

Student Application



Breakthrough

Saint Paul

Mounds Park Academy & Saint Paul Public Schools

Information for Students and Families



What is Breakthrough Saint Paul?

Breakthrough Saint Paul is a summer and school year academic program for talented junior high students, where all of the teachers are high school and college students. Everyone at Breakthrough Saint Paul comes to learn, challenge themselves, and have fun. Students take classes in math, science, history and English and experience engaging activities like theatre, music, art and athletics. Breakthrough students agree to be a part of the program for two years, coming every day for six weeks during the summer and 14 Saturday mornings during the school year.

Our young teachers are all trained and supervised by professional mentor teachers. Breakthrough Saint Paul believes that the “Students Teaching Students” model is an exciting way for young people to teach and learn from one another. With aspiring teachers who are excited about learning serving as role models and mentors, Breakthrough students begin to internalize the importance of education in their own lives and take responsibility seeking challenges in school.

How much does Breakthrough Saint Paul cost?

Nothing. Breakthrough Saint Paul is TUITION-FREE for students. Due to the generous support of Mounds Park Academy, Saint Paul Public Schools, and numerous individuals, businesses, and foundations, students pay nothing to participate. Your two-year, year-round commitment to Breakthrough is how you “pay” for this experience.

Continued on back of adjacent sheet...

A Breakthrough student debates mock legislation on the Minnesota House of Representatives floor during a field trip organized by two aspiring teachers as part of their social studies class.

If This Sounds Like You, Apply to Breakthrough!

Breakthrough Saint Paul Student Profile

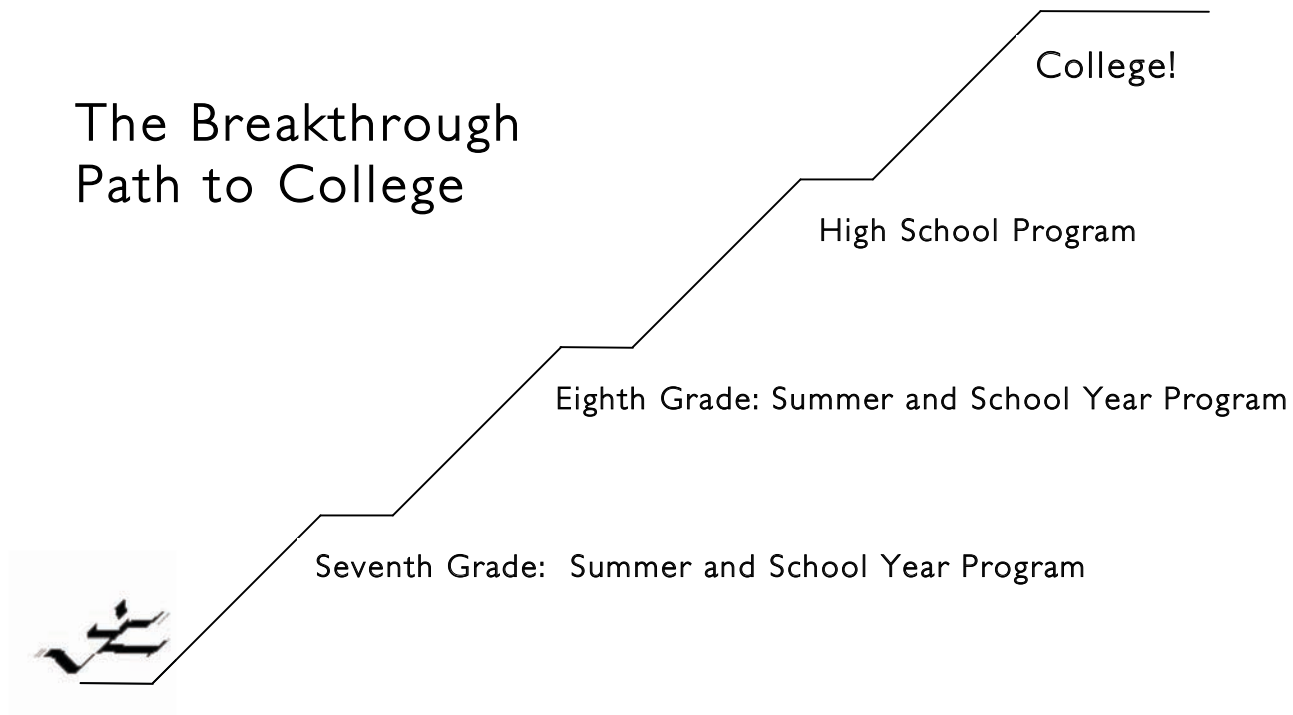
Breakthrough Saint Paul is forming its next class of 45 sixth grade students from Saint Paul Public Schools and making a commitment to help these students get to college. Our goal in recruiting students for Breakthrough Saint Paul is to identify young people who are in need of and who will take full 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 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, many (but not all) Breakthrough Saint Paul students:

- Are the first in their families to complete a four-year college
- Are low-income (qualify for free and reduced lunch).



INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES CONTINUED...

Is Breakthrough Saint Paul for everyone?

Breakthrough students do not have to get perfect grades in school, but they do have to have a desire to learn, try new things, and have fun. Breakthrough students have a strong desire to achieve academically and to be leaders—preparing themselves for challenging high schools and colleges.

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 summer before seventh grade, the school year of seventh grade, the summer before eighth grade, and the school year of eighth grade. Afterwards, you will be invited to continue in our high school program.

Is there homework?

Of course! Breakthrough Saint Paul is an academic program for students eager to discover and grow. Homework is an important part of that learning. Two hours of homework each weeknight during the summer will be expected from all participants.

What is the Breakthrough summer 2008 schedule?

Breakthrough Saint Paul takes place Monday through Friday, June 23 through August 1, 2008, with Celebration on the evening of August 2, 2008. The program hours are approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Due to transportation scheduling, there may be some alterations to this schedule—if so, we will notify families as soon as possible. We will have one day off on Friday, July 4.

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. The summer program is very short and students who miss days will fall behind quickly. 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 205 I Larpenteur Avenue East, St. Paul, MN

Is transportation provided?

If students live in St. Paul, buses will pick up and drop off students at points near their homes. If students do not live in St. Paul, families are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the program.

Is lunch provided?

Yes. We will provide breakfast, lunch, and snack to all students. You may bring lunch if you desire.

When do I find out if I am accepted?

Decision letters will be mailed out in mid-March. We would like to accept every student into the program, but because we have a limited number of spaces, we cannot accept everyone 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 few events that parents must attend:

- A Welcome Event before the summer begins, scheduled for Saturday May 17.
- Family conferences, scheduled for the evening of Thursday, July 10.
- Celebration, event where students demonstrate all they have learned over the summer, August 2.

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 by Friday February 15, 2008



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Part I: Student Statement

Students: Complete Part I yourself. Please type or print clearly using pen.

Personal Information

Name _____ Preferred Name _____
first middle last

Address _____
number street city state zip code

Phone (____) _____ Email _____ Check One: Male or Female

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

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

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.

**A two-year program with school in the summer? Homework each night? Mandatory attendance?
Wow! Why are you applying?!**

Describe a time when you were a leader? What was the biggest challenge you faced?

Name one person you admire. Why do you admire him or her?

What are your interests outside of school (hobbies, sports, etc.)?

What do you like best about who you are? What makes you different from everyone else?

What do you like best about school?

What do you like least about school?

Do you find your homework at school (check one): too easy too hard about right

Essay

On a separate piece of paper, write an essay about one of the topics below. Your essay should be about a 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. Imagine yourself as an adult. What will you be doing? What will your life be like?
- B. Describe a problem in your community. How could it be solved?
- C. What do you think the best invention or discover throughout history has been? How has it positively impacted our lives?
- D. Write about what you would do on a magical day—when you could be anybody you wanted to be, go anywhere you wanted to go, and do anything you wanted to do.



Express Yourself!

**** optional ****

If you would like to attach another piece of paper to show us more about you, we would love to see your drawings, poetry, math equations, a rap or anything else you want to share! Please do not forget to put your name on it.

Statement of Understanding

I understand that Breakthrough Saint Paul is a two-year program, year-round commitment. This summer I will participate every weekday from June 23 to August 2, approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and I am committed to attending summer celebration on the evening of August 2. I will also participate twice a month during the school year on 14 Saturday mornings. If I am accepted, my family and I will not plan special events during the dates and times of the summer or school year sessions. I also understand that Breakthrough Saint Paul requires that I do two hours of homework each night during the summer. I agree to fulfill these responsibilities.

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 15, 2008



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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 15, 2008

Name of Student _____ first middle last	Student ID # _____
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Mother or Guardian Information			
Name _____ first middle last	Relationship to Student _____		
Address _____ number street city state zip code			
Home Phone (____) _____	Work Phone (____) _____	Mobile (____) _____	
Email _____	Occupation _____	Employer _____	
Ethnic Background (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Education completed (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Some High School	<input type="checkbox"/> High School or GED	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational or Technical Degree
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year College	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Year College	<input type="checkbox"/> Masters Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree

Father or Guardian Information			
Name _____ first middle last	Relationship to Student _____		
Address _____ number street city state zip code			
Home Phone (____) _____	Work Phone (____) _____	Mobile (____) _____	
Email _____	Occupation _____	Employer _____	
Ethnic Background (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Education completed (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Some High School	<input type="checkbox"/> High School or GED	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational or Technical Degree
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year College	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Year College	<input type="checkbox"/> Masters Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree

Family Information

Student's parents are (check all that apply)

- Married Separated Divorced Single Parent

With whom does the child primarily reside?

