

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



The mission of North Bennet Street School is to train students for careers in traditional trades that use hand skills in concert with evolving technology, to preserve and advance craft traditions and to promote greater appreciation of craftsmanship.



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Friends and Alumni:

I am pleased to report North Bennet Street School enjoyed another successful year. In interesting ways, the school's success comes despite of and because the year was characterized by the uncertainty and stress of a prolonged financial recession and high unemployment.

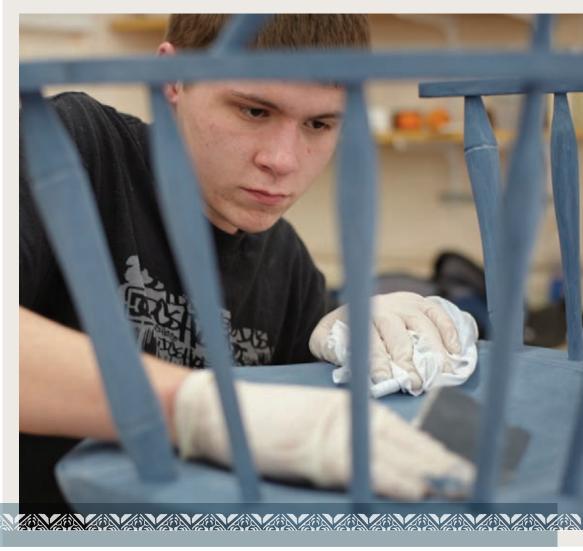
The lingering economic downturn has caused the re-examination of many aspects of the American economy and culture, including its system of higher education. From academic studies to op-ed articles in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, a growing chorus is questioning the value of a traditional undergraduate degree both in terms of its promise of employment and its cost. That debate was the subject of this year's commencement address at Old North Church, when Robert B. Schwartz, Academic Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, addressed what he considers the mistaken assumption that a four-year college degree is the only path to financial success and a middle-class life. He noted that, in the future, one-third of jobs will require training not found in a traditional undergraduate program. The type of training needed for these future jobs is found in the programs offered at North Bennet Street School and the underlying need is reflected in the school's long-standing mission.

North Bennet Street School is not immune to the problems facing higher education. Our graduates leave with levels of debt that are far beyond previous generations, and that is especially troubling given the modest incomes most graduates will earn while beginning their careers. But, in many ways, the school is well-positioned to be an educational leader in the coming years. We provide professional training in careers that cannot be outsourced. Our graduates produce and repair useful, durable objects that give meaning to the lives of the makers as well as to consumers. Two of our programs, carpentry and locksmithing, are especially suited to individuals seeking re-training by providing a path to a productive livelihood in just nine months.

On a deeper level, the school is well-positioned because its core values have renewed meaning in the wake of the collapse of trusted institutions and the disillusionment of many white-collar workers. These core values are prominent in the messaging found on the school's new website, which launched this year, and in this Annual Report — Advancing Craft Traditions, Inspiring Community, Master Faculty, Collaborative Culture, Commitment to Excellence, Meaningful Careers. They represent both the 130-year legacy of North Bennet Street School and its future.

Thanks to all of you

MIGUEL GÓMEZ-IBÁÑEZ, CF '99 PRESIDENT



CABINET AND FURNITURE STUDENT NICK REES RUBS THE FINISH ON A WINDSOR CHAIR

Advancing Craft Traditions

The North Bennet Street School's reputation as a center of craftsmanship makes it an international resource for amateurs, professionals and institutions that seek connection to the craft-centered environment and expertise at the school. Programs that bring professionals to the school to teach workshops, lecture and demonstrate in the full-time program are complemented by programs that send NBSS graduates and faculty into the community to lecture, teach and collaborate with other educational institutions. These ongoing programs and events reach adults and children of all ages.



PHOTO OF THE OAK HILL PARLOR PERIOD ROOM AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION COURTESY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS. BOSTON.

