

# YOUR GIFT MATTERS MORE

**FUNDING  
THE  
FUTURE**

**2019–20  
Berkeley High School  
Development Group  
Annual Report**

**BERKELEY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
DEVELOPMENT  
GROUP**



*Raising Funds to Support Excellence*





The genuine commitment by the Berkeley High School Development Group to support BHS students and staff is always clear and always present. We are continuously able to offer a rigorous and engaging learning experience at BHS in part because of the tireless work and funds provided by the BHSDG. I appreciate all that you do so much.”

—Juan Raygoza, BHS Interim Principal



**4,140**

after school tutoring sessions



**108**

Chromebooks purchased and distributed to students during school closure



**710**

students engaged in artistic enrichment



**99**

testing and college application fees paid

**41**

grants funded

**\$312,140**

awarded

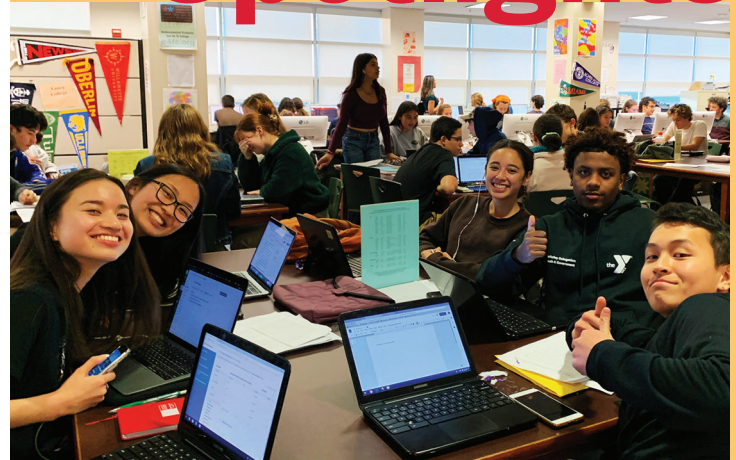
**92¢**

of every dollar went directly to programs that support teachers and students

**By the Numbers**



# Grant Spotlights



## TECHNOLOGY AND DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT

**A**fter the school's closure, thousands of Berkeley High students were able to access district **Chromebooks** because of your generosity: more than 200 of these computers—serving more than 2,000 students—were purchased over the past two years through donations. In 2019–2020, your gifts also funded \$30,000 in new Chromebooks for math and world languages. The previous school year BHS DG worked with the district to develop a plan to increase access to Chromebooks at Berkeley High and continues to support Chromebook purchases and the **Berkeley High Certified Teacher Program** focusing on effective uses of education technology.

A **software and professional development** grant aimed at boosting the quality and interactivity of teacher content during distance learning provided software, support, best practices, and a learning community for teachers. More than 60 teachers were trained in using Padlet, Edpuzzle, and other important elements of the distance learning framework. “BHS DG is an important partner for BHS’s technology needs, which have tended to be underfunded by the school district,” says Matt Albinson, computer science teacher and edtech specialist. **“In the time of distance learning, BHS DG has stepped up to provide crucial support when it is needed the most.”**



## EQUITY AND INCLUSION

**Y**our gifts in 2019–20 supported an **anti-racism professional** grant that allowed Berkeley High to partner with the San Francisco Coalition of Essential Small Schools (SF-CES) to engage teacher leaders and staff in deep and authentic conversations about the ways racial bias and stress affect students and help educators disrupt patterns of racial inequity in education.

The majority of the participants agreed that the training had a positive impact on how they supported students, and teachers appreciated the thought partnership in grappling with tough conversations about race. **“We used professional development to shine a light on the ways in which distance learning is exacerbating the opportunity gap and how we can consciously and intentionally work against structural inequities,”** reported project coordinators Tim Zolezzi and Karen Zapata.

Your donations also funded **First Step Awards** to help low-income seniors defray expenses as they make the transition to college; **college application and testing fee support**; **Jazz Band scholarships** to help every junior and senior go on an educational, cultural, and performance trip to Cuba; and help for the **Afro-Haitian dance program** to pass the torch after the retirement of legendary teacher Mama Washington.

