STUDENT APPLICATION 2017 – 2018

Name: _____

School: _____

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ Part 1: Student Statement

- Personal Information
- School Information
- Short Answer Questions
- Essay Question
- Express Yourself! (Optional)
- Statement of Understanding

☐ Part 2: Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Statement

- Parent/Guardian 1 Information
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☐ Part 3: Expectations Form

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- High School Program
- Family Involvement
- Transportation
- Statement of Understanding

☐ Part 4: Student Information Release Form

Parents: Signing this form allows Breakthrough Twin Cities access to your child's MCA scores and grades.

☐ Part 5: Recommendation Forms (2)

Students: Please write your name on this form and give it to a teacher, coach, mentor, or other adult who is **NOT** related to you. Please have your recommender give it back to you completed, in a sealed envelope and/or send it to:

Student Recruitment
Breakthrough Twin Cities
2051 Larpenteur Ave E
St. Paul, MN 55109

When you are completely finished with your application, please give it to:

★APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2018★

Breakthrough Twin Cities Student Profile

Breakthrough Twin Cities is forming its next class of sixth and seventh grade students from Saint Paul Schools and making a commitment to help these students get to college! Our goal in recruiting students for Breakthrough Twin Cities 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 Twin Cities students include:

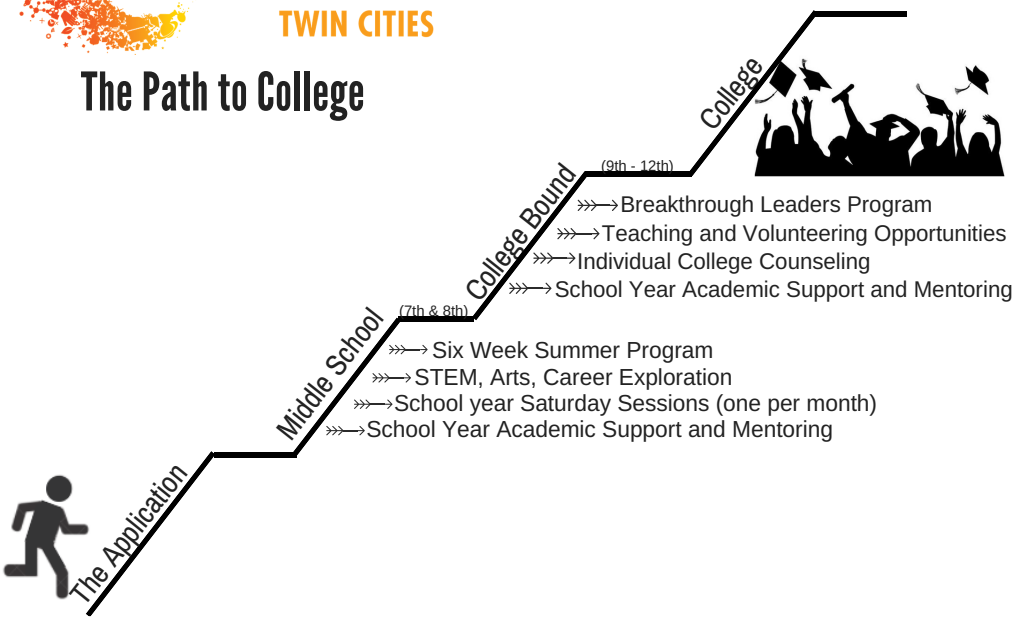
1. **Be Breakthrough**: Demonstrates motivation to learn, work hard, and find their own, unique path to college
2. **Strive to Understand:** Appreciates differences in others and seeks to learn more about others' points of view.
3. **Relish Hard Work Together**: Tries to work well with teachers, school counselors and family members. We're here as a team so Parent(s) and guardian(s) also have to be committed to student's success in the program
4. **Be Grateful:** Shows respect towards peers and adults and works to make Breakthrough a great place for everyone
5. **Be Curious:** Demonstrates excitement about learning and eager to explore their passions and interests
6. **Live the Growth Mindset:** Willing to accept feedback
7. **Persist:** Knows that getting to college takes a lot of work and is fully committed to the 6 year Program

In addition, Breakthrough Twin Cities students typically meet <u>two or more</u> of the following criteria:

- Are the first in their families to attend a four-year college
- Are low-income (qualify for free and reduced lunch)
- Speak a language other than English at home
- Are from a single-parent family
- Identify as a racial or ethnic minority group that is under-represented in college.