THE NEW AMERICAN WING AT MFA BOSTON

Opened to the public in 1928, the American period rooms at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston were visitor favorites for nearly 75 years. To make way for the new Art of the Americas Wing, the rooms were painstakingly dismantled in 2003 and carefully packed in storage for re-installation in 2010. The process of removing, conserving, and reinstalling nine Federalperiod rooms in the new wing involved curators, conservators and scores of specialists trained in historic preservation and traditional crafts including preservation carpentry students and instructors from North Bennet Street School. In addition to working with the curators and preparators on the period-room details and furnishings, the MFA created videos featuring NBSS cabinet and furniture making instructors Dan Faia and Steve Brown demonstrating historic woodworking techniques including wood-turning, carving and traditional joinery. These "How they did it" demonstration videos are permanently installed in the new wing allowing thousands of MFA visitors to learn about fine craftsmanship.

THIRTY STATES, THREE COUNTRIES

The continuing-education programs at NBSS draw students from near and far to attend workshops and short courses that range from one day to three months. Students from thirty states and three countries, and ranging in age from 17 to 62, participated in programs during fiscal year 2011. Workshop instructors included full-time faculty members, alumni and master craftsmen including Dominic Riley, a bookbinder, teacher and filmmaker from England; Jeff Fleisher, a woodcarver from Virginia; Alan Meltzer, a local master goldsmith and CAD-savvy designer; and Steve Smithers, a silversmith who uses original methods to create and restore classic silver objects. Likewise, NBSS faculty exhibit, teach and lecture widely at national conferences and related schools. Highlights of NBSS faculty activity are found on page 9. Bringing experts to the school and supporting faculty and graduates in the larger community nourishes and perpetuates the culture of traditional craftsmanship.

GOING VIRAL

It is not unusual for current (and prospective) NBSS students to have websites, to blog, and to use Twitter and Facebook to promote their work, participate in virtual communities, and network. The school embraced the virtual world this year with the launch of its new website, the development of a Facebook page and establishment of a Twitter account. The new website features more pictures, student profiles, galleries of student work, videos and a dynamic, searchable calendar. An updated logo and new graphics are featured on the website and on new printed material, providing a window into the depth and breadth of activities in the NBSS community.

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

Masters in Conservation students from leading universities came to North Bennet Street School for a summer course, Book Structures for Conservators. The course was coordinated by NBSS bookbinding instructor Jeff Altepeter and taught by Chela Metzger, a 1993 graduate of the bookbinding program and current book and library conservator at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. The course is the first of a planned series of programs to provide conservation students an opportunity to learn basic hand skills related to book structures and repairs. The result of a unique partnership with Simmons College in Boston and the University of Delaware, the institutional home of Winterthur, the program responds to a national need for library and archive conservation training.



SILVER BOWL BY STEVE SMITHERS.

Inspiring Community

The North Bennet Street School community is diverse, creative, friendly and talented. Students are recent high-school graduates, college transfer students and mid-life career changers. Students come from Boston, from New England states, from across the country and from other nations. Alumni say the inspiring community and intensive, hands-on programs contribute to their confidence and success. They value the school's prestigious reputation, dedicated master instructors and collaborative, professional network. Alumni remain involved with NBSS as guest lecturers, instructors, mentors, employers and donors.



FLAGS AND PINS ON THIS MAP INDICATE THE LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ALUMNI.



"Locksmithing was a career change for me. I was working in the construction trades and looking for something new in the service industry. The school environment is upbeat and everyone is very supportive — both during school and when it came time to look for a job."

"The challenge was believing I could really do this. I am also the only woman in the preservation carpentry class and I wondered if I would feel intimidated, but, after the first day of class, I was comfortable and confident. The best part is the people — the other students and the instructors. The projects we work on cover every part of the preservation carpentry trade. I've created great friends and the knowledge and skills I've gained are priceless."





"The workshop environment is very conducive to learning from your own mistakes as well as those of others. The training provides a solid foundation and allows each student to work in greater depth in the areas that are most pertinent to their interests. The networking is great and the reputation of the school is synonymous with excellent craftsmanship."

THIS BINDING OF THE CRUCIBLE BY HEBARD WAS INCLUDED IN THE EXHIBIT ONE BOOK, MANY INTERPRETATIONS.

