

If This Sounds Like You, Apply to Breakthrough!

Breakthrough Saint Paul Student Profile

Breakthrough Saint Paul is forming its next class of 50 sixth grade students from Saint Paul Public Schools and making a commitment to help these students get to college. Our goal in recruiting students for Breakthrough Saint Paul is to identify young people who are in need of and who will take full advantage of the opportunities that the program offers.

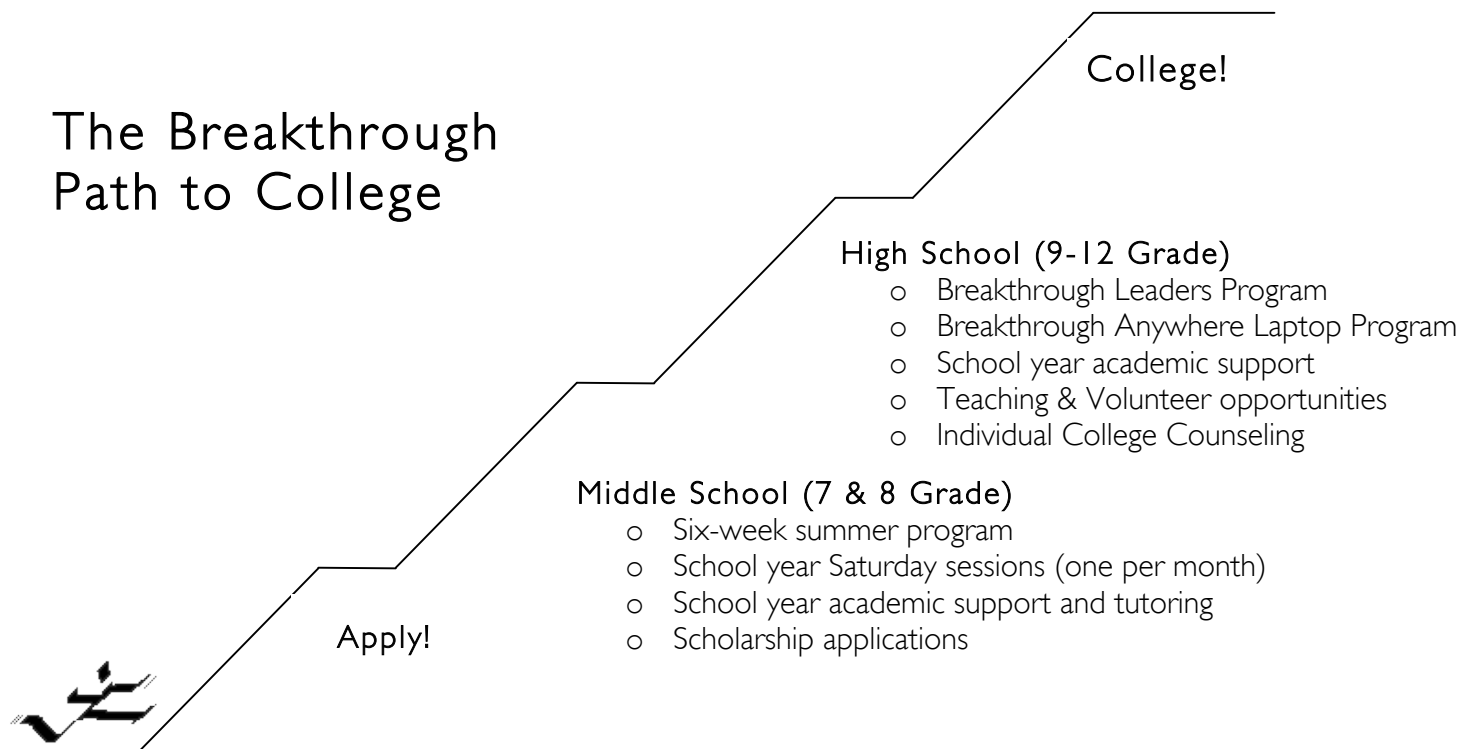
Key characteristics of Breakthrough Saint Paul students include:

