



At Breakthrough Cincinnati, we believe in the power of young people. Our unique “students teaching students” model will transform your child’s summers from boredom to brilliance. Breakthrough Cincinnati provides an academically enriching and fun community for rising 6th through 9th grade students. **Applications are accepted only from students currently in the 5th grade.** Your child will develop the academic and leadership skills necessary for success in college and beyond. We are excited to get to know your child and your family. Below you will find three sections with helpful information about our program: Description, FAQs, and Application Submission details.

Part One: Program Description

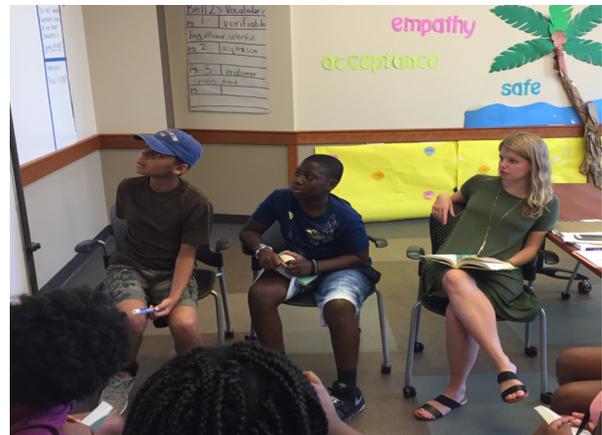
Our Mission

Breakthrough Cincinnati provides a rigorous four-year college-preparatory summer learning experience for high-need and high-potential middle school students and inspires and trains college students as the next generation of teachers.

Our Program

Breakthrough Cincinnati (BTC) supports over 200 rising 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students on their path to a successful future. This is accomplished through a rigorous, tuition-free, academic enrichment program that includes a six-week summer program and school-year experiences. BTC’s unique ‘students teaching students’ model positions talented high school and college students as teachers, role models, and mentors to middle school students. BTC serves students with the skills and motivation needed to enter and succeed in high school, graduate on time and successfully transition into college.

BTC’s summer program helps middle school youth develop the necessary organizational, study, critical thinking, and communication skills needed to succeed in high school and beyond. The summer programs take place at two local sites, the Cincinnati Country Day School site and University of Cincinnati. Each day students take courses in English, math, history and science in small classes of six to eight students. In the afternoon, students attend foreign language and academic electives, life skills and leadership workshops, and participate in additional experiences in athletics or the arts. Students also experience community service, career exploration and outdoor experiences.



During the school year, BTC remains invested in the academic success of our students. We work to support students who encounter barriers to educational resources during the academic calendar. Breakthrough monitors students’ grades by collecting report cards, advocating for students when needed, and making families aware of tutoring and academic enrichment opportunities.



Our Students

Breakthrough Cincinnati students come from many different backgrounds. They all share a love of learning and want to go to college. Breakthrough Cincinnati students strive to do their best and are always open to new ideas and experiences. They work hard, develop leadership skills, and have fun in the process. Their families are engaged in the learning process and have aspirations for their child's success.

Our Teachers

Breakthrough teachers are talented and passionate college students. They work long hours to make learning exciting, challenging, and rewarding. Our teachers are special because they possess a love of learning and a desire to share their time and ideas with younger students. They work hard to provide high quality, engaging instruction to our students, and are supported by professional educators to ensure success in the classroom.

Part Two: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the commitment?

Our primary goal is that your student and family have a successful experience. So, we ask that both the student and the family agree to schedule other activities around the dates of the summer program for four years. Breakthrough students attend our summer program Monday-Friday from 9AM-4PM for six weeks each summer before the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade school years. An orientation will be offered for new families and students to review the schedule and expectations in detail. Bus pickups and drop-offs happen outside of these hours, and are contingent on route scheduling.

