



2016-2017 Initiatives



One year ago, I outlined a series of ambitious initiatives that I believed could transform Hillside. Through dedication, hard work, and the willingness to take risks, these eight initiatives were achieved and marked a year of record-breaking success by all metrics. We recognize that continuous improvement is critically important in today's fast paced, rapidly developing technological world. Education must become more relevant and cutting edge to provide our students with the skills to be successful in the 21st century. With that in mind, find below our

2016-17 initiatives. I hope they will inspire creativity and innovation while encouraging leadership and will help us achieve another record breaking year.



The creation of a new 2500 sq ft Innovation Center led by Harvard trained innovation expert

The 2500 square foot lab will feature a modern design, functional spaces for ideation and creation, an incubation center, and all of the equipment and technology needed to bring a concept to life. We have fully integrated the Innovation Center into our curriculum by making it a part of our specials rotation, adding it as an athletics option during all three seasons, offering a coding elective, and opening the Center on weekends. We are confident that our continued commitment to innovation in education will be fun and inspiring.



The establishment of Innovation Awards to recognize student achievement

To further spark our boys' creativity and curiosity, we will be awarding prizes for student innovation. During their Innovation Center coursework, boys will be developing an idea or identifying a problem to solve and then will be coached through the process of researching, conceptualizing, innovating, designing, and producing a prototype. The Innovation Award winners will receive a monetary prize, but more importantly, they will have the chance to present their concepts to a panel of potential investors. Students who earn investors' praise will then be guided toward securing a patent and could soon find themselves marketing a product that was once just a simple idea.



A significantly enhanced leadership program to provide students with the skills to succeed

Our leadership program has been refined to better foster students' emotional intelligence (while building values like integrity, loyalty, and perseverance) and to position them for prosperity in a world dominated by ever-changing technology. The established components of our program will also be reiterated through a new comprehensive code of conduct and an exciting challenge course featuring both low and high ropes elements.



A speaker series to bring classroom lessons to life and introduce boys to role models they will never forget

For me, one of the most memorable moments of last school year was the astonishingly silent Hillside dining room during the presentation of former BU hockey player and spinal cord injury research advocate Travis Roy. Travis, like US Navy Seal Brant Feldman who addressed the community earlier in the year, offered real life lessons on goal setting, overcoming adversity, and living with purpose.



The recruitment of nationally known camp director to make Hillside Summer the best program in the country

We are pleased to confirm that a full-scale summer program for boys and girls will be introduced in 2017. To guarantee the success of Hillside Summer, we recruited Bob Rojee, a nationally recognized camp professional with twenty-five years experience establishing, marketing, staffing, and operating camps and recreational programs. Most recently, Bob led FaySummer where he more than tripled camp enrollment during his years as Director.



A website overhaul to improve parent communication and increase awareness

Beginning this fall, hillside.net will undergo a complete overhaul. Highlights of the site redesign will include a parent portal, improved mobile access, and a fresh aesthetic. A responsive design approach and carefully selected homepage keywords will bring families seeking a program like ours straight to our website...and then hopefully to our campus!



Permanent 8:30am start time after test results demonstrate improved student focus, behavior, and productivity

Responding to the proliferation of research suggesting that sleep deprivation and disruption of circadian rhythm causes a variety of adolescent impairments, we modified our schedule to allow boys at least an extra forty-five minutes of sleep. The one term trial was unanimously praised by better-rested students, more relaxed faculty members, and less harried parents.



The addition of highly credentialed new teachers to current blue chip core will make Hillside's team best ever

Dean of Faculty Monica Lucey states this year's faculty will be "the best ever." Among our new recruits is Katie MacDonald, who recently earned her master's degree from Harvard and will serve as Innovation Center Director; Ryan Giggi, a Johns Hopkins grad with extensive teaching experience, most recently at the New Canaan Country School; and Haili Elwood, an accomplished elementary educator with a masters' degree in curriculum.