

2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORT

THE PHOENIX WITHIN US



BOSTON PREP



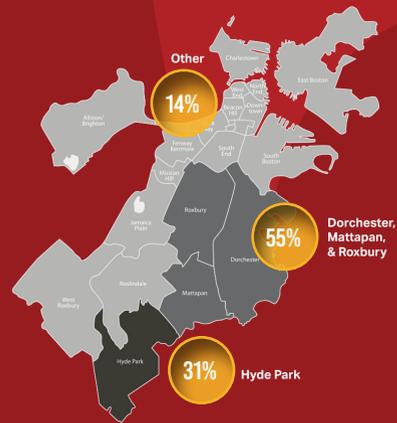
ARTIST QUOTE

“**BEING A PHOENIX** means to have the power of many within us. Each of us has the strength of our Phoenix community inside us. The community we have built - and the unity we have together - is what gives each of us the inner strength and power of the Phoenix.”

**Daniela Rojas, Cover Illustration
Grade 10**

IN 2019-2020, WE WERE... 581 STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 - 12 WITH BIG DREAMS AND IMMEASURABLE POTENTIAL

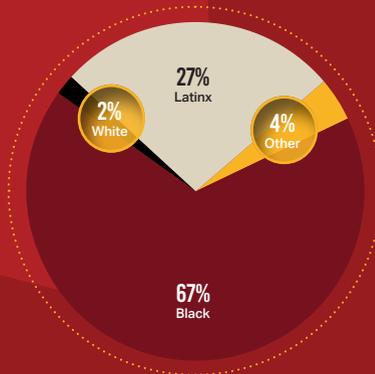
NEIGHBORHOODS REPRESENTED



GENDER IDENTITY



ETHNIC DIVERSITY



SPECIAL POPULATIONS



376 ALUMNI
PROVING EVERY DAY WHAT IS POSSIBLE

104 FACULTY MEMBERS
COMMITTED TO DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES

WE ARE PHOENIX FIERCE.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In November 2019, when brainstorming the Boston Prep storytelling theme for the school year, one of our high school seniors, Tatiana, suggested a theme that she believed represented the essence of our community: The Phoenix Within Us. After numerous people enthusiastically affirmed how powerfully those words captured what it means to be a member of the Boston Prep community, her recommendation was selected as our theme for the 2019-2020 school year, marking the first time our annual theme was generated by a student. In that moment, never did we imagine the deeper meaning that theme would take on just months later, when the dual crises of a pandemic and a reckoning with systemic racism would rock our community and our nation.

When looking back at the 2019-2020 school year, it would be easy to focus on the long list of challenges that plagued our community from March onward. However, this is an optimistic story. In the face of a public health crisis, an economic crisis rivaling the Great Depression, and the closure of our school building - all of which amplified existing persistent racial inequities - the Boston Prep community refused to lay down.

- Our teachers reimagined their practice, leading twelve weeks of live, synchronous virtual instruction for all students.
- Our students showed up for their virtual classes, day after day, even if it meant fighting through technological hiccups.
- Our alumni refused to allow the challenges of learning from home, whether it be slow internet or juggling family responsibilities, to slow them down in their pursuit of a college degree.

- Our families linked arms with one another and with us, supporting each other in times of need and actively participating in our numerous Family Town Halls to help us design a community-driven school reopening plan.
- You, our supporters, showed your persistent, deep commitment to the Boston Prep community. You gave generously and repeatedly to ensure we could offer our teachers, students, alumni, and families whatever they needed to achieve and succeed - whether it be WiFi hotspots, healthy meals, or financial assistance for housing, utilities, and medical expenses.

It has been said that in moments of crisis, a person's true character is revealed. We would argue that the same is true of a community. We have always known that the Boston Prep community is Phoenix Fierce, embodying the spirit of the mythological phoenix that rises from the ashes. However, that spirit - that fierce resilience, that unyielding drive for excellence, that powerful devotion to one another - has become undeniable in this moment.

Each day, we are in awe of the remarkable students, teachers, alumni, families, and supporters who make up our truly special community. While the challenges are far from over, we know that together we will rise because each and every one of us has the Phoenix within us.

In closing, we offer you the words our students use to inspire one another on the athletic field: "Burn, Phoenix, Burn!" Continue to let your Phoenix burn bright.

