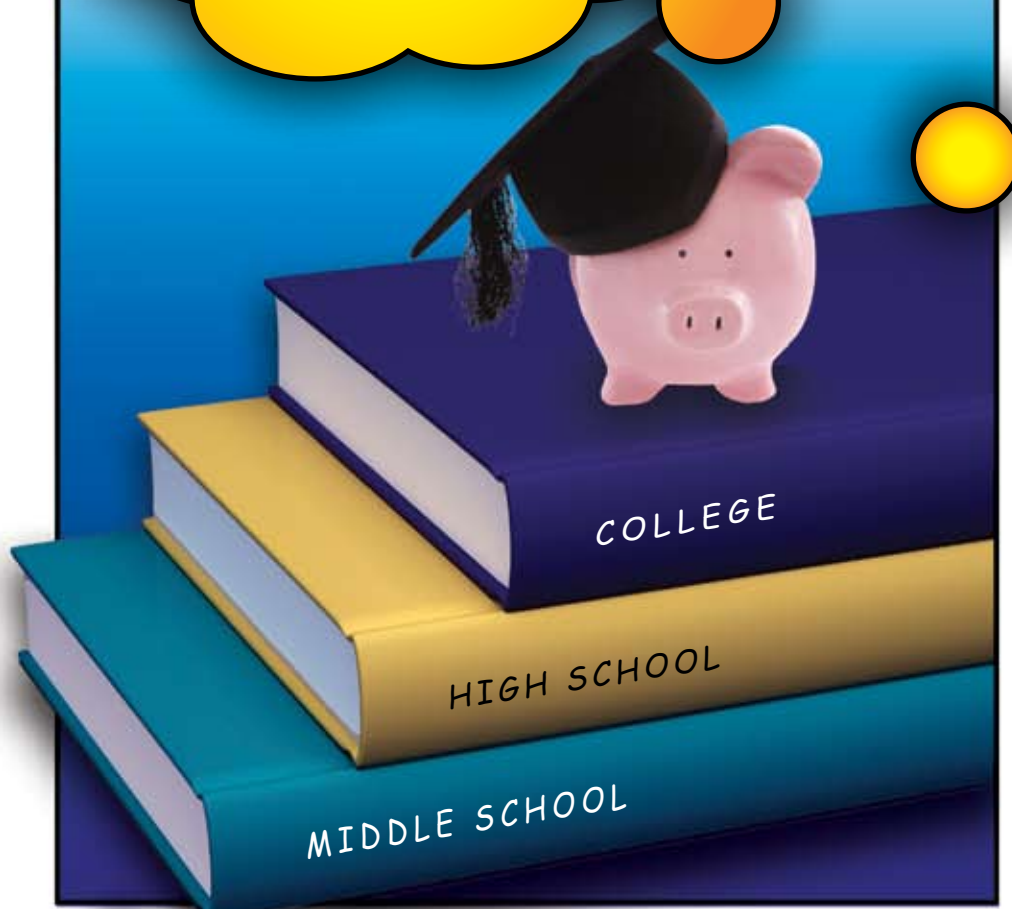


Need help
reaching
college?



MY
BREAKTHROUGH
STORY

I am Anny
from the BSP class of 2011

I am a current
Breakthrough Saint Paul
student. Each of us has a
different story, and yet our
stories are a lot the same.
I am really motivated and love
to learn. Above all, I want
to go to college and become
an accountant. I live with my
parents and four brothers.

I will be one of the
first in my family
to complete college,
so I know it will be challenging.

That's why I joined BSP.
Is this kind
of like your
story, too?

Breakthrough Saint Paul
is where the next chapter
of my story
begins ...



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THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

I am Raj

from the BSP class of 2013

I applied to Breakthrough because it's year-round learning and challenges. They work you, but you also have fun during the work. In science, I even do extra "BooYah" [homework] because I like it so much. The best part of the summer is All School Meeting because the teachers dress up in wacky costumes, and students show off their talents and class work.

I like that the teachers are not much older than us.

"Students Teaching Students" is what we call it.

CHAPTER 1 ...

