



BATAVIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 101

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Watch Batavia High School Student Entrepreneurs Give Their Best Pitch Pitch Night - Wed., May 17, 6:30 p.m., Batavia Fine Arts Centre

April 24, 2017 (Batavia, IL) - Batavia High School juniors and seniors in the INCubator Entrepreneurship course have been preparing all year for the final Pitch Night on Wed., May 17, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the Batavia Fine Arts Centre. This “Shark Tank”-style event is open to the community and will include teams of three and four students pitching their new products and services to real business professionals from the local area.

The Incubator Entrepreneurship course from INCubatoredu offers BHS students a real entrepreneurship experience and is sponsored by the [Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence](http://BataviaFoundationforEducationalExcellence).

During class, students work in teams to create and fully develop a product or service, and local entrepreneurs and business experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors, guiding student teams through [Lean Startup](http://LeanStartup) processes of developing hypotheses about a business concept, testing those hypotheses, adapting, and further iteration. The program also includes foundational business topics such as marketing, human resources, business law, and finance.

“This is authentic learning for our students,” said Dr. Brad Newkirk, BPS101 Chief Academic Officer. “There are so many important skills that they are learning. They are problem solving with every obstacle that comes their way—and there are plenty. They are thinking on their feet, having to pivot on ideas, and are constantly collaborating with each other, their team mentor, coaches, and instructor. That’s real life, and that’s exciting.”

Batavia High School juniors and seniors in the INCubator Entrepreneurship course already got their first dose of the hot seat during first-round presentations to Batavia Foundation of Educational Excellence members and local business experts in February. All six teams that presented earned initial funding from the Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence.

The entire community is invited to the final Pitch Night at the Batavia Fine Arts Centre on Wed., May 17, 6:30 p.m., to find out which, if any, students will walk away funded business owners before high school graduation. Tickets are free, but must be reserved at BataviaFineArtsCentre.org. For more information about Pitch Night, including event sponsorship opportunities, visit BataviaFoundation.org.

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Batavia High School INCubator Board of Directors: Bob Hubbard, chairman, LivingWell Cancer Resource Center and former owner Hubbard's Ethan Allen Gallery; Matt Novak, president, BFC Print; Jeff Robinson, private bank sales manager, Fifth Third Bank; Matt Winkle, principal, Weldstar

Batavia High School INCubator Mentors: Jeff Adeszko, president, The Energy Bar; Joe Ambrose, CEO, SalesWerks, Inc.; Chris Behmer, president, REV Foodservice; Len Davis, owner, Pure Imagination; Gur Furkan, assistant professor, Department of Management, Northern Illinois University; Damon Morse, president, Chicagoland's Medical Service Organization