

The background is a dark purple color with a pattern of various autumn leaves and acorns in lighter shades of purple, blue, and brown. The leaves are scattered across the entire page, creating a dense, seasonal texture. On the left side, there is a vertical spiral binding, suggesting the cover of a notebook or binder.

FALL 2024

BREAKTHROUGH

BULLETIN

Our efforts. **Their success.**

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Breakthrough Community,

Setting and maintaining high expectations for our scholars and community is the most noble and notable act that teachers, leaders, and supporters can take in our journey toward educational equity.

At Breakthrough, we live out our mission by upholding high expectations, delivering our curriculum with fidelity, and acting on the insights provided by our scholars' assessments and behavior.

Our Academic Roadmap represents a shared vision that requires collective effort and unwavering dedication from the entire BPS community. In this edition of the Bulletin, you'll find more information on what this work looks like in our schools.

Together, we can transform aspirations into achievements, obstacles into opportunities, and challenges into triumphs as we embrace this journey toward joy, love, and academic excellence. Together, we will propel Breakthrough Public Schools to new heights of academic distinction and ensure that every scholar realizes their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our mission and for being a vital part of our journey.



ANDREW MCRAE

Chief Executive Officer
Breakthrough Public Schools

CONNECT ON LINKEDIN

Our Aligned Vision

Our strategy defines how we will build the capacity of our key stakeholders as we strive toward the achievement of our goals within the following functions:

SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENT

We empower our scholars to be critical thinkers, readers, and advocates by consistently delivering high-quality, equitable, and inclusive educational experiences that prepare them for college, career, and life aspirations.

SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE

We cultivate welcoming, culturally responsive, and inclusive learning environments where our scholars feel safe, productive, and known.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

We aim to support individual and collective development that is tailored to the diverse roles and responsibilities within our organization by providing experiences that build capacity through inquiry, reflection, and collegial collaboration.

DATA & ANALYTICS

We leverage test results to improve how students are taught, how teachers are coached, and how leaders define a path for all scholars to succeed.

Arc of the Year

[VIEW PATHWAY](#)

Our pathway toward excellence is defined by the following arcs:

1

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
& DEVELOPMENT

2

ESTABLISHING
ACADEMIC SYSTEMS

3

USE DATA TO DRIVE
ACHIEVEMENT & MASTERY

4

RETEACH &
INTERVENTION

SY25 ACADEMIC STRATEGY ROADMAP

Systems & Routines

Teachers & leaders facilitate a school and classroom culture that promotes brave and belonging spaces



GOAL:
93% daily
attendance
rate



Rigorous Instruction

Teachers execute instruction that facilitates strong student engagement and participation

GOAL:
100% of
schools
meeting
annual
academic
goals

Data-Driven Decisions

Student progress is monitored along with assessment data to make instructional shifts and adjustments to meet the needs of students



GOAL:
100% of
budgeted
enrollment
targets



Personalized Instruction

Using data-driven decision making, teachers are able to create unique and personalized educational experiences for students

GOAL:
95%
student
retention
rate

Academic Achievement

Scholars are at or above the 75th percentile on nationally-normed assessments by the end of their K-8 academic journey at Breakthrough



GOAL:
100% of
schools
rating 4 or
more stars



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we reflect on this year's journey, we are grateful for the many members of our Breakthrough family who make our work possible. We are deeply thankful for:

Our scholars and their families inspire us daily with their resilience, determination, and commitment to learning.

Our teaching staff brings passion, expertise, and dedication to every classroom, ensuring our scholars have the tools to succeed and thrive.

Our Breakthrough community's shared values and vision for equitable education drive us forward together.

And your ongoing support. Your belief in our mission fuels our work, helping us create opportunities and a brighter future for every scholar.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us and helping us continue to make a difference in the lives of so many. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Meet our entire Friends of Breakthrough team! Led by Kelly Berg, Chief Development Officer, and Brittany Hurd, Chief Alumni Success Officer, this dedicated team drives our Kindergarten through Career mission. Each member is vital in providing scholars with quality education and support to lead impactful lives full of opportunity.