2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD Barbara Adams Hebard, BB '90

After graduating from NBSS in 1990, Barbara was a book conservator at the Boston Athenaeum for 18 years. She worked on books once owned by luminaries including George Washington and John Quincy Adams as well as hundreds of 18th- and 19th-century imprints and manuscripts. In 2009, she became the conservator of the John J. Burns Library at Boston College.



Barbara regularly displays her work at shows, lectures and writes for publications. She has served as an exhibition curator and volunteers her time in many ways in the bookbinding community including as an active member of the NBSS community. Barbara maintains a contact list of bookbinding graduates and each year she stops by the classroom to make new entries in her work-bench genealogy — a document that traces the occupants of every workbench in bookbinding and serves as a wonderful reminder of the rich legacy of bookbinding graduates.



DEPARTMENT HEAD DAVID BETTS (FAR RIGHT), ENJOYS A LIGHT MOMENT WITH ADVANCED PIANO STUDENTS.

Master Faculty

North Bennet Street School instructors are among the most respected men and women in their fields. Many are NBSS graduates and have taught for more than 10 years. Faculty members often teach master classes at national conferences and are contributing authors to national publications. In addition to teaching, faculty members continue to practice their crafts, work on commissions, exhibit, and sell their work. Graduates of NBSS often become master teachers at other institutions.





(LEFT) ROSEMARY TRAINOR, HEAD OF THE JEWELRY DEPARTMENT, CONSULTS WITH A STUDENT. (RIGHT) STEVEN O'SHAUGHNESSY WORKS WITH A PRESERVATION CARPENTRY STUDENT.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

A unique collaboration with the Boston Architectural College (BAC) Masters of Design in Historic Preservation Program resulted in a semester-long class led by preservation carpentry department head **STEVEN O'SHAUGHNESSY**. A requirement in the BAC's Masters of Design in Historic Preservation Program, the class combined a hands-on studio intensive with an online program to teach students about historic building systems important to the preservation of New England structures from the Colonial era through the middle of the twentieth century.

Piano faculty members **DEBBIE CYR** and **DAVID BETTS** taught classes at the national Piano Technicians Guild meeting in July 2011 in Seattle, WA. In September they were joined by their piano-department colleagues CHRISTINE LOVGREN and JACK STEBBINS as the four teachers celebrated 100 years of combined tenure at NBSS.

In November 2010, ROMAN BARNAS, head of the violin department, and several violin students attended the Violin Society of America (VSA) Convention in Cleveland where Roman won a VSA Certificate of Merit for Tone for a violin he made. Roman also accompanied four students to Poland to participate in the Wieniawski Violin Competition which is held every five years.

Cabinet and furniture making instructors **STEVE BROWN AND** DAN FAIA are featured in a series of interactive videos in the MFA's new Art of the Americas wing in Boston. Dan and Steve also wrote articles for Fine Woodworking magazine and its website publications.

EVA MARTIN joined the jewelry department faculty. Eva has won several major awards including the 2006 Saul Bell Design Award Grand Prize for her Carouseling Cufflinks and she won second place for the same award in 2009 and 2011. She was the recipient of the 2008 Lapidary Journal Jewelry Arts Award and her sterling silver Queensland Sugar Spoon was designated "Best Memento" in the Tourism Queensland memento competition in 2006.

Locksmithing Department Head **DAVE TROIANO** serves as a board member of the Yankee Security Conference, the professional

association of New England locksmiths, and a board member of the Yankee Security Scholarship Fund, which provides financial aid to area locksmith students.

Head of the bookbinding department **JEFF ALTEPETER** entered his seventh year as chair of the New England Chapter of the Guild of Bookworkers.

ROSEMARY TRAINOR was featured in Art Jewelry magazine in an article about the value of jewelry internships and apprenticeships as part of the education process.



CABINET AND FURNITURE MAKING INSTRUCTOR LANCE PATTERSON (RIGHT) WORKS WITH A NEW STUDENT.

Valued Advisors

Each of the eight full-time programs benefits from the participation of program advisors. Chosen for their connection to the field, their passion for craft and their commitment to the highest quality education, these professionals volunteer their time to meet with faculty and administrators to discuss program developments, standards and educational goals. Program advisors often visit the benchrooms to meet with students for informal critiques and mentoring. A list of program advisors is included on page 21.

