

EDITION #3

# BREAKTHROUGH

## BULLETIN

Our efforts. **Their success.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

**Dear Breakthrough Community,**

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, we are excited to share that we have officially entered Arc 3 of our Academic Roadmap: Putting it All Together. This final phase builds on our strong foundation throughout the year and marks a critical time for our scholars and educators.

Our journey began with Arc 1, where we focused on Establishing Academic Systems to ensure every classroom had the tools and structures needed for success. In Arc 2, we leaned into Using Data to Drive Achievement & Mastery, empowering educators to analyze scholar progress and adjust instruction accordingly.

Now, in Arc 3, we bring it all together. This phase is marked by three key priorities:

**Reteach & Intervention**

Providing targeted support to help every scholar strengthen their understanding of essential skills and concepts.

**Testing as a Genre**

Preparing scholars not only with content knowledge but also with the strategies and confidence to navigate assessments.

**Show It Season**

Creating opportunities for scholars to demonstrate their learning and growth through culminating projects and assessments.

TRIMESTER

ARC  
3

With the hard work and dedication of our scholars, educators, and families, we are poised to finish this year stronger than ever. Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our mission. We're excited to close out this year with purpose, pride, and celebration.

Together, we've come so far — and the best is yet to come.

With gratitude,



**ANDREW MCRAE**

Chief Executive Officer  
Breakthrough Public Schools

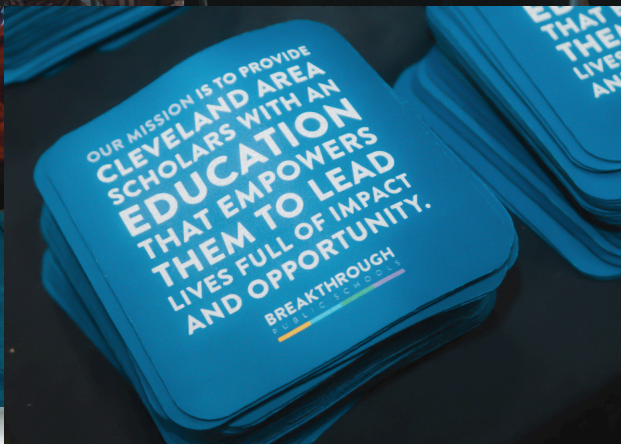
**CONNECT ON LINKEDIN**



Breakthrough is hiring a new Chief Academic Officer to provide leadership and execute the vision and strategic direction for our curriculum, instruction, assessment, and instructional improvement initiatives.

Learn more [here](#) or connect with our hiring partner at [alina@worktogethertalent.com](mailto:alina@worktogethertalent.com).







February 2025

Breakthrough

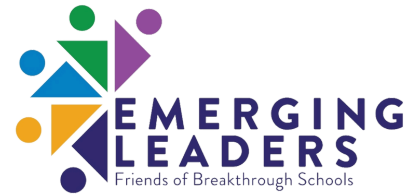




## DEVELOPMENT

# Professional Breakthroughs:

## *A Fireside Chat with Dave Loomis*



We had an incredible start to the year with our inaugural Professional Breakthroughs: A Fireside Chat event—a morning filled with leadership insights, career development strategies, and meaningful networking opportunities.

This special gathering featured Dave Loomis, a Friends of Breakthrough Board member, seasoned marketing executive, and entrepreneur. Whether you joined us and want a refresher or couldn't attend, we invite you to [watch the event video](#) to gain valuable insights.

During the event, Dave shared key lessons from building his business, his leadership expertise, and strategies for career growth. The panel discussion was followed by an engaging Q&A session, offering attendees the opportunity to dive deeper into these topics.

Don't miss out on future opportunities like this! [Join our Emerging Leaders](#) network to stay informed about upcoming events. These gatherings are a great way to connect with local professionals, community leaders, Breakthrough Schools' teachers, and alumni. Check out our upcoming events!

### EMERGING LEADER LEADERSHIP

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



## Semper Virens Legacy Society

The Semper Virens Legacy Society was established to recognize individuals who have made a long-term commitment to Breakthrough Schools and 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 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](mailto:tmann@breakthroughschools.org) or phone: 216-373-2604.

