ingenuity's inaugural class at James McHenry. They successfully completed their sophomore year with four rigorous STEM classes (algebra 2, probability and statistics/trigonometry, chemistry/intro to research, and physics) and are excited for the challenges of junior year. Niyah, Nia, and Khadim participate in Ingenuity's Research Practicum, and Malak, who founded Poly's anatomy club, is pursuing research through Poly's AP Capstone program. Frank and ZaRon (also a member of the football team) are active volunteers for Ingenuity's programming with younger students.



## THE CLEMSON CALCULUS CHALLENGE

In April, **Ms. No** traveled to South Carolina with students from her AP calculus classes to take part in the 20th Annual Clemson Calculus Challenge, a competition that tests high school students' knowledge of calculus topics.



***"It was a great opportunity to not only apply our calculus skills with unfamiliar and difficult problems but also to explore a campus and listen to interesting discussions by Clemson professors."***

— VAHE ZAPROSYAN, CLASS OF 2024

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER RETIRES

After 19 years of teaching at Roland Park and Hamilton, **Judy Egerton** retired last June. She touched the lives of hundreds of students during her tenure, excelling at teaching rigorous mathematics. She also mentored many new teachers throughout her years. We wish Mrs. Egerton a joyous retirement!



## INGENUITY HOSTS GLOBAL MATH LEADER SINGAPORE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Ingenuity hosted members of the Singapore Ministry of Education in May to discuss practices for improving access to advanced STEM education. The Ingenuity team was joined by Baltimore City Public School leaders: Christina Catalano, deputy CAO; Kerry Steinbrenner, mathematics director; and Dennis Jutras, gifted and advanced learning coordinator. The Singapore leaders were excited to see Singapore textbooks as they observed Ingenuity's math teacher **Mrs. Sharma** with her sixth grade students.





## Statement of Financial Position for the year ending June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,332,379	\$836,841
Accounts receivable	-	\$295,425
Contributions receivable	\$740,000	\$385,000
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$34,627	\$805
Property and equipment, net	\$4,405	\$9,563
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,111,411</b>	<b>\$1,527,634</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable	\$1,722	\$1,712
Accrued expenses	\$87,404	\$47,518
Note payable	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$89,126</b>	<b>\$49,230</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Donor undesignated	\$1,652,285	\$1,073,404
Donor designated	\$370,000	\$405,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,022,285</b>	<b>\$1,478,404</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,111,411</b>	<b>\$1,527,634</b>

## Statement of Activities for the year ending June 30, 2023

<b>REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Public support		
Contributions	\$1,538,277	\$951,487
Donated rent and services	\$133,301	\$9,160
Special events	\$19,200	\$24,526
Grants from governmental agencies	\$882,799	\$715,655
Other revenue	\$4,563	\$350
<b>Total Revenues and Other Support</b>	<b>\$2,578,140</b>	<b>\$1,701,178</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services: Education program	\$1,616,076	\$1,449,006
Supporting services:		
Management and general	\$252,712	\$227,743
Fundraising	\$165,471	\$172,765
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,034,259</b>	<b>\$1,849,514</b>
<b>Change in New Assets Before Extinguishment of Debt</b>	<b>\$543,881</b>	<b>(\$148,336)</b>
<b>Extinguishment of Debt—Paycheck Protection Loan</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$214,260</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$543,881</b>	<b>\$65,924</b>
<b>Net Assets—Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$1,478,404</b>	<b>\$1,412,480</b>
<b>Net Assets—End of Year</b>	<b>\$2,022,285</b>	<b>\$1,478,404</b>



**79** CENTS

of every dollar was spent on delivering advanced STEM curriculum and engagement to 886 students



**\$2,296**

per student investment in 2023



Ingenuity Board Members at the January 2024 Donor Appreciation Breakfast. (Front row, left to right: Kevin Nelson, Angie Venza, Jenny Lindvall, and Jaime Arribas Starkey-El. Back row, left to right: Da’Kuwan Johnson, Taylor Beckham, Esq., Lisette Morris, Mike Hincey, Camille Blake-Fall, Esq., Torin Caverly, Maria Sanchez, Ph.D., and Bonnie Legro)

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Admissions Manager

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Office Administrator

**Isazetta Spikes**  
Development Director

**Nick Tomasino**  
Data Manager

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**Selene Willis, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Director, High School

**Elisa No**  
Advanced Math Teacher Lead

**Nicole Rosen, Ph.D.**  
Research Director

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Dean of Engagement

**Leafia Sheraden-Cox**  
Research Coordinator

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**Kathy Bacon**  
Middle School Director

**Jocilyn Harris**  
Dean of Engagement

**Carrie Bridges**  
Math Teacher

**Kevin Dachille**  
Math Teacher

**Judy Egerton**  
Math Teacher

**Kathy LaPlant**  
Math Teacher

**Alka Sharma**  
Math Teacher



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