

## The Whipple Writing Fellowship

### Summary

*The Whipple Writing Fellowship offers Brookline High Students who love the written word an opportunity to develop and expand their skills as writers. As Fellows, participants will join a supportive cohort of fellow aspiring writers, receive stipends to encourage their work, and learn from writers across a spectrum of professional writing styles how to craft a piece of writing that will ultimately be presented in a public forum and submitted for publication.*

*Common to the experience of all Whipple Fellows will be an intensive focus on developing their ideas via writing, regardless of the topic. The goal of the fellowship is to develop student's capacity to write with a purpose. Whether the Fellows are researching something of particular interest such as humor writing, sports writing compiling a collection of original poetry, telling the story of an unsung hero, or bringing to light an untold chapter of local history, all Fellows will engage in a similar process to develop skills under the tutelage of master teachers from Brookline High.*

*After applying and being accepted to the program by the end of February, the six Fellows will begin working in the Spring of 2020 to craft a writing proposal for the Summer Residency, a six week intensive period at the heart of the Fellowship. Once proposals have been finalized, Fellows will be invited to participate in the Summer Residency beginning in July to work intensely on their selected writing piece. The combination of the spring meetings and the summer residency will support the Fellows in developing their initial ideas; expand and formalize their proposals; draft and revise preliminary writing; outline the process for the length of the Fellowship, set goals and objectives tied to waypoints through the process, and ultimately culminate in the creation of an outstanding piece of original writing.*

*In the Fall of 2020, the Whipple Fellows will gather for an evening of public presentations that will be open to the entire community and will include the Fellows, their families, teachers, and the Whipple/Gladstone family in order to celebrate the Fellows' tremendous accomplishment. In addition, their written work will appear in the Fellowship Journal.*

## Year 1 Fellowship Goals

- Inspire BHS students to pursue an area of interest/passion and provide the time and resources to improve their writing skills in pursuit of that interest.
- Teach Fellows how to conduct original research to support their own writing goals and objectives.
- Support Fellows to express their knowledge through a compelling piece of written work that is well crafted, and thoughtfully refined.
- Provide Fellows with the opportunity to work in collaboration with motivated peers, and faculty to improve their own writing skills.
- To expose Fellows to different ways community members use writing in their professional lives through guest speakers.
- Support Fellows to complete a major long term writing assignment
- Provide an opportunity for Fellows to share what they have learned throughout their writing process with the larger BHS and Brookline community both in print and through professional presentations.

## Fellowship Timeline 2019-2020

Sept-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Planning for the fellowship led by 2 BHS Faculty</li> <li>● Host 1-2 BHS community events to present the fellowship to the BHS community</li> </ul>
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Application for the Whipple Fellowship released</li> <li>● Workshops provided by faculty to help students complete the application</li> <li>● 6 students are chosen for Year 1</li> </ul>
March-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fellows meet as a cohort 2-3 times and workshop their summer proposals for their writing projects</li> <li>● Formal revised proposals are submitted before April break</li> <li>● Proposals are accepted or further revised by the end of April</li> <li>● Guest speakers are chosen and booked to present to the fellows in the spring or summer sessions.</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fellows create an ongoing research resource list for their summer projects</li> <li>● Fellows record what they are learning in a process journal</li> </ul>

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellows meet as a cohort to share what they have learned from their research and how that information will inform their summer writing projects.</li> </ul>
July-Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Residency begins with 2-3 full-day workshops with the cohort.</li> <li>Summer work continues <i>independently</i> for 5 additional weeks in the summer, including weekly dinner meetings with the cohort</li> <li>Fellows communicate formally 1X per week with the Fellowship Faculty member</li> <li>By the end of August, written piece is finalized for publication in the Fellowship Journal</li> </ul>
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellows work on preparations for public presentation</li> <li>Meetings with Fellowship Faculty and cohort throughout this month</li> </ul>
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellows present their work to the community</li> <li>Fellowship Journal is published and distributed</li> </ul>

**Budgeting for Year 1**

Item	Cost per person	Total cost
Program Leader	\$8,000	\$8,000
Fellowship Faculty Stipend	\$5,000	\$5,000
Fellowship stipend	\$1,000 x 6 student	\$6,000
Guest Speaker Honorarium	\$300x 4 guest speakers	\$1,200
Publication of the Journal Fall and Spring edition	\$500 x 2 journals	\$1,000
Fellowship Writing Events/Speakers	\$500 x 3 speakers	\$1,500
Food/meals	\$15 x 8 fellow participants (including 2 faculty)	\$1,200

	10 meals over spring and summer	
Supplies	\$200	\$200
Total		\$24,100

**Job Descriptions**

**Program Leader**

The program leader will be responsible for administering the fellowship and facilitating the roll out of new programs identified in the Long Term Vision. In addition, it is the job of the program leader to ensure that the fellowship and all associated programming fulfill the mission statement.

Responsibilities and duties for the program leader include:

- Acting as the liaison between BHS, the Whipple/Gladstone family and Brookline Community Foundation
- Publicizing the fellowship to faculty and students.
- Creating and facilitating the application and selection process, with input from the fellowship faculty.
- Helping design curriculum for the summer residency, along with the fellowship faculty.
- Supporting the fellowship faculty in the spring to aid students in crafting their proposals for the summer residency.
- Designing and implementing the summer residency including selecting community guest speakers, and arranging logistics for the sequence of fellowship meetings.
- Helping to plan and implement fundraising and fellowship programming outside of the residency.
- Planning the fall presentations for the Whipple Fellows.
- Ensuring the publication of the fellowship journals.
- Arranging any outside speakers associated with the fellowship
- Continuing to develop the roll-out of the long-term vision included as part of the BHS Writing Institute.