BREAKTHROUGH TWIN CITIES

The Path to College



Part 1: Student Statement

Students: Complete Part 1 yourself. Please print clearly using **PEN**. If you would like to write more than the space allows, short answer responses may be handwritten on a separate page.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
first middle last

Address: _____
number street city state zip code

Email: _____ Check One: ❑ Male or ❑ Female

Date of Birth: _____ Country of Birth: _____

Ethnic Background (Optional): ❑ Black/African-American ❑ Asian/Asian-American ❑ White/Caucasian
❑ Hispanic/Latino ❑ American Indian/Alaska Native ❑ Other _____

Ethnic Detail (Optional) *Example – Hmong, Somali, Mexican*: _____

Do you have a brother or sister in Breakthrough currently? ❑ No or ❑ Yes Name(s): _____

School Information

School Name: _____ Your Grade: _____ Student ID # _____

Who is completing your Recommendation Forms? _____ and _____

Name of teacher or school counselor copying your grades and test scores: _____

How did you hear about Breakthrough?: ❑ Counselor/Teacher ❑ Classroom Presentation ❑ Friend
❑ Sibling ❑ Community Org (ex: Church/Mosque, Rec Center) ❑ Other _____

Short Answer Questions

In two complete sentences or more, please answer each question.

1. Why are you applying to Breakthrough Twin Cities?

_____

_____

_____

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

3. Tell us about a time when you were confronted with a difficult academic challenge. How did you deal with it?

4. What is your favorite subject in school and why?

5. What are your favorite things to do outside of school (hobbies, special interests, etc.)? Why do you enjoy them?

6. What are your future goals? How is attending college going to help you reach these goals?

Essay

Please write neatly or type and attach an essay about **ONE** of the topics below. Your essay should be one page long and should demonstrate your best writing.

A. 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?

OR

B. 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?

OR

C. Describe your dream job and what steps you would take in order to reach it.

Additional lines on back side →

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Express Yourself! (Optional)

If you would like to attach another item to show or tell 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 Twin Cities is a six-year commitment. During the summers before 7th and 8th grade, I will participate fully for six weeks each summer (dates for summer 2018 are June 25 – August 4, 2018) from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (longer on August 4 for Celebration). I also understand that Breakthrough Twin Cities requires that I do one and a half hours of homework each weeknight during the summer, enroll in honors courses during the school year, attend half-day Saturday sessions, and other 1-1 support if my grades drop below a B-. During high school, I will participate in the College Bound program and work hard to get into a four-year college.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

★APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2018★

Part 2: Parent or Guardian Statement

Parent(s) or Guardian(s): Please fill out completely to the best of your ability and print clearly using **PEN**.

Name of Student: _____ Student ID #: _____
first middle last

Parent/Guardian 1

Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____
first middle last

Address: _____
number street city state zip code

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: _____ Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Ethnic Background (Optional): ❑ Black/African American ❑ Asian/Asian American
❑ White/Caucasian ❑ Hispanic/Latino ❑ American Indian/Alaska Native ❑ Other _____

Ethnic Detail (Optional) *Example – Hmong, Somali, Mexican*: _____

Education completed: ❑ Some High School ❑ High School or GED ❑ Vocational or Technical Degree
❑ 2 Year College ❑ 4 Year College ❑ Masters Degree ❑ Doctoral Degree

Parent/Guardian 2

Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____
first middle last

Address: _____
number street city state zip code

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: _____ Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Ethnic Background (Optional): ❑ Black/African-American ❑ Asian/Asian-American
❑ White/Caucasian ❑ Hispanic/ Latino ❑ American Indian/Alaska Native ❑ Other _____

Ethnic Detail (Optional) *Example - Hmong*: _____

Education completed: ❑ Some High School ❑ High School or GED ❑ Vocational or Technical Degree
❑ 2 Year College ❑ 4 Year College ❑ Masters Degree ❑ Doctoral Degree

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 is the primary language spoken at home? _____

Other languages spoken at home (Optional): _____

Number of children living in your home that you support: _____

Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch: ❑ Yes ❑ No
Do you have a child who is in Breakthrough currently? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, who? _____

Please describe you child's strengths, talents and academic abilities.

Why would you like your child to be a Breakthrough Twin Cities 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?