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

**I**n response to a surge in student demand for mental health services, your generosity made it possible for the **Mental and Emotional Education Team (MEET) Service Learning Fund** to offer stipends to 11 students trained to provide peer resources and mental health support. The training included practical coping skills for managing stress, information about mental health resources, and ways to recognize crisis situations and get help.

Your giving also funded training for staff and teachers at Berkeley Technology Academy and Berkeley Independent Studies in effective techniques using **restorative justice**. And it helped purchase **yard signs celebrating graduating seniors** during the school shutdown and T-shirts for participants in the **Green Dot program**, which trains juniors in a two-year program aimed at reducing sexual harassment, dating violence, and bullying. The T-shirts allow the entire student body to identify “upstanders” who are available to help.





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# Thank You!

Your contributions create a stronger educational experience for all students.

—Jessica Hilton & Jenny Morgan, Co-Presidents

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We appreciate every donation and respect our donors. If we've misspelled your name or left you off the list, please let us know. Our mistake was inadvertent and we humbly apologize.

# Having access to the BHSDG as a resource makes our job as teachers of music, dance, and visual arts a joy."

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# Partners Luncheon Transforms Into an Engaging Virtual Event

“Berkeley High School Development Group is using funds collected from the community to do all sorts of important things, including supporting tutoring for kids and Chromebooks for them to use. It’s really great that so many people in Berkeley recognize the importance of contributing.”

—Jennifer Doudna, CRISPR gene-editing co-discoverer



As local restaurants closed their doors, BHSDG transformed this year’s in-person benefit luncheon into a fascinating online conversation between CRISPR gene-editing co-discoverer and BHS parent Jennifer Doudna and superstar BHS biology teacher Glenn Wolkenfeld.

Professor Doudna is a winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and one of *Time* magazine’s 100 most influential people. She addressed how CRISPR can be used to fight against Covid-19, her UC Berkeley lab’s vital role as a testing center, the ethics of gene-editing technologies, and what we must do to achieve greater diversity and interest in STEM fields. You can watch the video at:

<http://bhsdg.org/wp/event/>.

“There are many examples in which communities that step up in support of public schools do better in every way,” said Doudna at the event. She expressed her appreciation for Berkeley’s strong community spirit.

Special thanks go to the sponsors who made this online conversation possible, and a huge thank you to everyone who donated online to raise an expected \$47,000 for Berkeley High. Thanks to your generosity, BHSDG can continue to invest in our students, teachers, and staff and respond to this historic moment.

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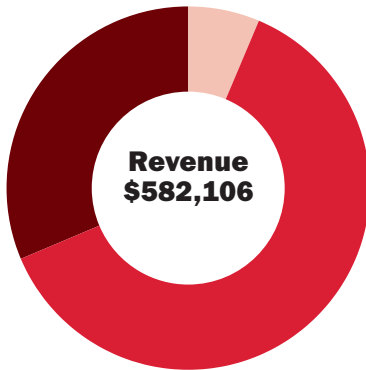
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“We’re proud to sponsor the Berkeley High School Development Group and its work supporting the educational experience of our future leaders, thinkers, activists, and artists from Berkeley High.”

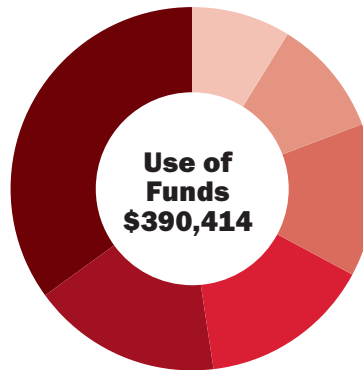
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# 2019–20 Financial Highlights



- Fundraising Events  
\$39,706 (7%)
- General Fund Donations  
\$360,626 (62%)
- Learning Communities and Departments  
\$181,774 (31%)



- Administration and Fundraising  
\$30,482 (8%)
- Technology and Equipment  
\$43,024 (11%)
- College and Career: \$50,145 (13%)
- Professional Development and Teacher Support: \$59,817 (15%)
- Enrichment and Student Support  
\$77,717 (20%)
- Learning Communities and Departments: \$129,229 (33%)

**T**he Berkeley High School Development Group (BHSDG) was created in 1991 by a group of parents concerned about cuts to school funding. With the support of donors and community members like you, BHSDG has grown to become a vital source of funding for Berkeley High School, Berkeley Technology Academy, and Berkeley Independent Studies (9–12). Your giving sustains programs that enrich the experience of every single student.

