

EDITION #4

BREAKTHROUGH

BULLETIN

Our efforts. **Their success.**

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Breakthrough Community,

As the school year comes to a close, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to each of you—

**OUR
PARTNERS,
SUPPORTERS,
AND CHAMPIONS**

—for standing alongside us in service of our scholars.

This year, we continued to move forward with focus and purpose, guided by our academic roadmap and our unwavering belief that joy and academic excellence go hand in hand. Our schools remain spaces where scholars are challenged to think deeply, grow boldly, and experience the joy of learning every day.

Because of your support—whether through partnership, investment, or advocacy—our scholars had access to more opportunities, more resources, and more of the high-quality instruction they deserve. Together, we're not just closing gaps; we're building futures.

At the center of everything we do is a simple but powerful commitment: to place our scholars at the heart of every decision and to ensure they are seen, heard, and celebrated. That commitment is what drives us—and what continues to shape the future of Breakthrough Public Schools.

Thank you for believing in our mission and the incredible potential of every child we serve. We look forward to continuing this work with you in the year ahead.

With deep gratitude,



ANDREW MCRAE

Chief Executive Officer
Breakthrough Public Schools

CONNECT ON LINKEDIN

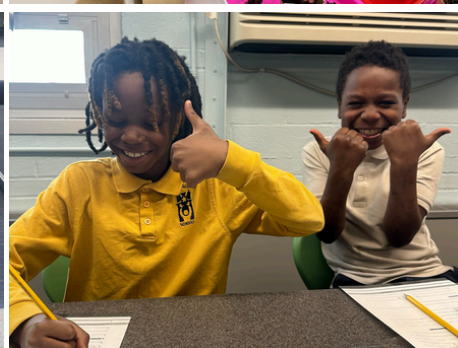
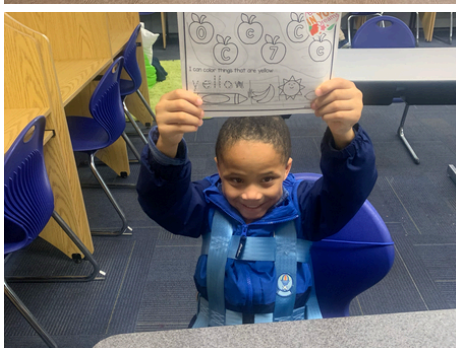
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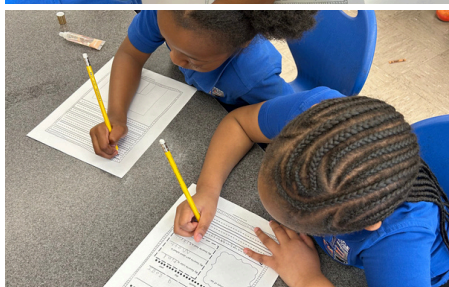
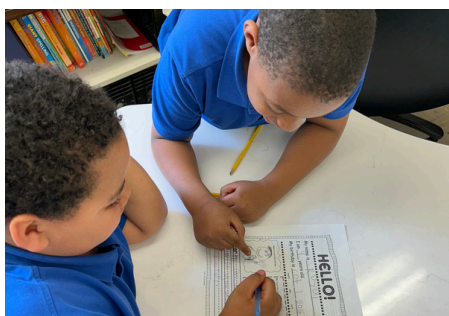
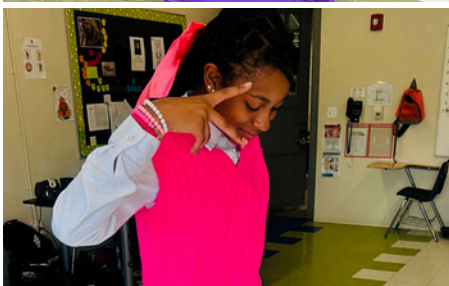
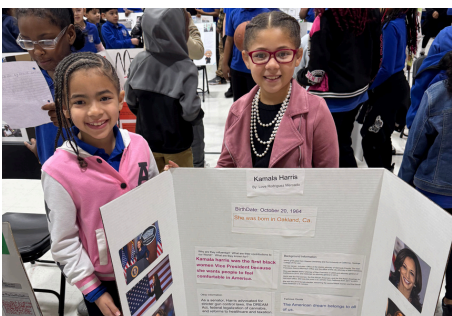
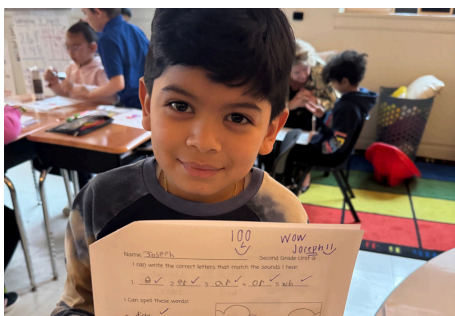
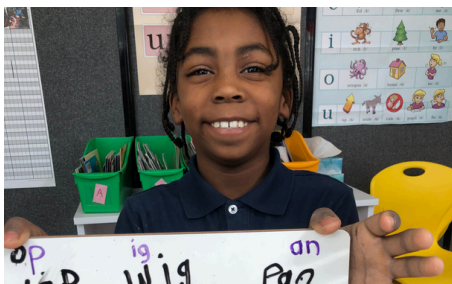
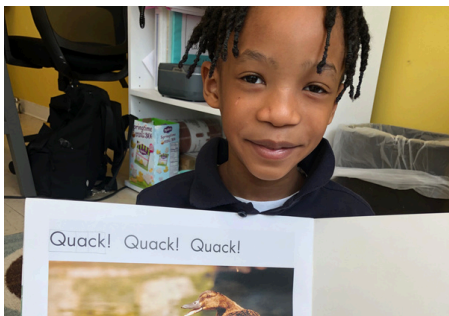