Collaborative Culture

At North Bennet Street School, students regularly consult each other and work together. The diverse backgrounds and experiences of students and faculty members engender a rich dialogue. Learning from peers happens consistently and spontaneously, with everyone contributing something unique. Similarly, the school itself is a regular collaborator with educational and cultural institutions in Boston and beyond. Programs are enriched and experience is gained through these evolving relationships.





PRESERVATION CARPENTRY STUDENTS AT MOUNT LEBANON SHAKER VILLAGE (TOP) AND THE ANNA CLAPP HARRIS SMITH HOUSE IN DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

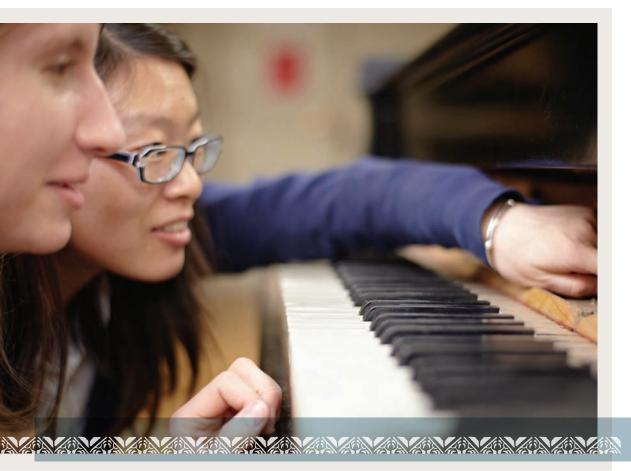
INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE

North Bennet Street School students often spend the summer as interns in libraries and museums, at historic sites and at music festivals. These internships with collaborative organizations provide invaluable experience that enhances students' education and contributes to their ability to secure jobs after school.

Summer 2011 internships for PIANO TECHNOLOGY included Matthew Banks at the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro. North Carolina, Nowell Gatica at the Aspen Music Festival, Jon Guenther at the Tanglewood Music Festival and Ka Chun Ng at Interlochen Music Festival. Katie Anderson, Jordan Bailey, Eric Donnelly and Michael Wilson spent part of the summer working with the non-profit Sing for Hope.

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY summer internships included Dave Hanson at Mount Auburn Cemetery, William Burns, Jared Lodge and Frank DiFrancesco at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, Zoe Ciolfi at Strawbery Banke Museum, Nick Lemire at Sanborn Mills. Josh Miner and Adam Steeneck worked on a ranch in New Mexico; Eli Rak renovated a home in Lancaster, Massachusetts and Nick Turner worked with Payne/Bouchier Fine Builders.

BOOKBINDING students benefit from internships and work experience throughout the year. This summer, Arini Esarey enjoyed an artist residency at Makeshift Manufactory in Iowa City and a one-month internship at Harvard Graduate School of Design. During the spring semester, Arini was an intern at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Fionnuala Gerrity was an intern at Boston College and Celine Lombardi was an intern at the Boston Public Library. Caitlyn Thompson and Becky Koch were summer interns at Haverford College. Anna Shepard and Heather Stevick spent the summer as interns at Cave Paper in Minnesota and Henry Hebert did contract work at Harvard University's Baker Library conservation lab.



PIANO TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS OFTEN WORK IN TEAMS.

AN ALL-STAR LIST

By connecting to the rich institutional resources in the greater Boston area and beyond, North Bennet Street School has developed collaborations that enrich our programs, introduce new students to the school and enhance the learning environment.

SIMMONS COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY **SCIENCE** is participating in a program that brings Masters in Book Conservation students to NBSS for hands-on bookbinding training.

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN grants undergraduate credit for several NBSS bookbinding, woodworking and carpentry courses and the two schools recently launched a joint certificate program in furniture design.

BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE provides credit for NBSS classes for students enrolled in the certificate in Entrepreneurship or the Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration.

BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE sends furniture design students to NBSS for hands-on bench experience to enhance their Interior Design program.

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL, a North End K-8 public school sends 6th, 7th and 8th graders to NBSS for weekly woodworking classes (see story, page 22)

THE BOSTON ATHENAEUM and the BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY have established formal assistantship positions with the bookbinding program.