SUSAN ERTLE

President

Friends of Breakthrough

CONNECT ON LINKEDIN

The Development team, led by Kelly, is dedicated to raising funds, advocating for fair funding for Breakthrough, and collaborating with the community for volunteers:



TIM MANN
Senior Advancement Officer



COLLEEN O'BRIEN
Director, Grants and Foundation Relations



MELODEE MCCRODDEN
Director, Annual Fund Operations and Stewardship



KELLY BERG
Chief Development Officer



KAREN SOLOMON
Senior Director, Annual Fund



KELLY CLIFFORD
Director, Board and Office Operations



LISA WHITESELL
Grants Administrator

The Beyond Breakthrough team, led by Brittany, empowers Breakthrough alumni to identify and pursue their dreams through a supportive network of partners and innovative programs dedicated to their success:



JILLIAN KELLER
Senior Director, Postsecondary Success



NATE BARTLEY
Director, Data & Salesforce Administration



JAYDA WIMBLEY
Manager, Alumni Success at St. Martin de Porres HS



JENNA MARTINEZ*
Coordinator, High School Success



BRITTANY HURD
Chief Alumni Success Officer



CULLIN FISH*
Director, High School Success



LORI LAWSON
Director, High School Placement (CLA)



REGINALD SHUMPERT
Director, High School Placement (Preps)



JESSICA VAUGHN*
Program Manager

**Indicates new hire. Read their bios here!*

SUPPORT



As another year draws to a close, it's the perfect time to consider your year-end giving for 2024. We understand this is an important decision, and we truly appreciate your thoughtful consideration of supporting Friends of Breakthrough and our 3,000+ scholars and 3,000+ alumni. Your generosity enables us to continue our vital work, and we're incredibly grateful for your ongoing commitment.

Thank you for being a partner and champion in igniting minds and empowering futures!

We invite you to learn more about our story and why your support is so important!

LEARN MORE + DONATE

COMMUNITY PARTNER

We are incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors who have committed to supporting Friends of Breakthrough throughout the entire year. Their dedication plays a vital role in advancing our mission and making a meaningful impact on the lives of our students and alumni. If you or your organization are interested in joining us, we would love to connect and discuss how you can be a part of this transformative work.

[LEARN MORE](#)

2024-2025 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

JULIE & JEFFREY CRISTAL

SUSAN & MICHAEL CRISTAL

NANCY & DREW FORHAN

SIOBHAN & BILL THOMPSON



JPMORGAN CHASE & Co.





Connecting Scholars to Bright Futures at Our Annual High School Fair!

The 5th Annual High School Fair, hosted by Beyond Breakthrough, provided an invaluable experience for our 8th graders and their families to explore high school options! Over 110 families from all five Breakthrough campuses joined us for a chance to connect directly with admissions teams from more than 20 partner high schools. This event offered a firsthand look into the many educational pathways available, helping our students and families make well-informed choices for the future.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event a success!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Myleah Avant



MIDDLE SCHOOL, CLASS OF
Citizens Leadership Academy, 2014

HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF
Laurel School, 2019

COLLEGE, CLASS OF
Howard University, 2023

Q What's a favorite memory from your time at Breakthrough?

A I was always involved with art programs, especially musical and computer art programs. I liked experimenting with music and going to cultural centers to perform and participate in the programs. I didn't know that I even liked it until having the opportunity to experience it!

Q Why do you think Beyond Breakthrough is special, and how they have supported you on your educational journey?

A I don't know too many people where their middle school still checks in on them, emails or texts asking how you are, if you need help with like master programs, things like that.

I have the privilege of knowing that if I need a scholarship, a connection, or to network, I can rely on them to help.

Q What are you doing now, and what's next?

A The structure will help you stay on course, guide you, and give you self-discipline throughout high school and college. I'm so used to the Breakthrough school structure that I'm able to discipline myself. That was something I was able to carry with me.

Q What are you doing now, and what's next?

A A new chapter in my life is beginning. I just started at Radio One Cleveland, and I feel like being open-minded, taking one day at a time, and living in the moment.

