



# The Difference You Make: 2018-2019 Impact Report

*This report features some of the critical work you made possible in 2018-19. Because of you, students in Bellevue's public schools participated in ground-breaking initiatives and enrichment opportunities they would not have experienced without your investment. Thank you for your commitment to our children, our community and our future.*



## Finding Home & Hope

Today, many Bellevue families – particularly low-income families and those experiencing homelessness – lack access to high-quality early learning programs because they can't afford the tuition.

High quality educational experiences – particularly in the formative years – are the building blocks for our children's future success, in school and in life. The positive impact from access to the Bellevue School District's **Early Learning Program** creates a ripple effect, magnifying donor impact.

Thanks to you, **30** children in need were able to attend full day preschool in a setting where they enjoyed learning and constructive play with peers and developed the social and cognitive skills to be ready for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

Not only did these children experience high-quality learning and caring teachers, they received nutritious meals, medical/dental screening and access to a family support specialist to help with critical family needs.

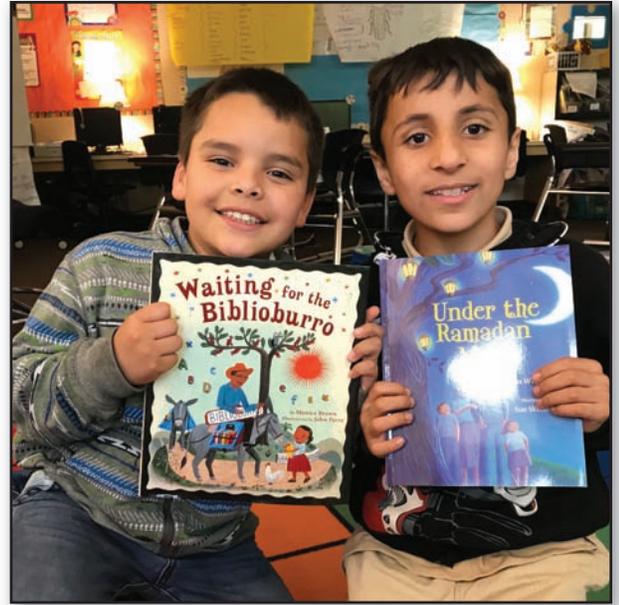


*We're excited to report that the children you helped were more prepared for kindergarten than their peers statewide.*

# Instilling a Passion for Reading

Bellevue students come from 123 countries and speak over 99 languages. Because of this rich diversity, we need books in our classrooms that reflect the cultures and backgrounds of our students so they feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. We need books that include children of color in a familiar setting doing familiar things and open students' minds to different cultures and experiences of people around the world.

Because of you, **530** kindergarten students in **6** high-needs elementary schools were reading engaging **“culturally responsive” books** in which they could glimpse their cultural, racial and linguistic identities, family structures and home environment. Because reading was joyful and relevant for them, they are more likely to become lifelong readers and writers.



*“I had to share this story of my student. She ran over and was so excited to show me the character in a book she was reading (Cece Loves Science) had the same hot pink, striped shirt she did, but also had the same skin color. She looked a lot like the girl in the book and I got to witness her make that connection; it was indescribable. Thank you so much for advocating for books that our students can see themselves in. We love them so much and I can already see the difference they’re making in our school.”*

- Megan Moreno, First Year Kindergarten Teacher at Stevenson Elementary

## Reimagining School

With the four C’s --- Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication and Creativity, our students will have the skills to take our technology-driven world by storm. The good news is that the Bellevue School District is leading



the way by developing K-12 computer science education for all students. By weaving computer science and computational thinking into core classes, our students are learning creative problem solving skills that will enhance their learning in every subject.

Because you care, our public schools are evolving from teacher-centered classrooms where material is presented sequentially to 21st century student-centric learning centers where students play an active role in their learning and teachers act as a resource while their students discover and master new concepts.

During the 2018-19 school year, the **Computer Science Initiative** served **2,990** elementary school students and **1,500** middle school students. Additionally, **225** teachers received ground-breaking professional development on how to integrate computer science education into core subjects.

# Closing the Achievement Gap and Getting College-Ready

There are students who possess a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but many do not truly have the opportunity to be college-ready. Often, these students are the first in their families to attend college and are from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

**AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)** equips teachers with what they need to help these students succeed on a path to college and career success.

Thanks to your generosity, more than **700** students received the additional academic, social and emotional support to help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses; **100%** of the seniors participating in AVID applied to college and plan to attend college or university in the fall. In addition, **55** educators received professional development, a suite of resources and ongoing support to help AVID students thrive.

*Chinook Middle School students signed their commitment to AVID for the 2019-20 school year on Signing Day in March.*



## Enriching Lives and Driving Innovation

**Arts, Enrichment & Innovation Grants** enable teachers and students to seek out new experiences and explore parts unknown. Thanks to you, we awarded **88** grants, impacting each of our **29** schools and bringing enrichment opportunities that spark kids love for learning.

Three examples of these experiences include:

- Through a unique theatrical performance, all elementary school students learned why people immigrated to American and endured the hardships of leaving their homeland and passing through Ellis Island to start a new life.
- Tillicum Middle School 7th & 8th grade choirs performed and competed at the Best in the Northwest Festival at University of Portland.
- Saints Robotics, a one hundred percent student-led organization based at Interlake High School, built a robot to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition.



*Saints Robotics strives to increase efficiency in STEM education by helping students better themselves through hands-on, mentor-guided activities.*

# Building Students' Confidence



Through the **BOOM (Breaking Out Of the Margins)** and **SHOUT (Sisters Having Outstanding Uniqueness Together)** Mentorship Experience, students of color have the opportunity to connect, be inspired, find support and be led and taught by men and women who racially identify with them.

Thanks to a grant from King County, **120** middle and high school students of color were invited to participate in the BOOM and SHOUT Mentorship Experience, with five full-day mentor sessions.

When asked if the sessions helped them do better in school, over **75%** of the students answered that “it was extremely helpful,” “it helped me quite a bit” or “it somewhat helped me.” The majority of students surveyed believed their mentors were really interested in how they were doing.

## Empowering Teachers

There are many reasons for teachers to become board-certified. Students learn more. Teachers hone their practice, showcase their talent in the classroom and demonstrate their dedication to their students and profession.

The opportunity to connect professional learning with classroom practice brings to life a teacher’s experience, helping them reflect on individual student learning needs.

The Bellevue School District boasts **400** teachers and administrators who have achieved National Board Certification. They are making a difference in classrooms at all **29** of our public schools.

Because of you, **31** teachers achieved their **National Board Certification** and **43** successfully renewed. In addition, **70** educators participated in some aspect of the National Board Certification process.



*“I just want to let you know that I feel so privileged to work in this district. I feel supported at every step of the way with professional growth opportunities by Bellevue School District and Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF). The year that I was given both BSF and PTSA grants made me feel respected and honored as a true professional in the field of education – this speaks volumes to the support that is available to teachers as a whole in the district.*

- Ed Wang, NBCT, Instructional Mentor

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