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC has established an assistantship program with the Piano Technology Department. Longstanding assistantship programs at HARVARD UNIVERSITY and BOSTON UNIVERSITY also employ NBSS piano technology students.

HISTORIC BOSTON INC. is our partner in Handmade Houses, an innovative preservation training program that engages preservation carpentry students.

STONYBROOK FINE ARTS, a metalworking studio in Jamaica Plain, works with us to offer welding, mold-making and electrolytic etching workshops.

SHAKER MUSEUM AND LIBRARY in New Lebanon, New York is a partner in several summer workshops and provides summer internships for preservation carpentry students.



AUGUST 1, 2010 - JULY 31, 2011

On behalf of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for fiscal year 2011.

The school had a solid year with revenues of \$4,619,874 and expenses of \$3,967,009. In comparison to fiscal year 2010, revenues increased by 7.98% while expenses rose by 6.21%. As a result of strong revenue and careful control of expenses, the school added \$652,866 to its net assets, bringing the total to \$6,298,022.

Students are benefiting from an increase in the number and size of scholarships offered by the school. The budget for school-funded financial assistance grew by more than 20%. This increase comes at an opportune time to aid students who are experiencing the pressure of the sluggish economic recovery.

Grant revenue, both restricted and unrestricted, exceeded expectations by 94% and 103% respectively with total grant revenue exceeding \$500,000. This increase reflects the school's progress in setting the stage for a capital campaign.

The Board wishes to acknowledge Daniel S. Cheever's service as past Treasurer. In addition to his tenure as Treasurer, his experience as head of a major educational institution in Boston, Simmons College, added a great wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board.

The Board again expresses its admiration for the school's administration and faculty in helping to maintain the school's financial stability in a very difficult economic environment.

Sincerely.

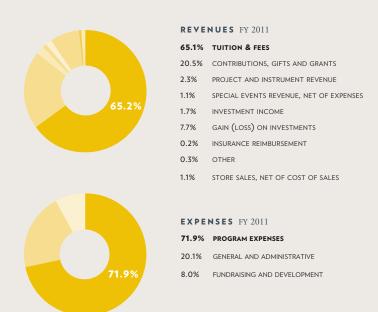
TREASURER

North Bennet Street School Statement of Activities

For the Years Ended July 31, 2011 and 2010

REVENUES	JULY 31 , 2011	JULY 31, 2010	%CHANGE
Tuition and fees	\$3,009,874	\$2,865,301	5.05%
Contributions, gifts and grants	946,765	955,536	-0.92
Project and instrument revenue	105,898	134,211	-21.10
Special events revenue, net of expenses	52,307	58,957	-11.28
Investment income	76,129	43,859	75.58
Gain (loss) on investments	354,903	155,553	128.16
Gain (loss) on sale of fixed assets	(1,085)	21	-5,266.67
Insurance reimbursement	9,986	0	
Other	14,992	9,860	52.05
Store sales, net of cost of sales	50,105	55,341	-9.46
Total Revenues	\$4,619,874	\$4,278,639	7.98%
EXPENSES			
Program expenses	\$2,851,016	\$2,719,516	4.84%
General and administrative	800,354	746,307	7.24
Fundraising and development	315,639	269,345	17.19
Total Expenses	\$3,967,009	\$3,735,168	6.21%
NET ASSETS			
Change in net assets	\$652,865	\$543,471	20.13%
Net assets at beginning of year	5,645,156	5,101,685	
Net assets at end of year	\$6,298,021	\$5,645,156	11.57%

This statement is an excerpt of the audited financial statements of North Bennet Street School.



GIFTS AND SUPPORT

North Bennet Street School relies on contributions to help control tuition costs while improving the quality of our programs and our physical space. It is because of our supporters that North Bennet Street School continues to thrive and grow as an institution that trains individuals for careers in traditional trades.

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Amanda Nelsen, BB '07

DONOR PROFILE

"I saw a need and I was delighted to find a way to fill that need. My goals were to leave a legacy for North Bennet Street School while at the same time making a provision for my own financial future."

