



Breakthrough Birmingham

2017 NEW SCHOLAR APPLICATION

Breakthrough Birmingham, a partnership with Birmingham City Schools, is a tuition-free, academic advancement program that supports motivated students on the path to college. Scholars commit to the program for three summers, beginning the summer before 7th grade and completing the summer before 9th grade.

NEW SCHOLAR APPLICATION:

- _____ 1. Information Form
- _____ 2. Student & Parent/Guardian Commitments
- _____ 3. Student Essay
- _____ 4. Most Recent Grades Please attach a copy of your most recent report card.

Please contact Linn Groft if you have any questions: LGroft@breakthroughcollaborative.org or (205)440-7600. Packet should be e-mailed to LGroft@breakthroughcollaborative.org or mailed to:

Linn Groft
Breakthrough Birmingham
205 20th Street North, Suite 822
Birmingham, AL 35203

Alternatively, you may complete the packet online at www.breakthroughbirmingham.com.

Priority Application Deadline: February 16, 2017

Regular Application Deadline: March 16, 2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Breakthrough Birmingham?

Breakthrough Birmingham, a partnership with Birmingham City Schools, is a tuition-free, academic advancement program that supports motivated students on the path to college. Scholars commit for three summers, beginning the summer before 7th grade and completing the summer before 9th grade.

The summer program runs five days a week for six weeks. Breakthrough provides a high-energy, high-expectation environment for you to learn and have fun. You'll have the opportunity to get ahead with engaging classes in mathematics, literature, writing, and science, as well as a chance to explore new passions and activities with elective options that change every year. Previous electives have included step dance, art, creative writing, spoken word, journalism, competitive debate, and drumming. We will also have several field trips, including Career Day visits with local professionals, college campus tours (8th and 9th grade), an off-site community service project, and more!

Breakthrough is a competitive program and an opportunity for you to enrich your summer and invest in your future, so students who are accepted are expected to attend the full program every day, with no more than three absences, which must be excused.

How do I apply?

After completing the attached application, scan and email all application materials to LGroft@breakthroughcollaborative.org or mail to the following address:

Breakthrough Birmingham
205 20th Street North, Suite 822
Birmingham, AL 35203

Breakthrough Birmingham staff will contact you when they have received your application to set up a 20-minute interview. Acceptance into the program will be determined after the interview process.

When is the application due?

For priority admission to Breakthrough Birmingham, please submit your application no later than **Thursday, February 16, 2017**. We will continue to accept applications through our regular deadline, Thursday, March 16, 2017, but you are encouraged to submit your application earlier because we expect the program to fill up quickly.

When is the Breakthrough Birmingham program in Summer 2017?

The Summer 2017 program runs June 12 through July 21, 2017, from 8am to 3pm Monday through Friday.

Is Breakthrough for me?

Are you a current sixth-grade student from Birmingham City Schools who aspires to go to college? Are you highly-motivated and hard-working? Are you willing to push yourself to excel? Do you enjoy learning and being creative? If you answered yes, then Breakthrough might be the perfect fit for you!

Breakthrough is a challenging program that is meant to help you achieve your best. We are looking for students who are willing to make mistakes, learn from them, and push themselves to their fullest potential. Scholars commit to maintain at least an A or B average in all their classes year-round and to maintain positive behavior records. If you start to struggle with any subject, Breakthrough will offer tutoring and other support to make sure you have all the tools you need to excel in your classes.

Who are the Breakthrough teachers?

One aspect of Breakthrough that our students love the most is our teachers. Breakthrough teachers are high-achieving and diverse college students who come from colleges and universities throughout Alabama and *across the country* to work with you! Our teachers come from UAB, Alabama, Harvard, Stanford, Auburn, Yale, and many other top colleges. So, when you're at Breakthrough, not only will you have the opportunity to learn in your classes, but you'll also have the chance to develop relationships with successful college students who are eager to help you get to where they are now.

The teacher selection process is extremely competitive and we are very selective: we choose less than 30% of the teachers who apply to work with us because we want you to have the best experience possible. The teachers undergo an intensive teacher-training program where they learn to design rigorous, engaging classes and use instructional strategies that teach to the way the brain works! Our teachers all love to learn and want to share their creative ideas with you. They work with professional teachers to ensure students leave the classroom with the skills they need to be successful in the most challenging high schools and colleges. Breakthrough students often say that the Breakthrough teachers are the most engaging and fun teachers they've ever worked with!

Will there be homework?

Of course! Breakthrough is an academic program for students who want to work hard, learn, and have fun. Homework teaches valuable skills and reinforces what you're learning during the day. Scholars will be assigned approximately two hours of engaging homework each night during the summer program. Your teacher will help make sure you are equipped to complete your homework each night.

Are meals and transportation provided?

Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are provided every day during the program. The program will be hosted at a Birmingham City school. Buses are available to take students to the site every day. Pick-up and drop-off will be at your home school.

Any helpful advice for the application?