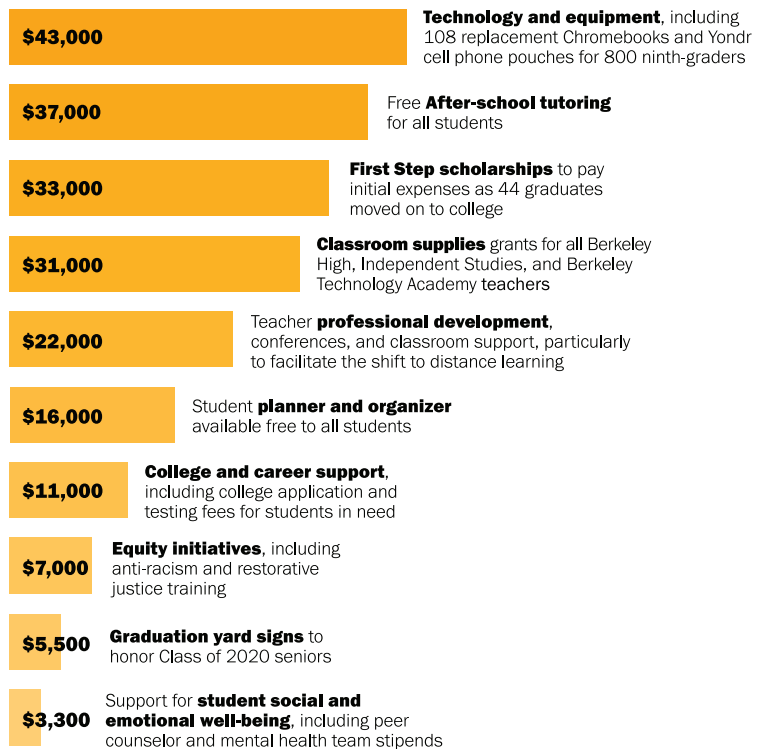
Donations made directly to BHSDG in 2019–20 made up more than two-thirds of the organization’s total revenue—\$400,000—a 14% increase over 2018–19 giving. Expenditures for 2019–2020 were 39% lower than the previous year largely due to the coronavirus pandemic and resulting school closure, which led to the cancellation of several grants and the cessation of new grants in the last quarter.

BHSDG also acts as the fiscal agent, at no cost, for donations made to specific learning communities, departments, and programs. The recipients determine how to spend these funds, which support a wide range of educational enrichment activities. Approximately \$182,000 of your contributions were earmarked for these donor-directed purposes.

Fundraising and administrative expenses for the year were just 8% of total expenses. This means that 92 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to programs that support teachers and students.

Cash available at the end of 2019–2020 was \$575,000: \$186,000 in funds earmarked for specific learning communities, departments, and programs, and \$389,000 for grants approved by BHSDG. This balance has provided initial funding for the 2020–21 school year.

## Top Grants Your Donations Supported Last Year



“**Nothing surmounts getting to attend educational sessions with other educators about various strategies that can be used in the classroom. This is my 20th year teaching and it has breathed new life into my practice.**”

—**Samantha Borg, world language teacher and professional development grant recipient**





**The mission of the Berkeley High School Development Group is to support and strengthen the educational experience of all students at Berkeley High School.**

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**Shop with AmazonSmile.** When you remember to shop on Amazon at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), a portion of your order can go to BHSDG. Just choose Berkeley High School Development Group as your charity when first signing up or on the "Your Amazon Smile" page.

**Volunteer.** Are you an event planner, designer, organizer, fundraiser, tech person, or other expert? BHSDG can use your help. Questions? Contact [info@bhsdg.org](mailto:info@bhsdg.org).