

Rotary partnership helps district students become future ready

New Rotary-funded Career and Technical Education gives Bainbridge High School students hands-on experience in the fast-growing field of composites engineering



Clockwise from the top left: Career and Technical Education teacher Preston Michaels with Rotarians Roy Murdock, Tom McCloskey and Robin Goldston.

On the Cover: BHS Seniors Wesley Houser and Caitlin Williams.



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More and more students will graduate from Bainbridge High School with a huge advantage—exposure to an ever-widening pool of potential careers. The school's growing number of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are providing invaluable hands-on experience in fields like sports medicine, computer science, and, brand new this second semester, composites engineering.

Visit Preston Michaels' composites classroom and you'll see students in lab coats running pressure tests, calculating stress loads on three-dimensional computers, and vacuum bagging and oven curing layers of donated carbon fiber impregnated with epoxy resin—fabricating lightweight products that are stronger than steel.

"Composites are an incredible evolution in manufacturing," Michaels said. "It's a field with high demand for technicians and engineers who understand performance possibilities composite materials have to offer."

BHS's Composites Engineering course evolved from a visionary partnership between the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island and the school district. A gift of more than \$100,000 from Rotary funded the purchase of a freezer to preserve fabric freshness, vacuum pumps and accessories, and a huge oven—equipment for what Rotarians hope will become a two-year program that supports the district's goal of increasing career and college readiness.

"The Composites Engineering course is the foundation of a much broader, long-term commitment by the Rotary Club to work with the Bainbridge Island School District to introduce middle and high school students to career opportunities and pathways," said Tom McCloskey,

chair of Rotary's Vocational Services Committee and a member of BISD's Career and Technical Education Program Review Committee. "The knowledge and skills gained in the course can open doors to an increasing number of companies that use composites to manufacture a rapidly growing number of products."

Boeing uses composites in its 787 Dreamliner and in the fabrication of new jetliner wings. Composites compose wind turbine and helicopter blades. The material contributes to the fuel efficiency and durability of high-performance cars such as BMWs. America's Cup boats consist of carbon fiber, with rigid "wing" sails pre-formed to catch the wind.

"We are starting small—working on business cards and clipboards—but skis, skateboards, even a bicycle frame could come out of this class," Michaels said.

Opportunities to take CTE courses start at Woodward Middle School, with new classes such as STEM Video Production, STEM Computer Technology and STEM Pre-Engineering. New high school CTE course offerings include: AP Economics, Exploring Computer Science, Robotics and Advanced Sports Medicine. There is also a Rotary-supported opportunity for students to work as interns for Fairbank Construction Company.

"CTE is vital in our mission to ensure all our students graduate future ready," said BISD Superintendent Faith Chapel. "By partnering with local business leaders the district is providing students with more exposure than ever before to opportunities where they can incorporate all of their academic, creative and technical skills in preparation for higher education and the global workplace."

Bond refunding saves taxpayers millions

More than 4.5 million dollars is flowing back to Bainbridge taxpayers because of continual efforts by the Bainbridge Island School District to refund, or refinance, bond debt at lower interest rates. During the past three years, the district has refinanced voter-approved bonds five times.

The most recent refunding took place last November, when the district refinanced its 2007 bonds, a move that will save more than \$1.29 million over the next 12 years through lower levy rates.

"Refunding means significant savings for our residents who have continuously supported our mission to help all students become successful learners, caring individuals and responsible citizens," said BISD Superintendent Faith Chapel.

Combined gross savings from refunding will go to taxpayers through lower annual tax levies. These funds are not available for district expenses.

BISD has refunded bonds

5 times in the past three years
lowering interest rates on each bond refunded

Aa2

Districts with high credit ratings can qualify to refund their bonds

BISD has earned a very high credit quality rating

Bond Refunded	Taxpayer Savings	Bond Term
2012	\$976,823	2012-2025
2013 A	\$1,274,282	2013-2023
2013 B	\$483,912	2013-2016
2014 A	\$473,456	2014-2020
2014 B	\$1,294,394	2014-2026

Saving taxpayers a total of

\$4.5 MILLION



Stars in Our Schools

Fellows: A network of support

Jennifer Ledbetter, Emily Eigen and Heidi Langendorff are teacher leaders at the forefront of change. As members of the Washington State Fellowship Network, they are among a select group of educators guiding the implementation of our state's new K-12 learning standards in English language arts and mathematics.

The network is a joint initiative of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Association of Educational Service Districts. Fellowship is a one-year commitment without stipend or other monetary compensation. Ledbetter is in her third year as a mathematics fellow. Eigen and Langendorff are new English language arts fellows.



Washington State Fellowship Network Fellows, Emily Eigen (left), and Jennifer Ledbetter help educators implement new state learning standards.

"I remain involved with the fellowship program because I genuinely enjoy growing and learning," said Ledbetter, an instructional coach at Sakai Intermediate School and Ordway Elementary School. She also helps teachers at the Commodore Options Program and Wilkes and Blakely Elementary schools implement math programs that align with the new Common Core State Standards.

Eigen is a sixth-grade English Language Arts/Social Studies teacher at Sakai Intermediate School. As a fellow, she provides instructional support for colleagues at Sakai, Woodward Middle School, Commodore and Bainbridge High School.

"I think highly of the Common Core English language arts standards; I want to see them implemented in a meaningful way, and I love working with my colleagues," Eigen said. "We have incredible teachers in this district, and although this is a leadership role, I'm excited about its collaborative nature."

Each fellow attends regional meetings and engages in professional learning and leadership development activities. They return to their schools armed with information to share.

"Students will benefit from our work because teachers will be better able to support them," said Langendorff, the Title I English Language Arts teacher at Ordway. She helps teachers implement Common Core Foundational Skills and gain familiarity with Smarter Balanced assessments.

did you know?

About Common Core and Smarter Balanced

- In 2011 Washington adopted new state learning standards for English language arts and mathematics.
- Common Core State Standards establish consistent, real-world learning goals for each grade level; the standards do not dictate how teachers should teach.
- Smarter Balanced is a computer-adaptive assessment system that aligns with Common Core, measures student progress toward college and career readiness, and promotes mastery over memorization of facts.
- BISD will administer the exams this spring in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11.

Langendorff also works with instructional coach Warren Read to train teachers in the use of Thinking Maps—specific patterns that help students visually organize their thoughts.

"With the standards' emphasis on skills rather than content, they create space for teacher creativity while challenging our students to exercise sophisticated thinking skills," Eigen said. "I'm glad to be part of a program that is helping move our district's literacy and math instruction forward."

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Open and Read About Your Schools

- Rotary Supports New Career & Technical Education Course
- Bond Refunding Saves Millions
- Fellows: Helping Teachers & Students Succeed

OpenBook is a publication by the Bainbridge Island School District to connect with and bring timely information to our community.



New composites course is part of Rotary's long-term commitment to the district.

our community and our schools

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WINTER 2015
Bainbridge Island School District No. 303

Where Our Schools and Our Community Connect