BROOKLYN COLLABORATIVE

A NYC Outward Bound School

BCS CREW TIME CAPSULE PROJECT

A Snapshot of Your World, Right Now

Overview

2026 marks the 25th anniversary of Brooklyn Collaborative. Over the past quarter century, it has been an incredible journey of educating young people to be collaborative, kind, courageous, responsible, open-minded, and persistent.

When BCS was founded in 2001, our vision was to create a small school that nurtures both academic excellence and strong character—one that helps students see themselves not only as individuals, but as part of a larger movement for change. We are crew, not passengers. Each graduating class adds to the thousands of BCS alumni who are out in the world making a positive impact. Anniversaries offer a chance not only to look back on where we've been, but also to reflect on who we are right now—and who we are becoming.

In that spirit, for our 25th anniversary, we are excited to elevate our students' voices through a Crew Time Capsule project.

Time moves quickly, and before long, the details of everyday life today will fade. By creating a time capsule, your crew has the opportunity to document this moment in BCS history and in your own lives. This project invites you to work together to capture what it truly feels like to be a teenager right now—your routines, your worries, your humor, your hopes, and the big questions shaping your generation.

This is more than a scrapbook. It is a record of this milestone moment in our school's story—a way to honor the past, capture the present, and speak to the future. It is a gift to your future selves and to future BCS students.

The Task

Your crew (split) will collaboratively curate a time capsule. Your capsule should include a mix of physical or digital items, personal reflections, and cultural artifacts that together answer the question:

"What does it feel like to be us, right now?"

Your final capsule must include items from at least four of the five categories below. Every crew member is responsible for contributing at least one item, with a short written explanation of why it belongs in the capsule.

> 📦 **Box Constraint**
> All physical items must fit inside a box measuring 8.3 × 5 × 2.4 inches. Think carefully about size, format, and how to represent bigger ideas in compact form. A printed page, a folded note, a small object, a USB drive — these all work. A poster does not. Items will be placed first into a sealed plastic bag and then into the time capsule box for water-proofing protection. Time capsule boxes will be available in 416 - students can draw/write on the outside of the box with Sharpie markers.

The Five Categories

Your crew must contribute items from at least four of these five areas:

1. Everyday Life & Culture

What does a typical day or week actually look like for you? What does your generation consume, create, talk about, and laugh at?

Ideas to consider:

- A screenshot or printout of your most-used apps, playlists, or social media feeds
- A piece of slang or a phrase that's everywhere right now — with a definition, because future readers will need it
- A meme that captures something true about your life (with context explaining why it's funny)
- A typical school lunch, morning routine, or after-school schedule written out in detail - what's a typical day for you like at BCS?
- A playlist of songs that define this year
- A favorite crew lesson/activity or trip you have done together

2. The World You're Living In

What's happening in the world — locally, nationally, and globally — that your crew is living through? What are the big conversations your generation is having, and what do you want people in the future to know about this moment in history?

Ideas to consider:

- A written summary of a news story, policy debate, or social movement your crew thinks is important
- A collective statement on something your crew agrees matters — and why
- A school assignment or PBAT that has meaningful connections to our world
- A local snapshot — something specific to your city, neighborhood, or school this year
- A news headline from this week and your crew's reaction to it
- Prices of everyday things: a coffee, a movie ticket, a pair of sneakers, a concert ticket
- A question your generation is asking that adults aren't taking seriously enough
- An issue that affects teens specifically — mental health, school policy, climate, social media, etc.

3. Technology & the Digital World

Technology shapes your life in ways that would have been unimaginable to previous generations. Document it.

Ideas to consider:

- A description of what AI is being used for in your school or daily life right now
- A breakdown of the social media platforms you use — and which ones feel dying or rising
- A "digital footprint" summary: how many hours a day does your crew spend online, and doing what?
- A screenshot or description of the most viral moment online you can remember from this year

4. Personal Voices & Reflections

The most valuable time capsules include individual voices. This category is about you — not you as a type, but you specifically.

Ideas to consider:

- A short letter from each crew member to their future self (can be anonymous)
- A list of "things I know for sure right now" — beliefs, opinions, preferences
- A few anecdotes about how members of the crew have personified each of the BCS core values
- A drawing, photo, or creative piece that says something about this moment in your life
- A fear, a hope, and a question — one of each — from every crew member
- A collective "portrait" of the crew: who you are, why BCS has crew, what crew means, memories you have together

5. Predictions: 100 Years from Now

Think big — and think long. Someone born today will be 100 years old in 2126. What do you think the world will look like for them? This category asks your crew to make bold, reasoned predictions about the distant future.

Ideas to consider:

- A "Letter to 2126" from the crew — describing the world you're handing off and what you hope they've figured out
- Predictions about school: what will school - students/teachers/our building - be like in 2126?
- Predictions about technology: will AI have surpassed human intelligence? Will people live on other planets?
- Predictions about everyday life: how will people work, eat, travel, communicate, or fall in love?
- Predictions about the planet: what will the climate look like? Will cities be underwater? Will new ones exist?
- Predictions about things that will have disappeared — jobs, languages, countries, social norms
- Predictions about things that will still be exactly the same in 100 years — and why
- A question your crew thinks humans in 2126 will still be asking

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What Your Split Crew Will Submit - Deadline Fri May 1, 2026

Draft ideas due Fri April 24 (need Scill and Imani approval for items)

Your time capsule package should include:

1. The capsule contents — physical items, printed materials, or a digital folder of documents, images, and files.
2. A crew introduction page — who you are, the date, and a brief statement about what you hoped to capture and the spirit of crew.
3. An item log — a list of every item included, which category it belongs to, and a 2–4 sentence explanation of why it matters.
4. A crew reflection (1 page) — looking back at the process: What was hardest to agree on? What surprised you about what your crew chose to include? What do you hope a reader in 100 years will feel when they open it?

Everything must first be approved by school leadership. Once approved, items will be placed in a plastic bag and then into the time capsule box. Crews may write their name/grade/crew on the outside of the time capsule box. Once complete, time capsules will be buried in our school yard under planters… to be opened 100 years from now!

Guidelines & Tips

✦ **Be specific, not general.**

"Teens care about mental health" is easy to say. A photograph of the notes left on a school counselor's door, or a real conversation you've heard, is a time capsule. Specific beats generic every time.

✦ **Disagree productively.**

Your crew won't agree on everything — and that's actually great. If you argue about whether something belongs, write about the argument. Disagreement is data.

✦ **Think like an archaeologist.**

Imagine someone with no context opening this in 2126. Will they understand what they're looking at? Every item needs enough context to make sense to a stranger — especially one born long after you.

✦ **Split the work, share the vision.**

Divide into small groups by category, but come back together to make decisions about what makes the final cut. Every voice in the crew should shape the capsule.

Discussion Starters for Your Crew to Launch Brainstorm

Use these questions to kick off your planning conversations:

- If someone who knew nothing about your generation opened this in 100 years, what's the one thing you'd most want them to understand?
- What part of being a teenager right now do adults consistently get wrong?
- What's something about daily life in 2025–2026 that feels totally normal to you but would have seemed bizarre 100 years ago?
- Is there anything your crew is nervous or reluctant to include? Why — and should that reluctance tell you something?
- What's a question your generation is living with that doesn't have an answer yet?
- When you try to picture the world in 100 years, what's the first thing that comes to mind — and does it feel like hope or fear?

Seal it. Sign it. Make it real.

A time capsule only works if the people who made it meant it.
AT BCS, WE ARE CREW, NOT PASSENGERS.