My Middle School Summers with BSP:

- Each day for six weeks, I get up early and ride the bus to BSP. The teachers always greet us in a crazy way as we get off of the bus. Then we play a bus game to help us wake up.
- I get breakfast and lunch for free.
- I take enrichment classes in math, science, English, and social studies. BSP has small classes - no more than 8 students in each class.
- I prepare for middle school by changing classes each period, using lockers, and doing two hours of BooYah (homework) each weeknight.
- I take electives like improv theater, web design, drawing, spoken word, Design-A-Kite, Photoshop, and Indian dance.

The teachers always greet us in a crazy way as we get off the bus.



Breakfast and lunch are provided each day for free



At All School Meeting teachers and students get on stage to act, teach, and celebrate success.

Class sizes are small ... 8 at the most so we really get special attention!



Big end-of-summer showcase we call "Celebration."



- All my teachers are talented high school and college students. They are mentored closely by professional teachers.
- Everyday I go to All School Meeting, a crazy time when teachers and students get on stage to act, present learning, and celebrate successes.
- I visit colleges and take field trips like to the Capitol where we debate mock legislation.
- My parents and I have a conference with my teachers.
- We put together a big end-of-summer showcase we call "Celebration."



THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

CHAPTER 2 ...

My Academic Years in Middle School with BSP:

- In school, I take at least one honors course and commit to getting a B- or above in all my classes.
- Every week a BSP staff member checks my grades and homework. They call me if I'm falling behind and help me get caught up.
- 13 Saturdays of individual tutoring if I'm struggling and academic enrichment if I'm on track.
- I apply for at least one contest or scholarship each year.
- BSP has high school options counseling when I'm in 8th grade.

13 Saturdays of individual tutoring if I'm struggling and academic enrichment if I'm on track.



Access Opportunity can make summers even better!



After 8th grade, I can use a BSP laptop for high school.

I am Elizabeth
(but everyone calls me E.B.)
from the BSP class of 2011.

I participated in the leadership program in ninth grade. We actually planned and led parts of the summer like YO Time and spirit week. Last summer, I was able to attend a great academic camp called Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth because I received a special scholarship through BSP's Access Opportunity initiative. This year, I'm participating in the first laptop program. In the future I hope to come back and teach or tutor.

CHAPTER 3 ...

My BSP High School Program:

- After successfully completing 8th grade, BSP lends me a laptop during high school.
- I get online tutoring and lessons in internet research, college planning, and financial literacy.
- Preferential admission to Admission Possible program when I'm in 11th and 12th grade.
- Access Opportunity can help my family afford to let me go to a summer camp, take music lessons, or get some extra tutoring. I can access up to \$1,000 in these activities each year.
- BSP has an optional leadership program when I'm in 9th grade.
- I can become a tutor or aspiring teacher with Breakthrough.

We take field trips to places like the Capitol where we have mock legislative debates.



Students apply for one scholarship or contest each year.



When you get to high school or college, become a BSP volunteer or teacher.



Where will you be in 10 years?

I am Tho
from the BSP class of 2011

I am definitely going to college because the staff at Breakthrough Saint Paul helped me apply for and receive the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Award, which will pay for my education all the way through graduate school.

I will reach my dream of becoming a math professor.

Breakthrough Saint Paul has clearly helped me go ...



CHAPTER 4 ... After BSP then it's on to College:

- When I finish college, I'm likely to make over \$1 million more during my lifetime than the average high school graduate.
- With a college degree, I am more likely to get the job I want and keep it.

YOUR STORY BEGINS ... How to Apply:

- Read all about BSP. Make sure you understand the commitment.
- Complete and submit your application by the February deadline (exact date on the application).

Student statement

Parent statement

Two teacher recommendations

Grades and test scores

- If accepted, we will invite you to an enrollment interview.

- Application and more info at www.breakthroughsaintpaul.org

- Questions?
Call 651-748-5504.