1. Motivation to learn, work hard, and get to college
2. Ability to produce excellent work
3. Ability to commit fully to the six-year program
4. Consistent attendance in school
5. Respectful behavior in class with peers
6. Appreciation of differences among others
7. Need for the program
8. A parent, guardian, or close family member committed to their success in the program

In addition, Breakthrough Saint Paul students typically meet two or more of the following criteria:

- Are the first in their families to attend a four-year college
- Are low-income (qualify for free and reduced lunch)
- Speak a language other than English at home
- Are from a single-parent family
- Identify as a racial or ethnic minority group that is under-represented in college.
- Attend a Title I School
- Have experienced some sort of relationship stress (i.e. parent passed away, terminal illness, etc.)

The Breakthrough Path to College



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

What commitments will I have to make to Breakthrough Saint Paul?

If you are accepted to Breakthrough Saint Paul as a student, you are expected to participate actively in the program starting the summer before seventh grade through the end of your senior year in high school.

What is the Breakthrough summer 2012 schedule?

Breakthrough Saint Paul takes place Monday through Friday, June 25^h through August 3rd, 2012, with Celebration in the afternoon and evening of August 4th, 2012. The program hours are approximately 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (with a longer day on August 4th). Due to transportation scheduling, there may be some alterations to this schedule—if so, we will notify families as soon as possible.

Is it OK to miss a few days of the program for vacation?

Daily attendance at Breakthrough Saint Paul is **mandatory**, except in cases of illness. With only 40 days of programming each year, students who are absent will fall behind quickly and miss valuable instruction. If your family is planning an extended vacation during the Breakthrough dates, you should not apply to the program.

Where is Breakthrough Saint Paul?

Breakthrough Saint Paul is hosted by Mounds Park Academy at 2051 Larpenteur Ave East, St. Paul, MN 55109

Is transportation provided?

If students live in Saint Paul and attend a Saint Paul Public School (SPPS), buses will pick up and drop off students at points near their homes. If students do not live in Saint Paul or change schools to a non-SPPS school, families are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the program.

Are meals provided?

Yes. During the summer, we will provide breakfast, lunch, and snack to all students. You may bring lunch if you desire.

How much does the program cost?

Nothing. Breakthrough Saint Paul is **tuition-free** for students. Due to support from Mounds Park Academy, the Saint Paul Public Schools and numerous supporters, students pay nothing to participate. We expect families and students to “pay” for the program through their commitment.

When do I find out if I am accepted?

All student applications are due by February 8, 2012. BSP takes approximately one month to review all applications. In mid-March, we notify those students and families who we would like to accept that they are invited to a final in-person enrollment interview. Students and families who complete that interview fully and successfully will be enrolled in the program for the next six years. Unfortunately, because of a limited number of spaces, we cannot accept every student who applies.

What are the responsibilities of Breakthrough parents and guardians?

Parental support is very important for academic success and that holds true at Breakthrough Saint Paul. We will ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends the program every day and does his or her homework consistently. There are also a couple of events and an individual meeting that parents must attend annually. Details are available in the parent statement of the application.

How do I apply to Breakthrough Saint Paul?

There are four parts to the application: 1) Student Statement; 2) Parent Statement; 3) Teacher Recommendations; and 4) Student Information Release Form. Complete each of these parts no later than Wednesday February 8, 2012. Due to the high number of applications received each year, incomplete or late applications will not be considered for acceptance.



Breakthrough

Saint Paul

Mounds Park Academy & Saint Paul Public Schools

Part 1: Student Statement

Students: Complete Part 1 yourself. Please print clearly using PEN. Short answer responses may be handwritten on a separate page if you would like to write more than the space allows.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
 first middle last

Address: _____
 number street city state zip code

Email: _____ Check One: Male or Female

Date of Birth: _____ Country of Birth: _____ Primary Language Spoken at Home: _____

Ethnic Background (Optional) African/African-American Asian/Asian-American Caucasian
 Hispanic/Latino American Indian/Alaska Native Other _____

Has anyone else in your family attended Breakthrough? No or Yes Name(s): _____

School Information

School Name: _____ Your Grade: _____ Student ID # _____

Teachers writing your recommendations: _____ and _____

Name of teacher or gifted services contact copying your grades and test scores: _____

Name and location (city, state) of previous schools you have attended, starting with first grade:

1. School _____ Location _____ Grades _____

2. School _____ Location _____ Grades _____

3. School _____ Location _____ Grades _____

Short Answer Questions

Please answer each question using complete sentences.