### EVENTS

## Take a school tour on March 25!

We look forward to welcoming you to our campus, which is undergoing an exciting expansion to better serve our scholars and the community. During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to see our scholars in action and learn more about Breakthrough Public Schools and education in Cleveland.

For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a personal tour, contact Tim Mann at 216-373-2604 or [tmann@breakthroughschools.org](mailto:tmann@breakthroughschools.org).

**Tuesday, March 25 | 8:30A-10A**

**Breakthrough Woodland Hills Campus**

9201 Crane Ave, Cleveland, OH 44105



# Professional Breakthroughs:

## *A Fireside Chat with Bill Koehler*

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Start your day right with coffee, bites, and an hour of networking in a vibrant, welcoming environment at the Breakthrough Professional Development Learning Center.

Contact Karen Solomon at 216-373-2795 or [ksolomon@breakthroughschools.org](mailto:ksolomon@breakthroughschools.org) for more information.



# BREAKTHROUGH TO THE FUTURE

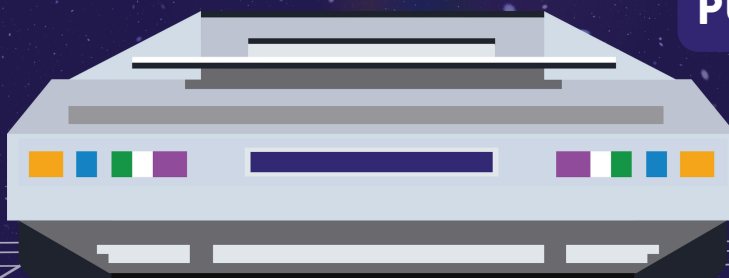
14TH ANNUAL BASH

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

6:30PM

REGISTER TODAY!

**PURCHASE TICKETS**





## Take a school tour on May 15!

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.

For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a personal tour, contact Tim Mann at 216-373-2604 or [tmann@breakthroughschools.org](mailto:tmann@breakthroughschools.org).

**Thursday, May 15 | 8:30A-10A**

**Breakthrough Midtown Campus (formerly Cliffs)**

1415 E 36th St, Cleveland, OH 44114





# Supporting Alumni Success

What was Beyond Breakthrough up to in 2024?

**456** unique, two-way  
contacts with alumni

That's a **72% increase**  
in contact from this time last year

Communicated with over  
**2,500 alumni**  
via email and text



Attended over **20** high school meetings with alumni and staff

Connected with over **100 alumni** and families on evening one on ones

Hosted **5 events** for middle school students and alumni

Created strong relationships with **Tri-c & CSU**

Took our first ever college visit to **Kent State**

Received a generous donation to help alumni pay off their **OAG college debts**  
(Ohio Attorney General)

## SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

# Sharonda Philpot

Meet Sharonda Philpot, a dedicated scholar at Breakthrough Public Schools' Woodland Hills Campus. Throughout her years at Breakthrough, Sharonda has embraced every opportunity to grow and challenge herself. Currently, she is diving into math and channeling her creativity into an exciting project—writing a story to develop a game!

One of Sharonda's biggest inspirations at school is her favorite teacher, Ms. Jenkins. With a special family connection—her mother knew Ms. Jenkins in high school—Sharonda values the warmth, guidance, and encouragement she provides. Ms. Jenkins reminds Sharonda of her mom, making learning even more meaningful.



Sharonda is also developing important leadership and communication skills. She is learning how to advocate for herself and engage more effectively with her teachers, thereby ensuring her voice is heard in the classroom. Her dedication to personal growth is shaping her into a confident and determined student.

Looking to the future, Sharonda has a heart for helping others. She dreams of making a difference by supporting those in need, especially by providing food and resources for people experiencing homelessness. Her kindness and compassion are a testament to the positive impact one person can have on the world.