Have your teacher send your completed application packet to:

Breakthrough Saint Paul
c/o Mounds Park Academy
2051 Larpenteur Avenue East
Saint Paul MN 55109



**Breakthrough
Saint Paul**

Mounds Park Academy and Saint Paul Public Schools

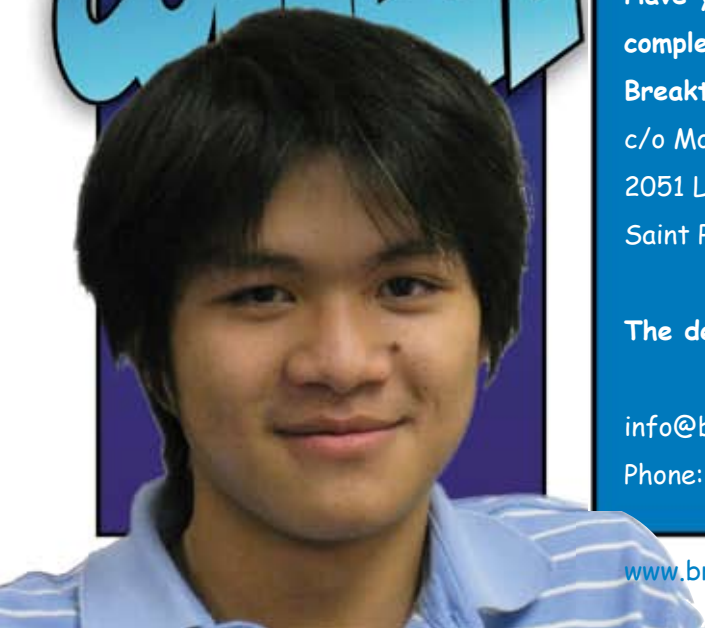
The deadline is approaching ...

info@breakthroughsaintpaul.org
Phone: 651-748-5504

www.breakthroughsaintpaul.org

IT'S TIME TO
APPLY!

ON TO
COLLEGE



If This Sounds Like You, Apply to Breakthrough!

Breakthrough Saint Paul Student Profile

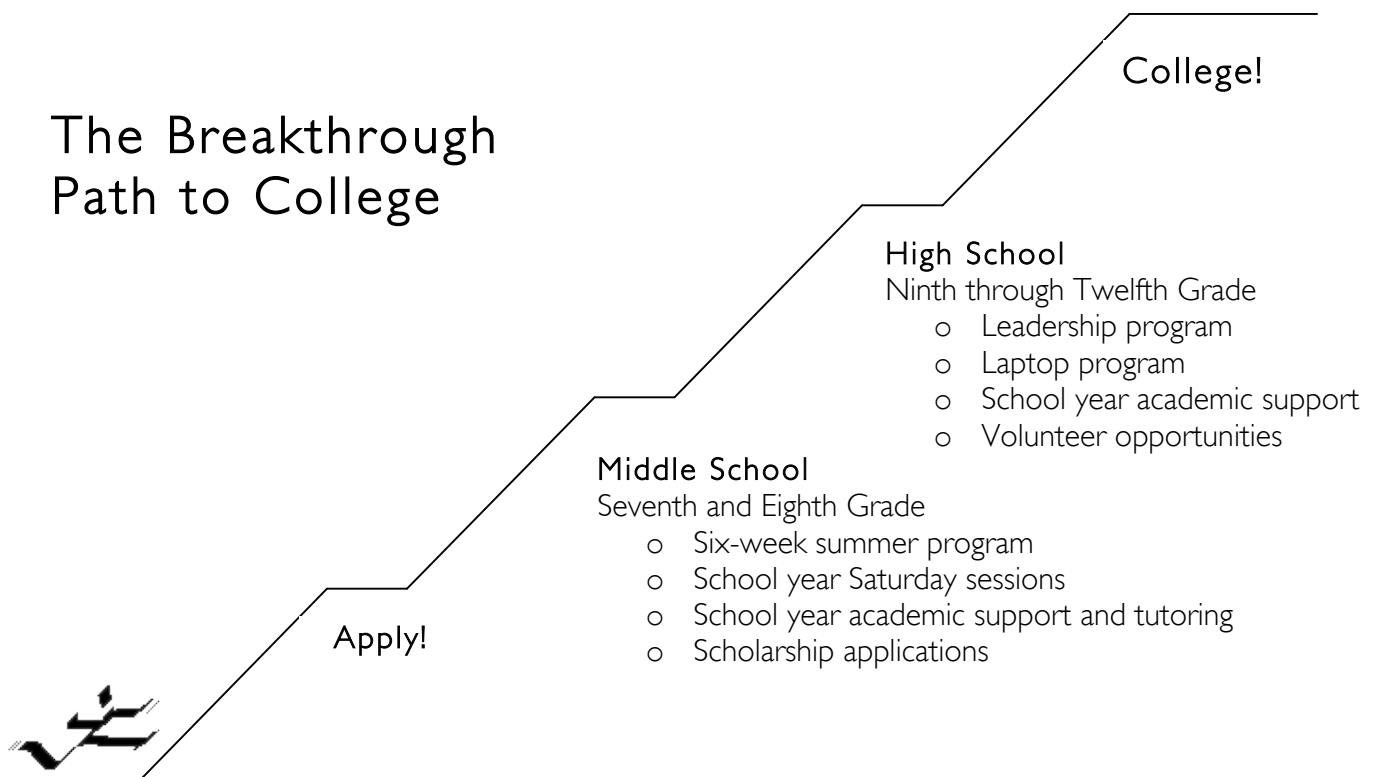
Breakthrough Saint Paul is forming its next class of 60 sixth grade students from Saint Paul Public Schools and making a commitment to help these students get to college. Our goal in recruiting students for Breakthrough Saint Paul is to identify young people who are in need of and who will take full 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)
- Speak a language other than English at home