Why are you applying to Breakthrough Saint Paul?

What does leadership mean to you? Describe a time when you were a leader.

Tell us about a time when you were confronted with a difficult academic challenge. How did you deal with it?

What is your favorite subject in school and why?

What are your favorite things to do outside of school (hobbies, special interests, etc.)? Why do you enjoy them?

What are your future goals? How is attending college going to help you reach these goals?

Essay

On a separate piece of paper, neatly write (in blue or black ink) or type an essay about **ONE** of the topics below. Your essay should be one page long and should demonstrate your best writing. It is a good idea to write a rough draft first. We also encourage you to have someone check your essay for grammar and spelling, but the ideas and words should all be yours.

- A. Write about one accomplishment you are most proud of. Why was this accomplishment important to you? What other accomplishments do you hope to achieve in the future?
- B. Write about one difficult decision you have had to make. Why did you make that decision? What were the consequences of that decision? How did this decision impact your life?
- C. Describe your dream job and what steps you would take in order to reach it.



Express Yourself!

**** Optional ****

If you would like to attach another item to show or tell us more about you, we would love to see your short story, poem, rap, drawing or other piece of creative work that showcases your talents. Please put your name on it.

Statement of Understanding

I understand that Breakthrough Saint Paul is a six-year commitment. During 7th and 8th grade, I will participate fully for six weeks each summer (dates for summer 2012 are June 25 – August 4, 2012) from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (longer on Aug 4th) and on 8 Saturday sessions during the school year. I also understand that Breakthrough Saint Paul requires that I do one and a half hours of homework each weeknight during the summer, enroll in honors courses during the school year, attend one half-day Saturday session per month, and complete weekly tutoring or other 1-1 support if my grades drop below a B-. During high school, I will participate in the offered laptop program and work hard to get into a four-year college.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

After you complete this part of the application, give it to your teacher with your essay and optional "Express Yourself" work attached.

Deadline: February 8, 2012



Breakthrough Saint Paul

Mounds Park Academy & Saint Paul Public Schools

Part 2: Parent or Guardian Statement

Parents or Guardians: Please complete this form in pen and have your child return it to his or her teacher with the rest of the application by February 8, 2012.

Name of Student _____ Student ID # _____
first middle last

Mother or Guardian Information

Name _____ Relationship to Student _____
first middle last

Address _____
number street city state zip code

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Cell () _____

Email _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____

Ethnic Background (optional) African American Asian American Caucasian
 Hispanic/ Latino American Indian Other _____

Education completed Some High School High School or GED Vocational or Technical Degree
 2 Year College 4 Year College Masters Degree Doctoral Degree

Father or Guardian Information

Name _____ Relationship to Student _____
first middle last

Address _____
number street city state zip code

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Cell () _____

Email _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____

Ethnic Background (optional) African/African-American Asian/Asian-American Caucasian
 Hispanic/ Latino American Indian Other _____

Education completed Some High School High School or GED Vocational or Technical Degree
 2 Year College 4 Year College Masters Degree Doctoral Degree

Family Information

Student's parent(s)/guardian(s) are (check all that apply)

Married Partnered Widowed Separated Divorced Single Parent

With whom does the child primarily reside?

One parent/guardian Two parents/guardians Other _____

Family Income:

Less than \$10,000 \$10,000 – \$20,000 \$20,001- \$30,000 \$30,001-\$50,000 \$50,001-\$70,000
 \$70,001 and above

What is the primary language spoken at home? _____

Other languages spoken at home (Optional): _____

Number of children living in your home that you support: _____

Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch: Yes No Is your child a brother or sister of a BSP student?: Yes No

Do you have a computer at home? Yes No Do you have internet access at home? Yes No

Please describe you child's strengths, talents and academic abilities.