MIDTOWN



GLENVILLE





Congratulations, Graduates!



8th Grade Celebrations

294

8th-grade graduates

54

High Schools

60% will attend

selective high schools
(went through application process)

45% will attend

a CMSD school

43% will attend

a religiously-affiliated school

3 scholars will attend

a private non-religious high school
(Hawken, Laurel and University Schools)

Alizza Brown

(Breakthrough Midtown)
received a full-ride Howley
Scholarship worth \$163,720
to attend Gilmour Academy

Kasey Mathews

(Breakthrough Midtown)
was awarded the full-ride
Seelbach Award for \$163,680
to attend University School

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As we close our 14th year, I am deeply grateful for the remarkable progress our Friends of Breakthrough (FOB) teams have made in reaching ambitious goals. There is so much to celebrate!

This year, we've welcomed new friends and volunteers, strengthened existing relationships, and secured meaningful support for the incredible scholars, families, alumni, teachers, and staff who make up Breakthrough Public Schools. It is an honor to walk alongside them.

We know that support from kindergarten through career truly makes a difference. That's why we are so proud to congratulate the Breakthrough Class of 2025 as they join our growing network of 3,000+ alumni. We remain committed to guiding them along their pathway to success.

We invite you to walk alongside us on this journey as we strive to be faithful stewards of your giving. Together, we will shape the future! Thank you for being a friend.

With appreciation,



SUSAN ERTLE

President

Friends of Breakthrough Schools

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

DEVELOPMENT

We're Platinum with Candid!

Friends of Breakthrough Schools is proud to share that we've achieved Platinum Transparency Status with Candid (formerly Guidestar)—the highest level possible! This recognition reflects our deep commitment to transparency, accountability, and impact.



Your support fuels our work, and we want you to see the difference you're making. Explore our Candid profile to learn more about our mission, programs, and results. Together, we're building brighter futures for Cleveland students—thank you for being part of the journey.

A Fresh Look, A Stronger Connection, and You!

We're thrilled to unveil the newly refreshed Friends of Breakthrough website!

Our updated site features a modern design, streamlined navigation, and refreshed content that better reflects who we are, the impact we're making, and the many ways you can get involved.

Take a look around and let us know what you think!
friends.breakthroughschools.org

This redesign is all about you—our incredible community of supporters. We've made it easier than ever to connect with our mission, explore inspiring stories from our schools, and find opportunities to make a difference.

There are numerous ways you can get involved:

- Mentor our scholars on their journey.
- Read with students of all ages.
- Join our Emerging Leaders or one of our committees that align with your skills and interests.

Take a survey and let us know how you would like to get more involved.

Igniting Minds - Empowering Futures Spring Appeal 2025



Every day, Breakthrough students light up classrooms with curiosity, confidence, and a hunger to learn. From kindergarteners learning to read, to high school graduates stepping boldly into college and careers, our scholars and alumni are proving what's possible when potential is met with opportunity.

As we wrap up the success of this school year and close out the fiscal year, your support matters more than ever! Your gift to this year's Annual Appeal ignites both our scholars' and alumni's lives in positive ways!

These include providing exceptional teaching, offering enriching experiences, and supporting the passionate adults who inspire, challenge, and stand by our scholars from kindergarten through career.

You're not just giving to our schools—you're investing in a movement. A movement that's igniting minds today and empowering futures for generations.

Together, we can keep the fire burning. Your Gift Matters – Donate Now.

Kindergarten to Career - Every Step, Every Stage

As we work to close out the current year strong, we're excited to unveil our FY26 Annual Appeal.

In the months ahead, we look forward to sharing success stories, the challenges we face, and the powerful role your commitment plays in shaping the futures of our scholars and alumni.



