



**Breakthrough 2023 Deadline:
Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

APPLICATION

Important Dates & Deadlines

Feb. 8th / Feb. 21st	Family Information Night (6:30pm at Fort Worth Country Day)
March 7, 2023	<i>Last day to submit applications to the Breakthrough Office</i>
April 1, 2023	Interview Day, 8am-2pm at Fort Worth Country Day
April 3, 2023	Make-Up Interview Day (if you cannot make the April 1st)
Last week in April	Breakthrough will be emailing decisions out to families

Where do I turn in my application?

Ask your school's academic coordinator or counselor where it should go! Most schools will have a drop-off point in the office or in a teacher's classroom.

You may also mail directly to Breakthrough. Must be received by our office on/or before March 8. Address:

Student Admissions
Breakthrough Fort Worth
4200 Country Day Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Call (817) 302-3280 or e-mail Rudi.Flores@fwcd.com with any questions!



Application Checklist

Make sure you've completed every section before turning it in!

- _____ Section 1: General Student Information

- _____ Section 2: Student Section
 - * Did you answer all the short answer questions?
 - * Did you include your essay?
 - * Did you complete the "Express Yourself" section?

- _____ Section 3: Parent/Guardian Section
 - * Did you answer all the questions?
 - * Did you agree to all expectations in the Breakthrough Expectations section?
 - * Did you sign the Grade Release Form?

- _____ Section 4: Teacher Recommendation / Grades
 - * Did you ask a teacher from an academic class this year to fill out your recommendation form?
 - * Did you attach a copy of your most recent Report Card?

... Once you have all the steps finished, you're ready to turn it in!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- We will review all application materials carefully.
- Between 80 to 90 students will qualify as finalists, and we will invite the finalists to an interview on April 1, 2023.
- It is best to attend the interview on April 1st; however, if you cannot attend, we will have make-up interview days after school on April 3rd.
- After the interviews, Breakthrough will make final selections and offer spots to around 65-80 students.
- The summer program begins on June 20, 2023!

Please note: Not every student and family who applies to Breakthrough will get a spot. Every year we have more wonderful students who apply than we are able to accept. You should take pride in yourself for going through this process! It is an accomplishment just to finish the application. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

What is Breakthrough?

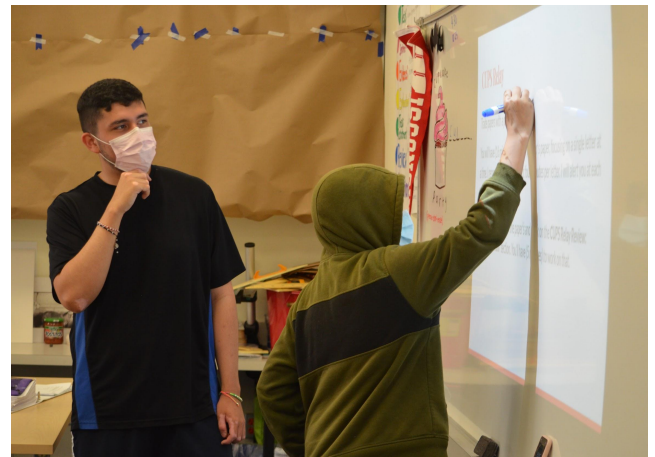
Breakthrough is... **Academics.**

- Literature
- Writing
- Science
- Mathematics
- Test preparation

All Breakthrough students love learning. The goal of the *summer program* at Breakthrough is to prepare you to excel in honors and pre-AP courses in middle and high school. The goal of the *school year program* is to get ready for top college-preparatory programs in high school.



is



Breakthrough is... **Excellence.**

- 100% attendance
- 100% homework completion
- 100% participation in all classes and activities
- 100% will go to a top college-preparatory high school program
- 100% will graduate from high school
- 100% will go to a four-year college/university

Breakthrough holds very high expectations for all students. Our goals are high because our students are capable and talented, and to expect anything less but the best would be letting you down. **You will graduate from high school and go to college**—and Breakthrough will be there every step along the way.



Breakthrough Fort Worth Application
(817) 302-3280

rudi.flores@fwcd.com

Breakthrough is... **Hard Work.**

- Daily summer program:
 - 8 hours a day
 - 5 days a week
 - Six weeks
 - Four summers (until 10th grade)
 - **Homework every night**
- School year program:
 - One Saturday a month
 - Individual mentoring and support



“Some people dream of success... while others get out of bed and work hard for it.” Students at Breakthrough

work hard because it’s the only way to grow and learn. You’ll have homework, take classes every day in the summer, and even go to class on Saturdays during the school year! Why? Because you want to get ahead for college, and because you love the feeling of a job well done.

