Computer Science and Robotics Volunteer Opportunities
at Brooke Charter Schools
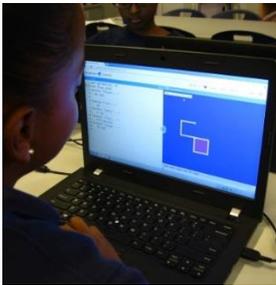
Brooke Charter Schools (www.ebrooke.org) – a network of three public K-8 schools in Roslindale, Mattapan, and East Boston, and a recently opened high school in Dorchester – are seeking volunteers from Boston-area technology companies and universities to support computer science and robotics initiatives at the four schools. This is a great opportunity for professionals, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, to connect with some of the brightest students in Boston and help build their awareness of and interest in college and career pathways in STEM fields.

About the Brooke Schools
Named after former Senator Edward W. Brooke III, the first African American popularly elected to the U.S. Senate, the Brooke Charter Schools provide an academically rigorous public education to students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea, helping to ensure that they are prepared to succeed in college and beyond. Brooke students - 91% of whom are Black and Latino, and 73% of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch – are among the highest achieving students in Massachusetts and have set a new bar for what is possible in urban public schools.

Computer Science at Brooke

At Brooke, we believe that computer science is a fundamental literacy for all students and essential preparation for those interested in pursuing technical degrees and STEM careers. In the elementary and middle school grades, our students study computer science 60 minutes per week, using a range of different technologies, including Bee-Bots, Scratch Jr., Code.org, Pencil Code, Scratch, LEGO Mindstorms, and App Inventor. Brooke High School, which welcomed its first class of 9th graders in August 2016, is building on this foundation, with three years of compulsory computer science and a fourth elective year. Our goal is to prepare every Brooke student to take an Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science exam.

Robotics at Brooke High School

As a complement to computer science in the academic program, robotics is a signature extra-curricular activity at Brooke High School. Our rookie team of 9th graders took part in two district events during the 2017 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) season, and we're committed to building on the success of this initial campaign to support a perennially competitive FIRST team. Robotics team meetings are held every Friday afternoon from 3:45PM to 6:00PM throughout the school year. During the FIRST build season (from early January to the end of February break), the team meets five days a week after school, and on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 6:00PM, to work on the competition robot. Brooke High's permanent facility in Mattapan, which is scheduled to open in August 2018, will feature a state-of-the-art makerspace to support the FIRST team's efforts.

How You Can Help
If you're a Boston-area professional or university student, we'd love to have your help! Here's how:
- Come to a Brooke school to speak to students about your experience in computer science or STEM.
- Provide one-to-one mentoring, classroom assistance, or code review for Brooke High School students.
- Support Brooke's FIRST Robotics team with on-site technical assistance, or access to tools and facilities.
- Arrange site visits or summer internships for highly-qualified Brooke High School students.

The time commitment is flexible. If you can come to a Brooke school for just one day, we'll arrange a visit. If you'd like to provide regular assistance to a class of students or to the FIRST Robotics team, we'll work out a convenient schedule. Just let us know what works for you.

Contact Us
For more information, please contact Angela Callado Kiley, Director of External Relations, by email (akiley@ebrooke.org) or phone (214-883-0646).