Your continued support means the world to us. Whether you join our Emerging Leaders with a gift of \$10/month, contribute \$1 or more, or leave a legacy gift, your generosity fuels their journey from kindergarten to career—every step, every stage.

Semper Virens Legacy Society

Established to recognize individuals who have made a long-term commitment to Breakthrough Schools, the Semper Virens Legacy Society was created in partnership with the Cleveland Foundation where we have established the Friends of Breakthrough Schools Legacy Fund. This fund helps to ensure long-term financial stability through the preservation and investment of dollars for the future benefit of Breakthrough Public Schools.



Learn how you can shape the future with your legacy — contact Tim Mann, Senior Advancement Officer via email: tmann@breakthroughschools.org or phone: 216-373-2604.

Emerging Leaders

We are looking to grow our leadership!

No matter where you are in your career, Breakthrough's Emerging Leaders are dedicated to helping you make a meaningful impact on the lives of our over 6,000 scholars and alumni—while also supporting your own growth.

Join the Emerging Leaders network to stay in the loop on upcoming events and to connect in a way that is meaningful to you: Donate. Advocate. Volunteer. Our gatherings offer a great opportunity to connect with local professionals, community leaders, Breakthrough educators, and alumni.

Don't miss out—check out what's coming up next!



EMERGING LEADER LEADERSHIP

Lauren Andrews | Taylor Bowen
Nick Hylant | Derrick Johnson
Celeste Kamasa Scott | Aurora Kitko
Mac Lagor | Hunter Louthan
Cooper Mead | Ryan Sowers

BASH - Breakthrough to the Future

To our guests who attended, we can never thank you enough, but want to take a moment to let you know how grateful we are for everything that made this event an incredible success.

Over 600 guests joined us on Friday, May 2nd! Whether you came as you are, as Marty McFly, Doc Brown or added some 80's flair to your outfit, we hope you enjoyed the night.



Missed the event?

Fire up your flux capacitor and travel back in time with us to experience the excitement—[photos, memories, and gratitude from the evening await you here.](#)

Meet alumni Makiya and Peng, who continue to receive support from our Beyond Breakthrough team as they pursue their dreams of becoming a nurse and an engineer. They're joined by current scholars Zsa Zsa, Alexis, Alyssa, and Jaslynn, who share how learning to build an engine with Motogo has impacted them. [Watch their stories here.](#)

A heartfelt thank you and big congratulations to our Presenting Sponsor and Honoree: Park Place Technologies. They're powering the future of education in Cleveland—[take a look at their incredible impact and commitment to transformational change.](#)

We've broken through to the future—next stop: The Land.

SAVE THE DATE – Friday, April 24, 2026

Together, we're not just celebrating the future—we're building it. **The Future is now!**



Friends of Breakthrough

UPCOMING EVENTS

Swing for the Stars

Each year, we host our annual golf tournament to support the scholars of Breakthrough Public Schools. Reserve your foursome today!

Monday, July 28, 2025

8:30AM REGISTRATION BEGINS

10AM SHOTGUN START

Canterbury Golf Club

22000 SOUTH WOODLAND ROAD
BEACHWOOD, OH

Your Day Includes

- SHAMBLE FORMAT
- GREEN FEES
- LOCKERS
- BAG HANDLING
- DRIVING RANGE
- COFFEE STATION
- ON-COURSE FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
- CONTESTS
- COCKTAILS
- DINNER & AWARDS

Each foursome will be provided with two carts and one forecaddie.
Use of carts subject to course conditions.



SWING FOR THE STARS

15TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF BREAKTHROUGH SCHOOLS



Presented by

PALMERHOLLAND
DEPENDABLY INDEPENDENT

Click Here to Register
bit.ly/swingforthestars

THANK YOU, EVENT COMMITTEE!

HONORARY CHAIR MATT BREWER
COMMITTEE TOM DITTOE | MARY HERZAK
BRYAN SCHAUER | CRAIG PANZICA

Beyond BREAKTHROUGH

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH CAREER

As part of our ongoing efforts to expose Breakthrough alumni to college campuses and build community, Breakthrough hosted an alumni trip to The Ohio State University. 30 alumni attended, representing 20 high schools from around Northeast Ohio. During the March 27th visit, all students sat in on an admissions session led by a staff member from the OSU Undergraduate Admissions Office, where they learned about admissions criteria, important next steps, and scholarship opportunities. Afterward, students experienced a walking tour of campus with stops at key landmarks including the Wexner Center for the Arts, Thompson Library, Recreation and Physical Activity Center, and the Ohio Union. To round out the day, the group visited Otherworld, an immersive and engaging art experience in Columbus. This cultural excursion not only exposed students to new forms of art, but also fostered meaningful community building among Breakthrough alumni.

Following the event, we surveyed alumni about their experience. The impact of the trip was evident through a variety of student reflections.