**Fellowship Faculty**

Each year, there will be a BHS Faculty member who will act as the lead teacher for the fellowship and summer residency. They will be supported in their role by the program leader and they will be expected to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Providing input on the application and selection process for the fellows.

- Attending any relevant fundraising events associated with the fellowship and attending the fall presentations
- Leading, with support from the program leader, the creation of any curriculum associated with the fellowship
- Leading, with support from the program leader, the proposal writing process for fellows in the spring
- Leading, with support from the program leader, and planning any workshops for the summer residency
- Leading, with support from the program leader, all summer residency activities
- Facilitating the goals and message that guest speakers should focus on when presenting to the students.
- Providing timely feedback on all written work done by fellows, including work to be published in the journal and their fall presentations
- Meeting 1:1 with fellows 1X per week for 1 hour, outside of the fellowship dinners.

### **Guest Speakers**

In order to expose Fellows to a wide variety of writing styles, the Residency will include 3-4 outside guest speakers who have experience writing professionally and who are willing to present to the cohort on topics relating to their writing process and experiences as professionals within their field. The program director will seek to find a diverse group of guest speakers who can offer varying perspectives on different styles of writing and that would help to inform the type of writing students within the cohort are interested in. Each guest speaker will be expected to engage with the fellows for 3 hours and will receive an honorarium of \$300. The format of their visit will be designed in collaboration between the speaker, the director and the faculty member. Some speakers may choose to use a workshop model, while others may choose to present directly to the fellows, among other options. Guest speakers will also be invited to attend the final presentation of the fellows work, though that will not be a condition of receiving their honorarium.

### **Student Fellows**

Student Fellows will be recruited from Brookline High School and the program will be open to 9-11 graders. The director will use intentional strategies to actively recruit a diverse group of fellows. Students seeking to participate in the fellowship will complete an application that will give them the opportunity to explain their interest and desire to participate in the fellowship. They will also be required to submit a writing sample. The selection process for the fellowship will be evaluative and may include interviews of candidates. The director and faculty will choose the fellows based on the strength of their applications and availability to participate fully in the summer residency.

Stipends for students will be based on three factors: participation, process and product. The stipend will be divided into 2 payments of \$500. Student will receive the first half of their stipend at the end of the summer residency. This part of the stipend is based on their participation in spring and summer activities, as well as, the writing they produce in the process of drafting their final product. Students will receive the second half of their stipend after successfully completing the final product for submission to the journal and having presented at the final event of the fellowship in the fall.

**Long Term Vision**

The fellowship remains at the heart of the long term vision and we believe that the objectives of the fellowship should be expanded to reach more students and to offer programming through a variety of means that are all focused on the power of strong writing. We see the long term vision as encompassing a three-phase roll out over the course of four years. This expansion would begin the creation of the *BHS Writing Institute*, which would include the fellowship as its flagship program, in addition to many other writing workshops and programming, summarized below.

Phase 1	Year 1	Whipple Fellowship and Summer Residency
Phase 2	Years 2 & 3	Whipple Fellowship and Summer Residency  BHS Writing Institute year-long writing workshops and summer workshops  Quarterly Journal  BHS Institute Writing Center at BHS  BHS Institute Professional Speaker Series
Phase 3	Year 4	Whipple Fellowship and Summer Residency  BHS Institute year-long writing workshops and summer workshops  Quarterly Journal  BHS Institute Writing Center at BHS  BHS Institute Professional Speaker Series  BHS Regional Writing Conference for Young Writers

## Phase Two Description

- In phase two of the project, other strands will begin to build the broader *BHS Writing Institute*. The Institute will add a minimum of two writing workshops open to all BHS students that will run for 3-4 days and are designed around a particular style of writing (i.e. poetry, journalism, historical nonfiction etc...). These writing workshops will be created and taught by teachers who would become members of the BHS Writing Institute Faculty. These might be conducted during school breaks or in the evenings/weekends. Ideally, participants in these workshops would be inspired to apply for the fellowship and summer institute.
- In phase two, we also believe that the BHS Writing Institute Faculty should introduce writing courses within the summer school catalog that would offer 3-6 week writing courses for students who need or want a more guided writing experience. These courses would be self-funded through tuition and would follow the summer school calendar. While these classes would be offered through BHS Summer School they would be managed and run by the BHS Writing Institute Faculty and would align with the BHS Writing Institute goals and philosophy.
- We believe that the Fellowship Journal should also grow into a quarterly publication after the first year. The publication will print all of the work from the writing workshops and summer school classes (along with the existing publication for the Whipple Fellows).
- The BHS Writing Institute would also host a professional writer speaker series for the entire BHS community.
- Finally, it might be possible to join with the current BHS writing center by using BHS Writing Institute Faculty and Whipple Fellows and BHS Writing Institute writing participants to staff the year-long writing center at BHS.

## Phase Three Description

- We imagine that the BHS Writing Institute and Fellowship will stand as a national model for supporting young writers within a public school setting. In the third phase of the project, we hope to host a regional writing conference to inspire young writers from across the Commonwealth and the New England area to

share their writing with other young people. The BHS Writing Institute Faculty, Fellows and participants would staff and plan the conference.