It is required that students attend every day during the six-week summer program. This is to make sure that the student and family are able to gain the full benefit of the program's offerings. Students and families who do not adhere to the attendance expectations may be asked to leave the program. To wrap up the summer program and share successes, we host an event called Celebration. This year it will be held on **Saturday, August 3**. During Celebration, students get to show their families and friends what they've been learning all summer through an interactive open house and special performance. It is a special day that you won't want to miss.

Dates of Summer Program 2019:

Orientation (CCD): April 25 or 27

Orientation (UC): April 20 or 24

Summer Program: June 25 – August 3, no program on July 4 or 5

Celebration: Saturday, August 3

What about homework, tests and grades?

BTC is designed to prepare students for the challenges of high school and college. Homework and tests are a part of rigorous learning environments. Students complete one to two hours of homework per night and will have end of summer exams. The teachers design assignments and tests that are thought-provoking and spur your student's learning. Teachers may grade assignments, but there are no final grades. In place of grades, students receive written evaluations from their teachers. You will also have the opportunity to participate in a midsummer conference led by your student.



Is transportation provided?

Yes, transportation is provided free of charge for students within a 15-mile radius of the program sites. If you live outside of that distance, you will be contacted by a staff member to discuss transportation options. Breakthrough Cincinnati contracts with a third-party transportation provider. Efforts are made to coordinate stops that are convenient to your home and minimize riding time. If your child is selected for the program, we will communicate with you in the weeks prior to the program's start to plan your student's transportation.

What will it cost?

Breakthrough Cincinnati is a tuition-free program. The program is made possible by generous corporate, foundation and individual contributions. Breakthrough Cincinnati is held to rigorous accountability standards in order to ensure that the funding is serving its stated purpose. At times we will collect data, survey information and other information to report to our contributors.

How can I stay connected to my student's experience?

You are your child's best supporter and we want to support and encourage your involvement in your student's experience at Breakthrough. You will receive a weekly newsletter and regular text bulletins. You will have the opportunity to attend several events throughout the summer.

What if I have questions about the application or the process?

Breakthrough staff can be contacted via email or phone. We are always open to answering questions to support interested and committed families. Please understand that the application season is a peak time for our staff and we will do our best to answer questions and messages promptly.

Email: applystudent@breakthroughcincinnati.org

Phone: 513-979-0339

Part Three: Application and Submission

Application Process

The Breakthrough Cincinnati application process is comprehensive so that we can ensure the fit and success of students selected for the program. Please reach out if there are any questions or you need help. In order for your child's application to be considered, all sections of the application need to be completed and submitted to **Breakthrough Cincinnati by Thursday, March 14th**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Be sure the student's name is written in the spaces designated at the bottom of each page. Please complete the application in blue or black ink and press firmly so that the application can be easily read. All sections of the application that need to be submitted by **March 14, 2019** and will include (see next page):

<p>Section 1: Student information -Tell us about yourself. -What makes you unique? -Why is Breakthrough important to you?</p>	To be completed by the student
<p>Section 2: Family information -Provide contact information. -Provide background information. -Tell us why Breakthrough is important to you and your student. Section 3: Transportation information -Provide summer transportation needs. Section 4: Statement of intent -Share your commitment to working together for student growth. Section 5: Student Records -Share student achievement and current progress.</p>	To be completed by the family
<p>Section 6: Teacher Recommendation -Tell us how about what the student is capable of and how Breakthrough can be instrumental for growth.</p>	To be completed online or emailed by the teacher

Completing the Application

Sections 1-4 are pretty straightforward with fill in the blank and short responses. Be honest in your responses and try to give as much detail you can to express who you are and why this opportunity is important to you. Please complete these in blue or black ink. Here is some additional information to help you complete Sections 5 and 6 as well as information on how to submit your application.