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 2010 schedule?

Breakthrough Saint Paul takes place Monday through Friday, June 28 through August 6th, 2010, with Celebration in the afternoon and evening of August 7th, 2010. The program hours are approximately 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 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.

Is lunch 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?

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. Read the details 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 by Wednesday February 10, 2010.

**Please read the “My Breakthrough Story” brochure
for more information.**



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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 challenging six-year academic program? Homework (BooYah!) in the summer? Tutoring on Saturdays? Mandatory attendance? Wow! Why are you applying to Breakthrough?!

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

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 look forward to at school each day? Please provide specific examples.

What qualities and/or skills will you bring to the Breakthrough program?

Essay

On a separate piece of paper, neatly write 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. Describe your dream job and what steps you would take to make this dream a reality.
- B. Describe the biggest problem facing students your age. What can you do to help solve the problem?
- C. 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?
- D. 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?



Express Yourself!

**** Optional ****

If you would like to attach another item to show 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 2010 are June 28 – August 7, 2010) from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on 14 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. During high school, I will participate in the offered laptop program, apply to Admission Possible if I am eligible, 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 10, 2010

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 languages are spoken at home? _____

Number of 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 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? _____

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

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 and tutoring 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, Monday through Thursday.

Summer Program Dates 2010

June 28	First Day of the Summer Program
July 5	No Programming
July 9	Parent Conferences
August 6	Last Day of the Summer Program
August 7	Celebration

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 14 half-day (9:00am-12:30pm) Saturday sessions during their seventh and eighth grade school years. During the seventh and eighth grade 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. Students are also expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity each year aside from Breakthrough.

School Year Program Dates 2010

September 2010 - May 2011 (Exact days to be announced August 2010)

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 each week.

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. Students are also expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity each year and to apply to Admission Possible for ACT preparation and college guidance in 11th and 12th grade.

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-April 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 2010

March - April	Student and Family Interviews
July 9	Family Conferences
August 7	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 choice 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 does not attend SPPS, 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 10, 2010.
- Please sign the "Student Information Release Form" and have your child take it to his or her teacher.



Breakthrough

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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 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 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	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



Breakthrough

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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# _____

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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



Breakthrough

Saint Paul

Mounds Park Academy & Saint Paul Public Schools

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 the Breakthrough at Mounds Park Academy by the application deadline of **February 10, 2010**. 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.