

## In the Spotlight...

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**Our Mission** – Flying Cloud Institute’s mission is to inspire young people and educators through dynamic experiences with science and art that ignite their creativity.

**Our Background** – Founded in 1984 by Jane and Larry Burke of New Marlborough as an art, science, and environmental education center run in their own backyard, FCI has grown to reach students and teachers throughout the county. We provide K-12 in-school residencies with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) professionals and artists, professional development for teachers, and after school/ vacation programs that include MakerSpaces, Robotics teams, and Girls Science Clubs as well as summer programs.

Berkshire County has the lowest median household income in the state and the majority of the jobs here are in the low-wage service sector. Our goals include reaching students at every step of their development to help them tap into their creative talents, investigate the phenomena of the world around them, and identify as capable, engaged members of their community. 100% of our high school mentors have graduated high school and 99% have gone on to college.

We are so grateful to the engineers, sculptors, scientists, dancers, and everyone who works with us to inspire and educate the next generation of creative professionals.

Bonus: We have lots of fun science and tech equipment and we are happy to share with other education organizations. We also love partnering with art and cultural institutes to bring creative experiences into the lives of the young people we work with. Give us a call!

**Our Blueprint for Success** – One of our alumni said it best: “Flying Cloud Institute doesn’t just teach science and art; they see children as scientists and artists who just happen to be young.”

Here is how we sustain that success for the next generation:

- 1. Stuff:** Your old boxes and cardboard rolls, your broken computers and tin foil! We are makers and we want our kids to be able to explore, investigate, and create with abandon. But we need cool stuff. Drop off donations at our office and say hello to the FCI team.
- 2. Volunteers:** Calling all STEM professionals, tinkerers, and artists! Our community is rich in talent and we’d love to have you spend an afternoon in the local schools, playing and working with us in a MakerSpace, Girls Science Club, or Robotics program.
- 3. Sponsorship:** There are more schools than ever asking for our programs. There are more families seeking financial aid. Your donation helps us say “Yes!” and bring transformative science and art programs to your local community.

### Contact Information –

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