With deep gratitude,

Tamara Olsen
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sharon Liszanckie
Executive Director



ARTIST QUOTE

Amierah H. Woodley
Grade 9

"BEING A PHOENIX means being able to rise through the ashes and burn bright. We all have struggles we go through, hardships we have to deal with, and we all make mistakes. But what's important is that we learn and rise from those challenges like phoenixes."

THE PHOENIX WITHIN US

Countless ancient traditions, from Greek, and Hindu to Persian, Japanese, and many more, tell of a legendary, immortal bird with healing powers and indomitable strength—the phoenix. When faced by seemingly insurmountable challenge, the phoenix combusts in flames, and a new life arises from the ashes. The phoenix is resilient, with a quiet power that endures all time and overcomes all obstacles.

As Boston Prep's mascot, the image of the Phoenix adorns our walls and our athletic

uniforms, reminding us all that, like the phoenix, we are resilient and that from struggles, we emerge stronger, burning brighter than we did before.

Despite the tremendous challenges that emerged in the Spring of 2020, the Boston Prep community has continued to embrace the Phoenix spirit. Our students, alumni, families, and teachers have shown day after day that we will not relent.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK TO ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, AND EQUITY. WE WILL EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITY WITHIN THE CHALLENGE BECAUSE WE EACH HAVE THE PHOENIX WITHIN US.

THE PHOENIX

LEARNS ANYWHERE

A school is not a building— it is the people within it.

On March 13, 2020, we decided to close our school building for what would become the remainder of the school year. Within one week, we provided every single student a chromebook, we installed WiFi hotspots for families who needed them, we learned how to video conference, we shipped whiteboards and document cameras to our teachers' homes, and our teachers adapted their practice for the virtual environment.

Just days after the closure of our building, teaching and learning resumed, with live virtual instruction for all classes. Contrary to common news of student disengagement, Boston Prep students showed up.



"In times as challenging as this, I am so fortunate to be able to work with such amazing students. They have taken an incredibly difficult situation and have truly shined. Every day, I'm driven to work harder and be better than the day before for them."

- Peter Kaplan
8th grade math teacher



28%
OF STUDENTS
ATTENDED

90-100%
OF CLASSES



65%
OF STUDENTS
ATTENDED

70-100%
OF CLASSES



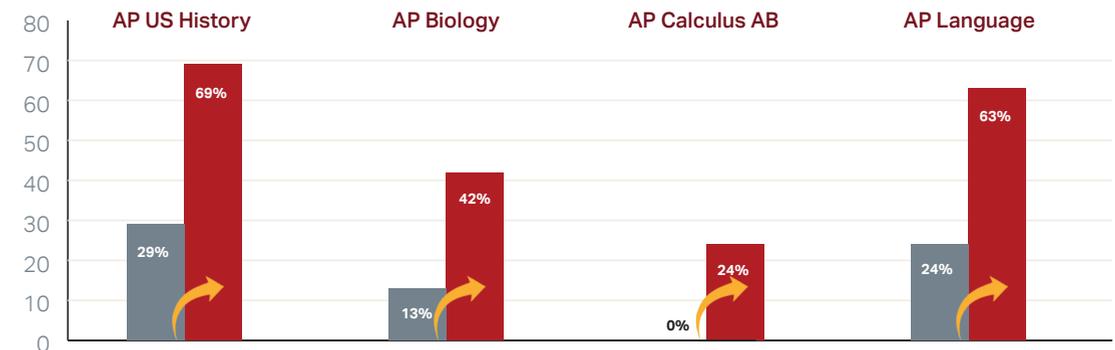
87%
OF STUDENTS
ATTENDED

50-100%
OF CLASSES

Less than 1% of students were disengaged

AP EXAMS

Most importantly, our students kept learning and achieving. After weeks of learning and studying from home, juggling the distractions of the health pandemic and systemic racism, our high school students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses were among the first to complete AP exams from home. Despite all odds, these students not only succeeded; **they achieved some of the highest rates of success in Boston Prep history.** While we know we still have room to grow and work to do, we are incredibly proud of the growth our students and teachers achieved. ▼



Data represents the percent of students who earned a 3 or above in 2018 and 2020.