I plan to go to grad school starting in September. I got accepted to Kent State University, and I'm going to start their criminal justice grad program with a focus on victimology.

EVENTS

In partnership with Open Doors Academy, we would like to thank our guests for attending our annual community awareness luncheon at Windows on the River. With this year's focus on our collaborative partnership, both organizations are dedicated to providing educational excellence and vital support to those most at risk in our city. Guests learned how our organizations are working together to empower and nurture the future generation.

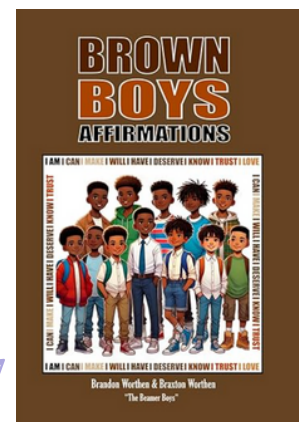


We are thrilled to introduce an extraordinary family featured at the luncheon: brothers Brandon, a 7th grader, and Braxton, a 1st grader, along with their mother, Patrice.

Patrice sought a school that provided both high-quality academics and a holistic approach to emotional growth. When she discovered Breakthrough Public Schools' partnership with Open Doors Academy, she enrolled Brandon at the Cliffs Campus. She values the structure, the focus on skills like cursive writing, and the diverse experiences shaping her sons' futures. Beyond her boys' education, Patrice also enjoys events that foster new experiences and community support for her family.

At Breakthrough Cliffs, Brandon has thrived as an honor roll student, even participating in an entrepreneurial class he put into action! Encouraged by his mother's daily affirmations, Brandon, along with his brother Braxton, has co-authored a book, now available for purchase. For Braxton, Breakthrough has helped build emotional intelligence and communication skills, balancing academic rigor with effective emotional regulation.

We are excited to follow Brandon and Braxton's journeys as they grow, discover, and thrive at Breakthrough.



PURCHASE
ON AMAZON!

Take a school tour and learn more!

We look forward to the opportunity to host you on one of our tours to see our classrooms in action and learn more about Breakthrough Public Schools and education in Cleveland.

The morning will feature an insightful tour of our schools, offering a firsthand look at the vibrant learning environments and innovative teaching methods that define Breakthrough Schools. Following the tour, we will provide a brief update on the latest achievements and developments within our network, highlighting our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality education to Cleveland's inner-city students.

Click the button below to register for a tour, or email Tim Mann at tmann@breakthroughschools.org or call 216-373-2604.

Tuesday, December 10 | 8:30A-10A

Citizen Glenville Campus

12523 Woodside Ave, Cleveland

REGISTER FOR TOUR



BREAKTHROUGH TO THE FUTURE

05:02:2025

14TH ANNUAL BASH

Breakthrough to the Future with us and hear firsthand from our scholars and alumni as they share their journeys with Breakthrough and the exciting paths ahead. With our teachers putting the pedal to the metal, our scholars are on course for a future full of limitless possibilities. Buckle up as we accelerate toward a brighter tomorrow!

Join us in celebrating
our 2025 Honoree and
Presenting Sponsor,



PARK PLACE
TECHNOLOGIES

for their years of transformative support. Through its employee donation program, volunteer efforts, and ongoing alumni engagement, Park Place Technologies has proven to be a true leader and role model, inspiring our scholars and investing in a brighter future.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025 | HILTON CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN

BECOME A SPONSOR

THANK YOU HOST COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS

Elle Carolan

Craig and Molly Panzica

HOST COMMITTEE

Karen and Bill Brace

Amanda Brady

Karen Long Cascio and Paul Cascio

Cosmo and Tisha Danielly

Nikki and Bill Fisher

Beth Gresh

Gary Giller and Lynn Labes

Mary and Michael Herzak

Nick Hylant

Dinah Kolesar

David and Dori Loomis

Lauren Miller

Laura Mimura

BJ and Khendi Solaru

Ryan Sowers

Last year's BASH fun!



BREAKTHROUGH

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



breakthroughschools.org