Section 5: Student Records

For students outside of the Cincinnati Public School district:

3. Fill in the Release of Records form on page # of the New Student application packet.
3. Share the form with your student's school administrative office. The staff at the school should be able to support the gathering of documents.
 - a. 2017-18 full year report card
 - b. 2018-19 report card to date
 - c. Documentation that shows attendance record for 2018-19 school year
 - d. Most recent standardized test scores
3. Combine these documents with the rest of the application and try to submit as one packet.

For Cincinnati Public School (CPS) students:

1. Sign the Consent Form Student Computerized Records.
2. Gather the following information from PowerSchool. You can either print or save documents as PDFs and email them. (see below)
 - a. 2017-18 full year report card
 - b. 2018-19 report card to date with attendance record
 - c. Most recent standardized test scores

If you need assistance with PowerSchool you can visit the [CPS website](#) or call the CPS Help Desk at 363-0390, from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, during days when school is in session.

Accessing Student Records in Powerschool (CPS students only)

If you do not feel comfortable with PowerSchool, you can follow the instructions above for a student outside of CPS.

Log in to PowerSchool to view your student's Grades and Attendance.

1. For the 2017-18 full year report card:
 - a. In the Navigation Sidebar on the left hand side of the screen:
 - b. Select Grade History.
 - c. Select 17-18 Tab.
 - d. Choose the Printer Icon on the top Right to print or create a PDF of the 2017-18 report card.
2. For the 2018-19 report card to date and Attendance record:
 - a. In the Navigation Sidebar on the left hand side of the screen:
 - b. Select Grades and Attendance.
 - c. Choose the Printer Icon on the top Right to print or create a PDF of the current Report Card and Attendance Record.
3. For the test scores:
 - a. In the Navigation Sidebar on the left hand side of the screen:
 - b. Select Test Scores.
 - c. Select two of the most recent test scores.
 - d. Choose the Printer Icon on the top Right to print or create a PDF of each of the Standardized Test Score results.

Combine your application and school documents together as one complete packet when you submit the application. See below for submission options.

Section 6: Teacher Recommendation

Select a teacher who you think will provide an accurate description of your student and who will share the story of how Breakthrough could be instrumental in your student's success.

There is a request for recommendation form that can be shared with the teacher who you wish to refer your student to our program.

Application Submission

There are several ways to submit a completed student application by March 14, 2019:

1. You can mail or drop off a paper copy to:
Breakthrough Cincinnati at Cincinnati Country Day School
**drop off at the circular reception desk in the Upper School building*
6905 Given Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45243

2. You can drop off your completed paper copy at:
University of Cincinnati
CECH, Deans Office, Rm 410
2600 McMicken Circle
Cincinnati, OH 45221

3. You can scan and email your application, create one PDF or multiple PDFs that include:
 - a. Short response components (*File: Student Name, School, Application*)
 - b. Student Records (*File: Student Name, School, Student Records*)
 - c. Email the complete application packet to:
applystudent@breakthroughcincinnati.org with the subject line “Student Name, School.”

Part Four: The Selection Process and Notifications

In 2019, Breakthrough Cincinnati (BTC) will accept 64 students into the program. The students who will be selected are current 5th graders who will be rising 6th graders this coming summer. Each year, Breakthrough Cincinnati receives twice as many applications as there is space available, so the process is competitive. You are strongly encouraged to complete all questions and sections of the application as the instructions indicate, so that your application is complete. We are only able to consider complete applications. Sometimes we have a few spaces for current 6th graders who will be rising 7th graders. Very few students drop from the program, but we welcome applications from current 6th graders with the understanding that very few students drop from the program and acceptance is contingent on space available.

There is no exact “right way” to answer the questions, so just be yourself and provide factual information. We are looking for students who are motivated, are academically on track, and who experience multiple research-based risk factors that can lead to challenges with academic success.

Once your application is submitted, BTC will conduct a thorough review of the applications, a process that takes several weeks. We ask that you are patient, you will be notified by mail and email as soon as a decision has been reached. We expect to make notifications during the week of April 8th.

Thank you for your interest in this program.