ARTIST QUOTE

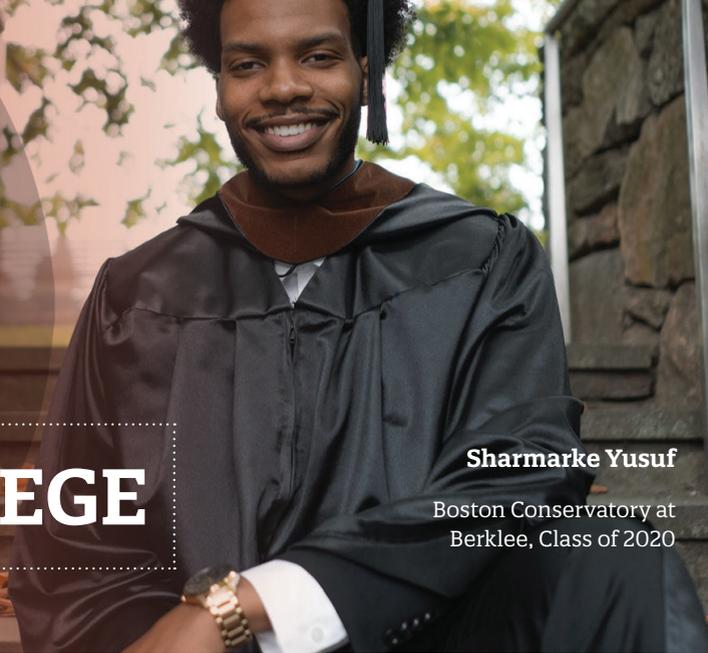
Mairéad Conlon
Grade 7

"**BEING A PHOENIX** means persevering and working hard to get to your goals. And when you reach those goals, graduate, and move on to college, Boston Prep will still be there, cheering you on and helping you along the way."



THE PHOENIX

PERSISTS IN COLLEGE



Sharmarke Yusuf

Boston Conservatory at
Berklee, Class of 2020

Faced with campus closures, we knew we could not allow this public health crisis to become a college completion crisis.

We have always been committed to supporting our alumni's success in college through our Persistence Project supports. As colleges across the nation began to announce the closure of their campuses, we immediately intensified our existing financial, academic, and coaching supports for alumni. Without hesitation, we offered our alumni whatever they needed to ensure they could continue their college studies and achieve success doing so.

WE PROVIDED OUR ALUMNI:



Transportation home from college



Academic resources for those who relied on library reserves



Technology, for those without laptops or wifi at home



Access to meals, for those who relied on campus dining halls



Tutoring, for those who relied on campus resource centers



Financial support, for those who relied on work study for tuition or living expenses

1. THE COLLEGE JOURNEY BEGINS

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

100%

of graduates were accepted to four-year colleges for the

TENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

3.

PERSISTENCE

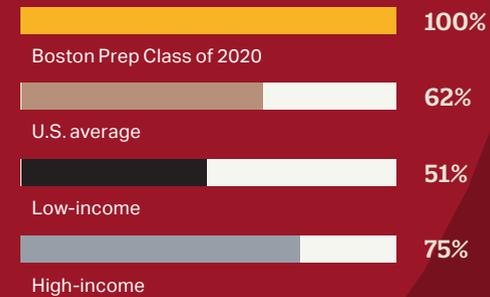
Despite the numerous threats to their success, **92% of Boston Prep's alumni in college maintained or accelerated their progress toward graduation throughout the Spring of 2020**, with only 8% slowing their progress toward a degree. Boston Prep alumni are working hard at colleges around the country, including those listed here.

American University
Bates College
Bentley University
Boston College
Bowdoin College
Bridgewater State University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Denison University
Framingham State University
Lafayette College
Mount Holyoke College
Northeastern University

Northwestern University
Occidental College
Smith College
Tufts University
Union College
University of Chicago
UMass Amherst
UMass Lowell
Wesleyan University

2.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT



Comparison data provided by the Pell Institute.



ARTIST QUOTE

Semiloore A.
Grade 9

"TO BE A PHOENIX is to be bold and confident in the face of adversity, to never give up, to stand strong, to remain fearless, and to encourage and help others along the way."

Boston Prep graduates successfully earn their bachelor's degrees at a rate nearly

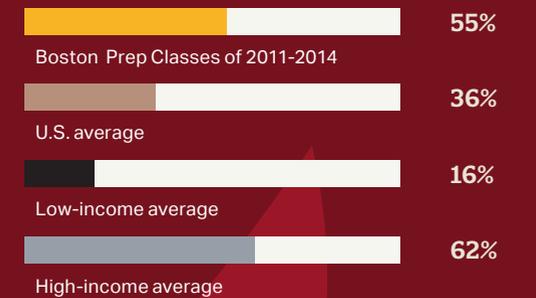
4X

THEIR PEERS

from similar economic backgrounds

4.