Part 3: Student & Family Expectations Form

Student & Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Please review Breakthrough Twin Cities' Expectations carefully. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please visit our website at *www.breakthroughtwincities.org* or contact the Breakthrough Program office at 651-748-5596 or learn@breakthroughtwincities.org.

Breakthrough Twin Cities will provide academic support throughout each student's program experience, so that he or she can be best prepared for college and beyond. Students and parents recognize that participating in Breakthrough Twin Cities is a six-year commitment with the goal of four-year college acceptance. The Breakthrough Twin Cities 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.

Summer Program Dates 2018

June 21	Back to Breakthrough Night
June 25	First Day of the Summer Program
July 4	No Classes
July 12	Parent Conferences (evening)
August 3	Last Day of Classes
August 4	Celebration (all day for students, evening for families)

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 engage with Breakthrough staff and coaches once a month during their seventh and eighth grade school years. Engagement includes either a hosted Breakthrough workshop or phone calls made by coaches. It is expected that students attend any workshops prevalent to their growth as Breakthrough students. Students are also expected to enroll in at least one honors/advanced, 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; dropping below a B- will result in mandatory 1-1 support. Students are also expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity each year, aside from Breakthrough.

School Year Program Dates 2018-2019

Dates To Be Determined

Do you see any possible conflicts with School Year Program attendance or expectations?

❑ ***No*** ❑ ***Yes***

If yes, please explain: _____

High School College Bound Program

During the school year and summer, High School students are expected to attend Saturday Sessions and grade specific workshops. Breakthrough will also provide individual college counseling to support students in their college search and the application process. 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; dropping

below a B- will result in mandatory 1-1 support. Students are also expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity, create a detailed summer plan, and apply to at least one scholarship.

Additional opportunities for students to be involved with Breakthrough, such as the Breakthrough Leaders Program (BLP), interns, tutors, and teachers will also be available throughout high school.

As of now, do you see any possible conflicts with High School Program involvement or expectations?

❑ ***No*** ❑ ***Yes***

If yes, please explain: _____

Family Involvement

Breakthrough Twin Cities is able to achieve its' results 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.

Family Involvement Dates 2018

March - May	Accepted Student and Family Meeting
June 21	Back to Breakthrough Night
July 12	Family Conferences
August 4	Celebration

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 Twin Cities provides transportation to and from the program at Mounds Park Academy and Central High School during both the summer and school year to those students who live in Saint Paul. If you do not live in Saint Paul or if your child leaves Saint Paul after being enrolled in BTC, you will be responsible for transportation to and from the program.

Do you live in St. Paul? ❑ ***Yes*** ❑ ***No***

If no, please explain how your child will get to and from the program: _____

_____

Statement of Understanding

I/We understand that Breakthrough Twin Cities requires the entire family to make a six-year commitment. My child 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 he/she is an active participant throughout the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date_____

Part 4: Student Information Release Form

Parent/Guardian: Please complete this form and have your child take it to the School Administrator or Counselor at his/her school.

Student Name: _____ Student ID #: _____

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 Twin Cities program:

6th Grade Applicants	7th Grade Applicants
❑ 6th grade report card ❑ 5th grade MCA test results	❑ 7th grade report card ❑ 6th grade MCA test results

I understand that my child's school administrator/counselor will copy the above information and attach it to his/her Breakthrough Twin Cities application by the application deadline of **February 7, 2018.** We expect that the information will only be shared with members of the Breakthrough Twin Cities student selection committee.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

School Administrator/Counselor: Please print out and attach the requested MCA & grade report information to the student's completed application form. When completed, please give it back to student in a sealed envelope and/or send it to:

Student Recruitment
Breakthrough Twin Cities
2051 Larpenteur Ave E.
St. Paul, MN 55109

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Nick Hamel at 651-748-5596 or learn@breakthroughtwincities.org.
Thank you!

Part 5: Recommendation Form 1

Student: Write your name on this page and give it to a teacher, coach, mentor, or other adult who is **NOT** a family member, and who can tell us a variety of things about you.

Student's Name: _____ School: _____ Student ID#: _____

Name of Recommender: _____ Relationship to student: _____

This student is applying to Breakthrough Twin Cities, a six-year academic enrichment and college prep program. Students participate in a six-week summer session followed by Saturday sessions once a month during the school year. Breakthrough Twin Cities 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 are committed to a six-year commitment with the goal of four-year college acceptance. We appreciate your honest responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please contact call 651-748-5596 **or email learn@breakthroughtwincities.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

	No Basis for Judgment	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Outstanding
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

What special interests, talents, or abilities could this applicant contribute to Breakthrough Twin Cities?

