

INCubatoredu

Class helps students plan, create, and market new products

Students at Baker High School are putting their creativity to the grindstone in an effort to invent a product ready for market.

The class is called INCubatoredu. BHS business teacher Toni Zikmund discovered the program at a conference in San Antonio, Texas. It now part of the curriculum offerings at Baker High.

The program has a track record of success. For example, a team from Arlington Heights, Illinois, created a Hoodie Hoop to help rethread hood ties that come out in the wash.

Eight BHS students signed up for the year-long course.

The first order of business was to brainstorm a bug me list — little things that are irritating about products already in existence.

After narrowing down the list, each team chose one to research, design and hopefully market. The program depends on community involvement — from a board that hears pitches from the students for start-up funds to experts and mentors who meet with teams during the year. For information on how to get involved, email Zikmund at toni.zikmund@bakersd.org or call her at BHS, 541-524-2600.



The team of Hayden Owen, Nico Helmreich, and Spencer Smith visit with mentor Lea Gettle during a class session of INCubatoredu.

Here are the projects:

Gun Sling

The team of Hayden Owen, Spencer Smith and Nico Helmreich devised a harness system that solves the problem

of a gun slipping off one shoulder while hunting. Owen and Smith, while hunting, have experienced the annoyance of always using one hand to steady the gun.

Their invention, called HSN Straps, incorporates a harness and quick-release buckle.

Tea Infuser

Eric Bunarith and Taya Riley decided to explore the world of tea infusers, which typically feature an insert to be used with one specific bottle. They are creating a universal design that can fit a variety of bottles.

Fire suppression

Hunter Long is working on a fire suppression system for semi-trucks. In his preliminary planning he worked with chemistry teacher Robert Barrington to calculate compounds and amounts.

In his research, Long interviewed the Baker City fire chief and found that many interstate fires on semi-trucks.

The product will contain both baking soda and propionic acid that are separated by a barrier that melts at extreme heat. The two substances mix to create a foam that fills the engine cavity and smothers the fire.

Eco-friendly hygiene items

Gracie Farber and Payton Jones are working on packaging ideas that are more friendly to the environment. Their ideas include refills on liquids such as shampoo, conditioner and face wash at a discounted price.

More Shout Outs:

Thanks for the support

Shout out to Angela Lattin, Holly Miller, Cynthia Norton and the staff here at Brooklyn Primary that have endured my sporadic time off during my sons football and basketball games this school year. As many of you know Antonio is my one and only. So attending his events means so very much to me.

Additional shout out to Tammy Fry for always covering and helping me keep a consistent sub for my kindergarten friends.

Amanda Washington

A great grad coach

Kati Stuchlik has taken on the new position of Graduation Coach at the high school, and she is doing an amazing job in that role. Ms. Stuchlik

identifies students who are encountering struggles with school and provides guidance to support them in getting back on a positive track. She is making a huge impact with kids and this will show tremendous dividends in the near future.

Greg Mitchell

To the Keating staff:

I would like to send a shout-out to all of the staff at Keating Element-

tary School. I am so fortunate to work with such an amazing team of professionals every day. Even when life gets a little crazy, this team is able to keep on working as if nothing has changed. Every individual on our staff brings a unique strength that in return creates an unbreakable team. Thank you for being such wonderful educators and role models for our Keating students!

Amanda Wilde