Why would you like your child to be a Breakthrough Saint Paul student? What do you hope he or she would gain from the experience?

Please list special activities your child is involved in that are important to him or her (e.g. music lessons, dance classes, other programs, church groups, etc.).

How will you support and encourage your student's success in the Breakthrough program and in middle and high school?

How much time, on average, does your child spend on homework each night? _____

Do you think he/she should spend more or less time on homework? _____

Expectations for Breakthrough Saint Paul Families

Students and parents recognize that participating in Breakthrough Saint Paul is a six-year commitment with the goal of four-year college acceptance. Breakthrough students and families recognize the importance of rigorous middle and high school curriculum, which prepares students to go on to college. Breakthrough Saint Paul will provide academic support throughout each student's program experience, so that he or she can be best prepared for college and beyond. The Breakthrough Saint Paul program expectations are outlined below.

Middle School - Summer Program

During summer before seventh grade and before eighth grade, students attend the six-week Breakthrough Summer Program Monday through Friday. During this time it is expected that students complete one and a half hours of homework per evening.

Summer Program Dates 2012

June 21	Back to Breakthrough Night
June 25	First Day of the Summer Program
July 4	No Programming
July 12	Parent Conferences (evening)
August 3	Last Day of the Summer Program
August 4	Celebration (all day for students, evening for families)

Do you see any possible conflicts with Summer Program attendance or completing homework?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

Middle School - School Year Program

Students will attend approximately 8 half-day (9:00am-12:30pm) Saturday sessions during their seventh and eighth grade school years. It is expected that students attend all Saturday sessions. Students are also expected to enroll in at least one challenge, pre-AP or pre-IB course during their seventh and eighth grade years. Students must also maintain a B- or better grade in each subject; dropping below a B- will result in mandatory 1-1 support. Students are also expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity each year, aside from Breakthrough.

School Year Program Dates 2012

September 2012 - May 2013 (Exact days to be announced August 2012)

Do you see any possible conflicts with School Year Program attendance or expectations?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

High School Program

BSP plans to provide each high school student with a personal laptop computer to learn basic computer skills, access extra enrichment opportunities, plan and apply for college, and stay in close communication with the program. We expect that students complete one online lesson or check-in each week. BSP will also provide individual college counseling to support students in their college search and the application process.

Students in high school are expected to enroll in at least one AP, IB or honors courses per year, in addition to maintaining a B- or better grade in each subject; dropping below a B- will result in mandatory 1-1 support. Students are also expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity, create a detailed summer plan, and apply to at least one contest and/or scholarship each year.

Students may also apply to be part of the Breakthrough Leadership Program during the summer after eighth grade. This program focuses on leadership development and requires attendance during the six-week summer program in addition to a trip to the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area.

Additional opportunities for students to be involved with Breakthrough as tutors and teachers will also be available throughout high school.

Do you see any possible conflicts with High School Program involvement or expectations?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

Family Involvement

Breakthrough Saint Paul is able to achieve the results it does because everyone involved sets and meets high expectations. Families play an important role in the program and can help each student be successful. This includes supporting your student in his or her academic endeavors, in addition to participating in Breakthrough events throughout the year. Applicant finalists and their families will be invited to an enrollment interview with program staff during the months of March – May to discuss enrollment in the Breakthrough program. This interview is required for all finalists in order to be enrolled in the Breakthrough program.

Family Involvement Dates 2012

March - May	Student and Family Interviews
June 21	Back to Breakthrough Night
July 12	Family Conferences
August 4	Celebration

Additionally, each Breakthrough family is expected to meet individually with BSP staff at least once per year to discuss student progress and to focus on a particular issue relevant to each grade (e.g. high school transitions in 8th grade).