- Both, same residence Both, separate residences Mother Father

Other _____

Family Income (Optional)

- 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 languages are spoken at home? _____

Number of siblings or dependent minors supported in your home _____

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

Please list all brothers and sisters of the Breakthrough Saint Paul applicant: *(Attach a separate sheet if necessary)*

Name	Age	Grade	School or Occupation
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

Why would you like your child to be a Breakthrough Saint Paul student?

In what ways do you think your child would benefit from being a student at Breakthrough Saint Paul?

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...). Please include days/times if known.

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? _____

What school would you like to see your child attend for high school? _____

Expectations for Breakthrough Saint Paul Families

1) Student Attendance

Attendance is essential at Breakthrough Saint Paul. Because our time together is short, we require that students be there every day during the summer and school year programs. Here are the dates we expect our students to attend the program for this year:

<u>Student Dates for 2008</u>	
Welcome Event	<i>May 17</i>
Summer Program	<i>June 23- August 1</i>
Parent Conference	<i>July 10</i>
Celebration Evening	<i>August 2</i>
School Year Program Select Saturdays	<i>September – May</i>

Do you see any possible conflicts with these dates or with daily attendance?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

2) 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. Here are the dates we need families to be involved this year:

<u>Family Dates for 2008</u>	
Welcome Event	<i>May 17</i>
Parent Conference	<i>July 10</i>
Celebration Evening	<i>August 2</i>

Do you see any possible conflicts with these dates or with daily attendance?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

Breakthrough Saint Paul is planning to form a parent group to help the program find volunteers for special events, get feedback from families, and distribute information about high school and college. This group will also help plan and organize some program outings and events. Although not required, we hope that you will get involved with the parent group.

3) Transportation

Due to the generosity of Saint Paul Public Schools, Breakthrough Saint Paul will be able to provide transportation to and from the program at Mounds Park Academy during both the summer and school year to those students who live within the city limits of St. Paul.

Do you live in St. Paul? Yes No

If you answered no to the above question, transportation will be your responsibility. Please explain how your child will get to and from the program:

* Please sign the statement of understanding on the back of this page...

Statement of Understanding

I/We understand that Breakthrough Saint Paul requires the entire family to make a two-year commitment. Each student must attend **two** summers (six weeks each summer) and **two** school years (14 Saturday mornings). I/ We give permission for my/our sixth grader to apply and we will make sure our student is an active participant throughout the two years.

Parent/guardian signature

Parent/guardian 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 15, 2008.
- Please sign the "Student Information Release Form" and have your child take it to his or her teacher.



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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 14 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 responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please contact call 651-748-5504 or email jochs@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 Judgment	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	
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



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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



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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
- SAT 10 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 the Breakthrough at Mounds Park Academy by the application deadline of **February 15, 2008**. 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 #: _____



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A complete application consists of the following elements. Keep this checklist and check off each box when the task is done. Turn this application in to your teacher by February 15.

- | | Done? |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Complete the Student Statement.
(with essay and optional "Express Yourself" attachment) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Have a parent or guardian fill out the Parent Statement. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Give your teachers the two Teacher Recommendation Forms. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have a parent or guardian sign the Information Release Form.
(Give this form to your teacher so your latest grades and test scores can be included in your application.) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Questions? Ask the Breakthrough contact at your school or call the Breakthrough office at 651.748.5504. For electronic versions of the student and parent statements, visit www.moundsparkacademy.org/breakthrough.

Join the Breakthrough Movement!



Questions about Breakthrough Saint Paul or the application?

Ask the Breakthrough Contact at your school or call the Breakthrough office at 651.748.5504

Yog nej muaj lus noog txog Breakthrough Saint Paul los yog daim ntawv no?

Yog nej tsis paub lus es xav yuav neeg pab, thov hus rau tus neeg txhais lub haus nej tus mem nyuab lus tsev nkawm ntawv. Tsis tas lis ntawv xwb, nej noog tau tus neeg ua hauj lwm hauv Breakthrough tom nej tus mem nyuam lus tsev nkawm ntawv los yog hus Breakthrough lus hoob kaa ntawm tus xov tooj 651.748.5504.

Preguntas o dudas sobre Breakthrough Saint Paul o la forma de solicitud?

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de comunicarse con el traductor de la escuela de su hijo(a). También puede comunicarse con el contacto de Breakthrough en la escuela de su hijo(a) o llamar a la oficina de al 651.748.5504. Gracias.