GRADUATION



THE PHOENIX

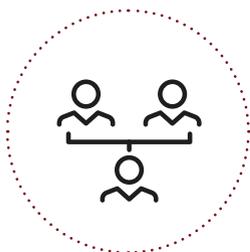
EMBRACES OTHERS



To be a community means to strive for the common good, to prioritize relationships and commit to the success of all - not the few.

At Boston Prep, we say that we are Phoenix Family. While always looking ahead and reaching one hand forward to reach toward our goals, we extend the other hand back, bringing others, who may need a helping hand, along with us.

In the Spring of 2020, as the challenges piled on, we expanded our partnership with families to offer critical supports, from food to technology access to financial assistance.



Weekly family support sessions and community dialogues



45 family communications



Free breakfast and lunch offered daily for all children and their parents



343 family tech support issues resolved



The Phoenix Family Fund

We established the Phoenix Family Fund to offer our Boston Prep families financial assistance to help with groceries, rent, utilities, and medical expenses. Upon announcement of the Fund, we were overwhelmed with offers of support - from existing and new donors, from teachers, from Boston Prep families who felt the pain of their friends and wanted to offer whatever help they could.

487
MICROGRANTS

\$74,180
IN SUPPORT

AND GROWING...

Families continue to submit about 25 requests per week.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Phoenix Family.

I have been furloughed since March 2020. I feel so ashamed saying I need help, but as a single mom of two, it's hard, and I'm trying to do anything I can to pay my rent and catch up on bills. I literally don't know what we would do without you.

Thank you for providing me and my children a second family."

- Phoenix Family Fund Recipient



ARTIST QUOTE

Laila Hammond Gunn
Grade 11

"**BEING A PHOENIX** means being reborn, multiple times, as you find yourself along your journey. It means being part of a community that values culture and the diversity that bring us all together as a beautiful community."



THE PHOENIX

TAKES ACTION



At Boston Prep, we believe that there is no neutral. Each and every one of us must take action to create racial equity and justice.

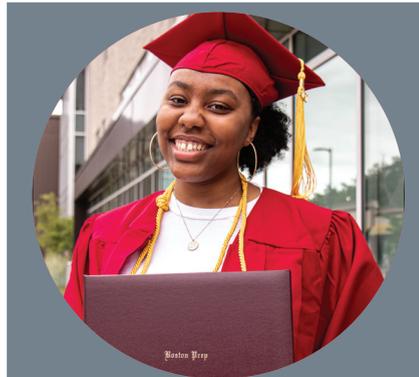
In the Spring of 2020, Black and brown communities experienced disproportionate loss of loved ones, housing, and income as a result of COVID-19, and we again witnessed the persistent assault on Black and brown bodies across our country.

Thus began a national reckoning on race and a movement to end the systemic racism that has caused centuries of oppression and inequitable opportunity. As a community, Boston Prep is committed to action and has placed the work of this movement at the core of our school.



“STUDENTS OF BOSTON PREP—YOU ARE THE ANSWER. DON’T FORGET THIS ANGER, THIS PAIN, THIS FRUSTRATION. WE CANNOT GET COMPLACENT AGAIN; USE YOUR VOICE, USE YOUR PLATFORMS. GET YOUR EDUCATION. BE THE CHANGE AGENTS WE NEED!”

VaLonda Harris, Assistant Principal, at Black Lives Matter Town Hall community dialogue



“Y’all are more powerful and influential than you know. If you ever doubt that, just remember that we planned a Senior Skip Day on March 13th and didn’t ever return back to school! Seriously though, don’t ever doubt the power you have. Don’t let the way others see you change who you are. Don’t ever stop fighting for what you believe in. Don’t ever be silent.”

- Desiree Lyons, Class of 2020 Salutatorian, at Class of 2020 virtual graduation

As an organization, we committed ourselves to a set of immediate actions while also planning for a stronger future through the development of a community-driven anti-racism vision statement.

- We established a Board-level Anti-Racism Committee, including parent, student, and faculty representation.
- We terminated racist punitive discipline policies that contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, eliminating the Dean’s Office, demerits, detentions, and in-school suspensions, in favor of a relationship-based, collaborative skill-building model.
- We rooted out racist language, ceasing use of our prior motto, *Effort Determines Success*, a phrase that, in today’s context, masks the inequitable playing field created by years of systemic racism.
- We launched a search for an anti-racism consulting partner to conduct an equity audit of our organization to help us identify our next action steps.
- We expanded our ongoing professional development, led by our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion teacher working group, to ensure more regular collaboration and learning to drive anti-racism in our classrooms.