Please complete back side →

One of the criteria used when determining admission to Breakthrough Twin Cities is the student's need for the program. For what reasons would this program benefit this student?

Describe this student's attitude toward homework, studying, and academic achievement. How much effort does this student put into achieving his or her goals?

Breakthrough is a program for highly motivated, under-resourced students who want to go to college. I recommend this student for the Breakthrough program:

❏ With great enthusiasm ❏ With some confidence

❏ With reservations (please elaborate) ❏ I do not recommend

Keeping in mind that Breakthrough Twin Cities classes are taught by high school and college students (under the supervision of mentor teachers and program staff), do you have any concerns about this student's ability to behave appropriately and with maturity? Do you have any concerns about this child's ability to complete the six-year commitment?

Recommender Name: _____ Email: _____

Recommender Signature: _____ Date_____

When completed, please give recommendation form back to student in a sealed envelope and/or send it to:

Student Recruitment
Breakthrough Twin Cities
2051 Larpenteur Ave E
St. Paul, MN 55109

★APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2018★

Part 5: Recommendation Form 2

Student: Write your name on this page and give it to a teacher, coach, mentor, or other adult who is **NOT** a family member, and who can tell us a variety of things about you.

Student's Name: _____ School: _____ Student ID#: _____

Name of Recommender: _____ Relationship to student: _____

This student is applying to Breakthrough Twin Cities, a six-year academic enrichment and college prep program. Students participate in a six-week summer session followed by Saturday sessions once a month during the school year. Breakthrough Twin Cities 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 are committed to a six-year commitment with the goal of four-year college acceptance. We appreciate your honest responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please contact call 651-748-5596 **or email learn@breakthroughtwincities.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

	No Basis for Judgment	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Outstanding
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

What special interests, talents, or abilities could this applicant contribute to Breakthrough Twin Cities?

Please complete back side →

One of the criteria used when determining admission to Breakthrough Twin Cities is the student's need for the program. For what reasons would this program benefit this student?

Describe this student's attitude toward homework, studying, and academic achievement. How much effort does this student put into achieving his or her goals?

Breakthrough is a program for highly motivated, under-resourced students who want to go to college. I recommend this student for the Breakthrough program:

❏ With great enthusiasm ❏ With some confidence

❏ With reservations (please elaborate) ❏ I do not recommend

Keeping in mind that Breakthrough Twin Cities classes are taught by high school and college students (under the supervision of mentor teachers and program staff), do you have any concerns about this student's ability to behave appropriately and with maturity? Do you have any concerns about this child's ability to complete the six-year commitment?

Recommender Name: _____ Email: _____

Recommender Signature: _____ Date_____

When completed, please give recommendation form back to student in a sealed envelope and/or send it to:

Student Recruitment
Breakthrough Twin Cities
2051 Larpenteur Ave E
St. Paul, MN 55109

★APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2018★

Frequently Asked Questions

What commitments will I have to make to Breakthrough Twin Cities?
If you are accepted to Breakthrough Twin Cities 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 2018 schedule?
Breakthrough Twin Cities takes place Monday through Friday, June 25 through August 3, 2018, with Celebration in the afternoon and evening of August 4, 2018. The program hours are approximately 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (12:00PM – 9:00PM on August 4). **There will be no Breakthrough on July 4th**. 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 Twin Cities 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 talk to Breakthrough staff before applying to the program.

Where is Breakthrough Twin Cities? Breakthrough Twin Cities has two sites in Saint Paul
Mounds Park Academy: 2051 Larpenteur Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55109
St. Paul Central High School: 275 N Lexington Pkwy, St. Paul, MN 55105

Is transportation provided?
If you live in Saint Paul, buses will pick and drop you off at points near your homes. If you do not live in Saint Paul or change schools outside Saint Paul, families are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the program.

Are meals 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 Twin Cities 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?
All student applications are due by February 7, 2018. BTC takes approximately one month to review all applications. In late-March, we notify those students and families who we would like to accept are invited to a final in-person enrollment meeting. 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 Twin Cities. We will ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends the program every day and does his or her homework consistently. See Expectations Form.

★ APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2018 ★

If you have additional questions, please contact the Breakthrough Program office at 651-748-5596!