Keep shining, Sharonda! Your determination and generosity inspire us all.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Joe Herriot

*Middle School, Class of*  
**E Prep Cliffs, 2012**

*High School, Class of*  
**Benedictine High School, 2016**

*Current Job*  
**Cofounder, Overtime Sports Group**



**Q: What were a few things you learned from your time at Breakthrough?**

**A: E Prep taught me learning principles, discipline, morals, different things that, in order to be successful, are things you should learn.**

**Q: What was your most impactful memory from Breakthrough?**

**A: I remember my 7th grade year, they implemented an entrepreneurship class. It was a huge impact on my life, as far as where I wanted to go. It was a business competition; I remember he took us to University School. That's what led into my curiosity and what got me into Benedictine.**

**Q: What do you do now?**

**A: I'm the co-founder of a company called Overtime Sports Group. We source marketing opportunities for (high school, collegiate, and professional) athletes, helping them with their brand recognition and actually building a brand. We also help them with charity and nonprofit work.**

**Q: Tell us more about the charity and nonprofit.**

**A: I had a dream of having a free youth football camp. Since 2017, every year my team and I have put together a free football camp at Benedictine High School. We have our NFL guys, collegiate guys, and high schoolers come to the camp to go through the fundamentals. I just remember growing up in the inner city wishing something like that was available for me.**

**Q: What do you wish Breakthrough alumni knew about Beyond Breakthrough?**

**A: Anyone I know who went to E Prep and I come across, I tell them, are you guys still connecting with Breakthrough? I always say that Breakthrough is doing amazing things, and they're trying to help us with our life and help us give back to the next generation.**

**Q: Any last words for students attending a Breakthrough school?**

**A: I'm a product of the great standard that was set at Breakthrough. They did a great job of introducing us to things that will help us with our full life, not just for the moment of being in school, but for the rest of our lives.**

# Celebrating Milestones

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Dedicated Team

We extend our deepest gratitude and warmest congratulations to the incredible individuals who have reached significant milestones in their journey with our school network. It's truly inspiring to witness such dedication and commitment to our shared mission of enriching young minds. Your unwavering passion and tireless efforts form the very foundation of our success.

### A huge round of applause for our staff celebrating 5 years of service!

Your energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives have been invaluable assets to our community. You've brought so much creativity and innovation to our schools, and we're incredibly fortunate to have you. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our family!

**Timothy Mann** | FOB

**Ashley Stanley** | VPW

**Jerry Vaught** | Cliffs

**Brandon Ray** | EPW

**Andrew McRae** | BPS

**Madelyn McMillen** | Cliffs

**Brittney Terrell** | SE

**Chelsea Danner** | VPW

**Molly Butler** | Glenville

**Veronica Cole** | Glenville

**Megan Galasky** | SE

**Sarah Lihwa** | Cliffs

**Kathryn Moomaw** | Cliffs

**Nicole Schramm** | SE

**Nathan Mormino** | Glenville

**Stephen Ovak** | SE

**Denise Robinson** | WH

**Hanna Stout** | Glenville

**Lindsey Stuart** | Glenville

**Taylor Abrahamowicz** | Cliffs

**Jeremy Wiedle** | EPW

**David Reynolds** | Willard

**Krista Hornberger** | Glenville

**Nicole Schwaben** | EPW

**Kaneesha Lee** | WH





**And a special shout-out to our remarkable team members who have dedicated 10 years to our network!**

Your experience, wisdom, and leadership have been instrumental in shaping our growth and fostering a culture of excellence. You are the pillars of our organization, and we deeply appreciate your steadfast commitment and the positive impact you've had on countless students and colleagues. Your legacy of service is truly commendable.

**To all our honorees, your dedication is not just appreciated, it's celebrated!**

Thank you for being such an integral part of our school network. We are so proud to have you on our team, and we look forward to many more years of working together to empower the next generation. Your contributions make a real difference, and we are eternally grateful for your service!

**Kimberly Draine-Moore | Southeast**  
**Jennifer Waterwash | Southeast**  
**Melissa Carnes | VPW**  
**Nicole May | BPS**  
**Dominique Smith | Cliffs**  
**Darryl Daugherty | WH**  
**Samantha Wilson | WH**  
**Melissa Balint | WH**  
**Emily Johnson | Cliffs**  
**Carlye Pearce | Cliffs**  
**Natalie Rich | Cliffs**  
**Alana Allen-Washington | WH**  
**Yong Lin | Cliffs**



# BREAKTHROUGH

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



[breakthroughschools.org](https://breakthroughschools.org)