ARTIST QUOTE

Akani Harrison
Grade 8

“**TO BE A PHOENIX** means to strive for greatness everywhere you go. Our determination is fierce and lethal like the fire from the phoenix. As Phoenix, standing in our strength, we have the power to break the ground beneath us.”





*They say the sky is the limit but
for us it's only the beginning*

ARTIST QUOTE

Jayonna Coston-Adams
Grade 11

“**BEING A PHOENIX** means surpassing the limit of what society expects you to be and showing everyone what you really can be. We are strong, and we are beautiful, and at Boston Prep, we’re constantly reminded that we can reach high and make our mark on this world.”

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

The reports that follow are audited statements.

Ordinary Income/Expenses		
INCOME	DOE Per-Pupil Revenue	11,070,734
	Grants Revenue	799,664
	In-Kind Transportation and Pension	2,549,372
	Program Fees	18,195
	Private Revenue	1,716,678
Total Income		16,154,643
EXPENSES	Salaries, Benefits & Related	10,736,343
	Professional Fees & Recruitment	402,600
	School/Student Expenses	1,246,434
	In-Kind Transportation	315,576
	General & Administration	575,144
	Facilities	2,086,957
	Depreciation	319,722
	Contingency	0
Total Expense		15,682,776
Net Ordinary Income		471,867
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE		
	Other Income	2,799
Grants Released from Restriction		0
Changes in Net Assets		474,666

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2020

ASSETS	Current Assets	
	Cash	2,898,460
	Accounts Receivable	242,971
	Prepaid Expenses and Other	165,599
	Total Current Assets	3,307,030
	Fixed Assets, Net	766,194
Total Assets		4,073,224
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Liabilities	
	Accounts Payable	966,865
	Accrued Expenses	474,128
	Capital Lease Obligation	0
	Total Liabilities	1,440,993
Equity		
Net Assets	2,632,231	
Total Equity	2,632,231	
Total Liabilities & Equity		4,073,224

OUR SUPPORTERS

THIS YEAR WAS UNIQUE IN SO MANY WAYS, INCLUDING FUNDRAISING. WE NOT ONLY NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL OPERATIONS BUT ALSO THE UNANTICIPATED COSTS INCURRED TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY IN A MOMENT OF INTENSE NEED.



Yet, amidst tremendous economic uncertainty, we were humbled time and time again by the generosity of our community. Each of you, whether you gave \$100 or \$100,000, has made a felt and deeply valued impact on our community. For that reason, in this truly unique year, we are removing giving categories from our donor recognition. The Phoenix is within each and every one of us, and we are grateful to all of you for your incredible, generous support for the Boston Prep community.



THANK YOU.

Support is for Boston Prep and the Preparatory Foundation, Inc. from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.

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RECORD-SETTING \$393,000 RAISED



Oluwaseun Adebago
 TOAST Alumni Address

“As a student in high school, I did not appreciate the meaning or power of our Boston Prep mascot - the Phoenix. After all the obstacles in my journey, I have a better understanding of what it means to be a Phoenix. It means being willing to ask for help. It means leaving work early to attend office hours with my physics professor. It means late nights studying for the MCAT, with tired eyes but a committed heart. It means believing that the impossible is possible. It means that though your inner fire may, at times, dim, you will never - NEVER - allow it to burn out.”

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BOSTON PREP

"I will push myself every day, even when I want to give up, and I will do the same for my classmates."

Gisleyne, Grade 12

"WHEN I GET KNOCKED DOWN, I WILL COME BACK BETTER THAN BEFORE."

Keyounce, Grade 8

"I will never accept defeat."

Khyier, Grade 8

"I will give my best in everything I do. I will not back down from any challenge."

Yoka, Grade 11

"I WILL CHALLENGE MYSELF AND ACTUALLY BE THE PERSON I WANT AND KNOW I CAN BE INSTEAD OF JUST WISHING FOR IT."

Cecil, Grade 12

"My classroom will be reborn into this remote world, just as beautiful as before, rising from the ashes of our current separation. Because STUDENTS are what make my classroom beautiful!!"

Jacqueline Story Stephenson
Language Department Chair