Do you see any possible conflicts with these dates or commitments?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

Transportation

Due to the generosity of Saint Paul Public Schools, Breakthrough Saint Paul provides transportation to and from the program at Mounds Park Academy during both the summer and school year to those students who attend Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) and who live in Saint Paul. If you do not live in Saint Paul or if your child leaves SPPS after being enrolled in BSP, you will be responsible for transportation to and from the program.

Do you live in St. Paul? Yes No. Please explain how your child will get to and from the program: _____

Statement of Understanding

I/We understand that Breakthrough Saint Paul requires the entire family to make a six-year commitment. Each student must attend the middle school summer and school year program for two years, followed by participation in the high school program. I/ We give permission for my/our sixth grader to apply and we will make sure our student is an active participant throughout the program.

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Any questions? Please call the Breakthrough Saint Paul office: 651-748-5504.

Reminders:

- Please make sure your child gives this form to his or her teacher by February 8, 2012.
- Please sign the "Student Information Release Form" and have your child take it to his or her teacher.



Breakthrough

Saint Paul

Mounds Park Academy & Saint Paul Public Schools

Part 3: Teacher Recommendation

Students: Write your name on this page and give it to a math, language arts, science or social studies teacher.

Student's Name _____ School _____ Student ID# _____

Teacher's Name _____ Subject (s) Taught _____

This student is applying to Breakthrough Saint Paul, a tuition-free, academic enrichment program. Breakthrough Saint Paul consists of a six-week summer session followed by sessions on 8 Saturday mornings during the school year. Breakthrough Saint Paul provides academic support and mentoring to students with academic potential. We are seeking a diverse group of students who are intellectually curious, who can work well with others and who have a "fire in the belly" to learn. We appreciate your honest responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please contact call 651-748-5504 **or email** acooper@moundsparkacademy.org. Thank you for your help!

Please circle the response that best suits the student, in relation to the other students you teach.

Academic	No Basis for Judgement	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Outstanding
Academic Motivation	N	1	2	3	4
Attitude toward homework	N	1	2	3	4
Study habits/organization	N	1	2	3	4
Writing skills	N	1	2	3	4
Math skills	N	1	2	3	4
Intellectual curiosity	N	1	2	3	4
Overall academic skills/aptitude	N	1	2	3	4
Personal					
Willingness to try new activities	N	1	2	3	4
Ability to be a group leader	N	1	2	3	4
Willingness to volunteer in class	N	1	2	3	4
Enthusiasm for class projects	N	1	2	3	4
Ability to work independently	N	1	2	3	4
Self-confidence	N	1	2	3	4
Reaction to criticism	N	1	2	3	4
Sense of humor	N	1	2	3	4
Concern for fellow students	N	1	2	3	4
General level of maturity	N	1	2	3	4
Creativity	N	1	2	3	4
Ability to work well with adults	N	1	2	3	4
Overall personal qualities	N	1	2	3	4

Please complete back side...



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Willingness to volunteer in class	N	1	2	3	4
Enthusiasm for class projects	N	1	2	3	4
Ability to work independently	N	1	2	3	4
Self-confidence	N	1	2	3	4
Reaction to criticism	N	1	2	3	4
Sense of humor	N	1	2	3	4
Concern for fellow students	N	1	2	3	4
General level of maturity	N	1	2	3	4
Creativity	N	1	2	3	4
Ability to work well with adults	N	1	2	3	4
Overall personal qualities	N	1	2	3	4

Please complete back side...



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Part 4: Student Information Release Form

Parents: Please complete this form and have your child take it to the Breakthrough contact at his or her school.

To the Administration of _____ school:

I give my permission to you to release the following information for my child for the purpose applying to the Breakthrough Saint Paul program:

- 5th and 6th grade report card
- 5th grade MCA test results

Student Name _____

Student ID # _____

I understand that you will copy the above information for the teacher coordinating student applications to Breakthrough Saint Paul. The teacher will attach the above information to our student's applications form and send the complete application to Breakthrough Saint Paul at Mounds Park Academy by the application deadline of **February 8, 2012**. We expect that the information will only be shared with members of the Breakthrough Saint Paul student selection committee.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____

School Administrator(s): Please print out and attach the requested MCA & grade report information to the student's completed application form.