There are many applicants who are very hard-working and talented, but there are a limited number of spaces in the program. Regardless of whether you are admitted to the program, completing this application will be a great learning process. Write a rough draft so your writing is your best, and use blue or black pen, not pencil, on the final draft of your application. Alternatively, if you choose to type your responses, use a 12-point font and attach additional pages as needed. Be yourself and have fun!

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Linn Groft at (205)440-7600 or LGroft@breakthroughcollaborative.org

PART 1: Information Form

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Gender _____ Birth Date _____

Home Phone _____ Student Cell _____

Student Email Address _____

Current School _____

2017-18 School (if different) _____ 2017-2018 Grade _____

How did you hear about Breakthrough? (Circle all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| School Principal | School Teacher |
| School Guidance Counselor | SpeakFirst Program Staff |
| Growing Kings Program Staff | Other Extracurricular Program Staff |
| Birmingham Education Foundation Staff | Network Night with Bham Education Foundation |
| Friend or Family Member | PTA/School meeting |
| Email | Birmingham City Schools Website |
| Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | Other: _____ |

Has anyone in your family ever attended breakthrough before? (circle one) YES NO

If yes, what is their name? How are you related? _____

Student's Race/Ethnicity (Circle one)

Black or African American Hispanic or Latino
American Indian or Alaska Native Two or More Races/Ethnicities
Prefer Not to Answer Other: _____

Does the student qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch?

Yes No Unsure Prefer Not to Answer

Annual Household Income (circle one)

Less than \$10,000 \$10,001 – 20,000 \$20,001-30,000 \$30,001-40,000
\$40,001 – 50,000 \$50,001 – 70,000 More than \$70,000 Prefer Not to Answer

Choose the option that best describes the student's family/household:

Single Parent Household Parents/Guardians are Married Parents/Guardians are
Separated
Parents/Guardians are Divorced Other: _____
Prefer Not to Answer

Language(s) Spoken at Home:

English Spanish Arabic Other: _____

Student's T-Shirt Size: (circle one)

Youth Medium Youth Large Adult Small Adult Medium
Adult Large Adult XLarge Adult 2XL Adult 3XL

PARENT/GUARDIAN #1

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to student (e.g. mother, father, aunt) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Parent/ Guardian Cell _____

Which is the preferred phone? _____ Email _____

Highest Level of Completed Education? (circle one)

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Elementary School (through 5 th grade) | Middle School (6 th – 8 th grade) | High School, No Diploma |
| High School Diploma | G.E.D. | Some College, No Degree |
| Associates Degree | Bachelor’s Degree | Post-Graduate Degree |
| Other: _____ | Prefer Not to Answer | |

PARENT/GUARDIAN #2

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to student (e.g. mother, father, aunt) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Parent/ Guardian Cell _____

Which is the preferred phone? _____ Email _____

Highest Level of Completed Education? (circle one)

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Elementary School (through 5 th grade) | Middle School (6 th – 8 th grade) | High School, No Diploma |
| High School Diploma | G.E.D. | Some College, No Degree |
| Associates Degree | Bachelor’s Degree | Post-Graduate Degree |
| Other: _____ | Prefer Not to Answer | |

PART 2: Breakthrough Birmingham Student & Parent/Guardian Commitments

Students and parents should read and understand the commitment below, and then sign on the line.

THE BREAKTHROUGH SCHOLAR COMMITMENT

If accepted to Breakthrough Birmingham, I agree to uphold these commitments:

- ◆ To fully complete Breakthrough Birmingham’s summer programming, with no more than 3 absences (excused)
- ◆ To work hard to maintain an average of 80% or above in all classes, at school and Breakthrough
- ◆ To be present and punctual every time I come to Breakthrough
- ◆ To bring with me a positive attitude, respect, and the willingness to work hard
- Access to tutoring during the school year in 7th and 8th grades to help you maintain high grades in all your classes

In exchange for this commitment, I expect Breakthrough Birmingham to provide the following:

- ◆ Academic challenges and engaging opportunities to learn
- ◆ Instruction provided by high-achieving current college students
- Access to successful college students as instructors, role models, and mentors
- Support to help you achieve your goals
- Opportunities to make new friends and have fun
- An understanding of the exciting high school – and eventually college – opportunities that await me

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

THE BREAKTHROUGH PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT

If my child is accepted to Breakthrough Birmingham, I commit to support my child to fulfill his/her Breakthrough commitment by doing the following:

- Ensure that my child fully attends every day of the program (no more than 3 absences) and completes all assignments
- Encourage my child to work hard to be successful in school and to earn a college degree as a path to life-long success
- Encourage my child to be focused, driven, enthusiastic, and curious about learning
- Encourage my child to serve as a positive community member who exhibits leadership and respect for others
- Help my child to maintain an A or B average in all classes in middle school
- Set high goals for my child and help her or him work towards achieving them

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Date: _____

PART 4: Recent Report Card

Attach a copy of your most recent report card.