NATALIE ALBERS has lived in New England for most of her life. She heard about North Bennet Street School when she was living in Milton, Massachusetts and was delighted to be asked to join the Board in 1980, beginning a 20-year Board tenure and a further decade as a member of the Corporation and Board of Overseers.

During her time on the Board, Natalie served on a number of committees including the Scholarship Committee. As she read scholarship applications, she learned that a North Bennet Street School education was a life-changing opportunity for students. As a result of her engagement, Natalie was inspired to make a legacy gift to the school. She set up a charitable remainder trust of which NBSS is the beneficiary. Natalie receives the income generated by the trust during her lifetime.

Natalie believes that her gift will inspire her children to do something similar — and she is thrilled to know that her gift will help future generations fulfill their dreams of productive and creative lives spent working in traditional trades.

As the result of her gift, Natalie is now a member of the 1885 Society, North Bennet Street School's Legacy Giving Society.

Graduates of North Bennet Street School's full-time programs are indicated by their program and graduation year.

"Over the past three years, North Bennet Street School has come to us with thoughtful proposals for innovative projects that break new ground in preservation education. We especially appreciate the collaborative nature of the school's approach and their interest in working with partner organizations such as Historic Boston Inc. and the Shaker Museum and Library in ways that leverage the expertise and resources of each organization. Funding these projects allows us to maximize the return on our investments in areas of critical concern to the 1772 Foundation."

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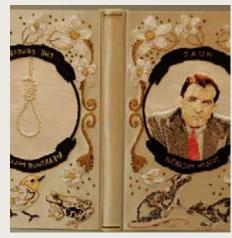
Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, May 17, 2011

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Erica Winberry, BB '12

Bradley Wolcott, CF '12





JEWELRY STUDENT SARA PANCOAST AND HER STERLING SILVER, 14K GOLD NECKLACE WITH GREEN TOURMALINE.

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ANNUAL EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT

Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts May 17, 2011

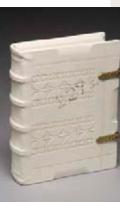
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STUDENT EXHIBIT AT ONE INTERNATIONAL PLACE.





"Learn the rules before you break them."

JEFF ALTEPETER, the head of the bookbinding department, is a 2003 graduate of the American Academy of Bookbinding and an alumnus of the NBSS program. After completing the NBSS program in 1999, Jeff worked at Harcourt Bindery and Harvard University's Tozzer Library. He serves as the chair of the New England Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers and operates a bindery in Somerville, Massachusetts specializing in leather bindings and boxes.

The binding 12711 shown here, was done as a class demo and illustrates the NBSS process of making models of book structures to explore traditional bookbinding materials and techniques. This Gothic model is sewn on double-raised cords with laced-on oak boards. Covered in 21st-century alum-tawed, tattooed pigskin, this model is a meditation on the challenge of re-creating a 500-year-old book. The pig skin is blind stamped with tools cut by Altepeter.

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In Boston's North End

North Bennet Street School has been a center for activity in the North End for well over one hundred years. The school enjoys a positive reputation in the neighborhood built on its long-standing commitment to serving the families of the North End and supporting local businesses. Students live and work in the neighborhood and remark that the school's location is one reason why they choose to study here.





(TOP PHOTO) WOODWORKING INSTRUCTOR ANDY GLENN. CF '08 WORKS WITH JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL STUDENTS (BOTTOM PHOTO) NBSS PIANO TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS ENJOY LUNCH IN THE NORTH END.

A NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION

NBSS has established a successful partnership with the nearby John Eliot School — a public K-8 school. The schools share a long history of collaboration and first worked together in the late 19th century. The current collaboration began when the schools jointly developed a pilot middle-school woodworking program in 2009 and recently expanded to include temporary space at NBSS for a John Eliot School art room, office and social studies classroom.

"The woodworking program at North Bennet Street School has made a huge impression on our students, many of whom have never had an opportunity to work with their hands. Woodworking enriches their learning in all areas and exposes them to new ways of thinking about their future. The connection with such a unique education resource is wonderful and the fact that it is right in the neighborhood is an added bonus"

- TRACI WALKER GRIFFITH, PRINCIPAL, JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

North Bennet Street School received a 2010 good neighbor recognition award from The North End Waterfront Residents Association.