One 10th-grade alumnus shared that he had never considered attending college before but after visiting the OSU campus, was now excited to explore that option.

During the walking tour, three alumni discovered they had been in the same fifth-grade class and reconnected, sharing updates on their current schools and post-high school plans.

An 11th-grade alumna commented on the importance of starting the college search process early, realizing she now feels better equipped to begin preparing for admissions and scholarship applications.

Additionally, three separate alumni asked for information about Beyond Breakthrough to be sent to friends, hoping they could join future alumni events and trips, demonstrating the strong sense of connection and enthusiasm the day helped spark.



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Raleigh McCutcheon

Meet Raleigh, a bright and curious kindergartener who is just beginning her exciting journey at the Breakthrough Woodland Hills Campus! Raleigh has been with Breakthrough since the start of this school year and already shows a passion for learning—especially when it comes to reading.

“I love reading books like Chicka Chicka Boom Boom! I even practice at home,” she shares proudly. Her favorite part about school? “It helps my brain grow and makes me smarter and smarter!”



Raleigh lights up when talking about her teachers, who have made a big impact on her. “I have two teachers who help me be a good listener. When I do really good, they even give me \$100!” she giggles, referring to the play money her classroom uses as rewards for positive behavior.

Raleigh has already learned to face challenges head-on. “It was hard to make the letter C at first,” she admits, “but I’m practicing and getting better.” She’s also working on writing letters, spelling words, and sounding them out—all important steps on her path to becoming a strong reader.

As for the future? Raleigh has big dreams. “I want to help my brain grow... and maybe be a mermaid—because sometimes they’re doctors too!”

With her imagination, determination, and joy for learning, there’s no doubt that Raleigh is on her way to making waves—in and out of the classroom.

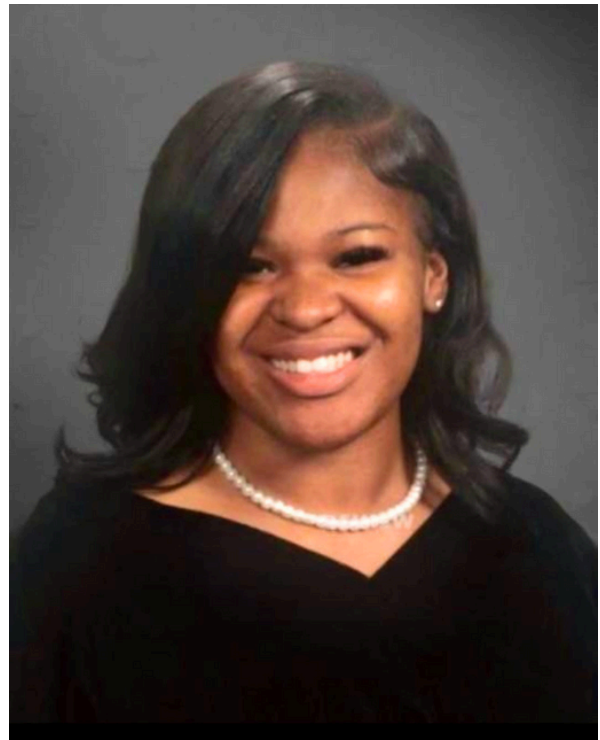
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Genice Manning

Middle School, Class of
Citizens Leadership Academy, 2021

High School, Class of
St. Martin de Porres High School

Current Grade
Senior, Class of 2025



Q: Why is Beyond Breakthrough special?

A: Breakthrough helped me go to a great high school that is soon going to lead me to a great college, which will lead me to a great life.

Q: What Beyond Breakthrough program have you done that supported you during your education journey?

A: One opportunity or program that I have participated in with Breakthrough was visiting Kent State University and hearing what Kent State has to say while being with other Breakthrough members.

Q: What are some highlights of your high school experience?

A: Getting a good internship that helps me with my own TV show. And building a bond with faculty, staff, and students.

Q: How will Beyond Breakthrough help you in the future?

A: Beyond Breakthrough will provide assistance to me by reaching out and checking on me, and seeing if there's anything I need while in college and exiting college. So, staying in a good support system.

EXPANDED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

Positive Youth Initiative

We invite you to watch and be inspired by our short video, "I Am the Dream", featuring the voices and visions of scholars and staff from Breakthrough Schools' Midtown campus—proud participants in the Positive Youth Initiative (PYI). Their passion, promise, and potential speak to the heart of what we do: empowering the next generation of student leaders.



After viewing, we hope you'll consider joining our mission. Whether you can give your time, share your talents, or offer your treasure, your support makes a real and lasting impact in the lives of our scholars.

To explore how you can get involved, please contact Lenon Allison at lallison@breakthroughschools.org. Together, we can continue to build brighter futures—one dream at a time.



BREAKTHROUGH

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



breakthroughschools.org