Breakthrough is... **Teamwork.**

- Small class sizes
- Individual attention
- “Study Buddy” time every day
- Team competitions like Spirit Day
- High-school and college students as teachers
- Supportive, positive learning environment

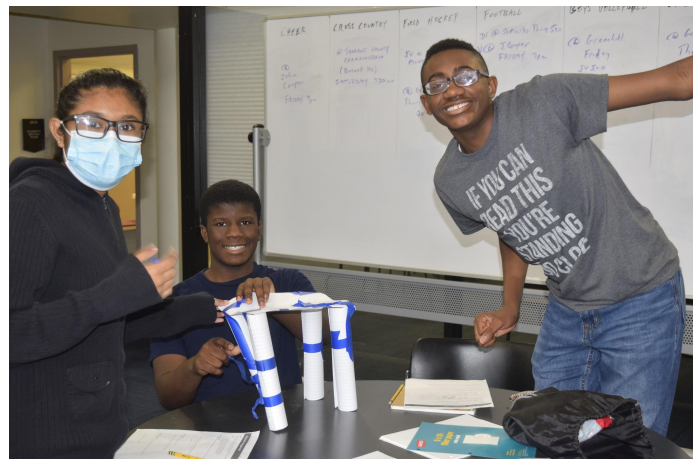
What do students love most about Breakthrough? “I love how Breakthrough is a family of people who support you,” says one 9th-grader. You’ll get to make friends with highly motivated students all across Fort Worth. And all of your teachers are young, fun high-schoolers and college students who devote their time to be with you to support your academic and personal growth.



Breakthrough is... **Family.**

- Annual family-teacher conferences for all students
- One-on-one support for high school options
- All events bilingual (English and Spanish)
- Frequent contact with program directors

Once you become a part of Breakthrough, you stay with the program for at least six years! Breakthrough works with students and families throughout middle and high school. Every student is a valuable member of our community. Many of our students return as volunteers and even teachers! Like a family, at Breakthrough we love and support one another, no matter what.



Breakthrough Course Planner

Courses in the summer program are designed to prepare students for advanced, honors-level and pre-AP courses in middle school and ultimately high school. Here is the typical coursework for Breakthrough students in the summer portion of the program:

	Literature	Writing	Science	Mathematics
7th Grade	Literature 7	Writing 7	Engineering 7	7th Grade Math or Algebra 1
8th Grade	Literature 8	Writing 8	Chemistry/Biology 8	Algebra 1 or Geometry
9th Grade	Literature 9	Writing 9	Chemistry/Biology 8	Geometry or Algebra 2

A Breakthrough Day



Julia's Summer Schedule*

- 7:45 Breakfast
- 8:00 Period 1: Literature
- 9:00 Period 2: Biology
- 10:00 Period 3: Writing
- 11:00 Period 4: Geometry
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:35 All School Meeting
- 1:10 Study Buddies
- 1:50 Art
- 2:50 Flex Time
- 3:45 Dismissal

Leo's Summer Schedule*

- 7:45 Breakfast
- 8:00 Period 1: Algebra 2
- 9:00 Period 2: Chemistry
- 10:00 Period 3: Literature
- 11:00 Period 4: Writing
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:35 All School Meeting
- 1:10 Study Buddies
- 1:50 Soccer
- 2:50 Flex Time
- 3:45 Dismissal



*Exact times may vary

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

Students: Please complete this page yourself or with the help of your parent or guardian. Please print clearly using **blue or black ink.**

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Preferred Name (if different from first name)
Home Address (include apartment number if you live in an apartment)			
City		State	Zip
Date of Birth (month/day/year) ____ / ____ / _____	Gender ___ Male ___ Female	Current School:	Grade:
What teacher did you ask to write your recommendation? _____			
What subject does he or she teach? _____ (Remember, you should choose a math, science, English language arts, reading, or social studies teacher.)			
<i>The following questions are optional. Please answer them if you feel comfortable.</i>			
Ethnicity (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> African-American <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian-American <input type="checkbox"/> Latinx or Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
Were you born in the United States? ___ Yes ___ No	If you were not born in the United States, what country were you born in, and how long have you lived here?		
Student School ID: _____			

STUDENT SECTION—Short Answers

This section should be completed by the student alone. Student Name: _____

Please print clearly in blue or black ink.

Choose three words to describe yourself & **why**. (Please write your answer in complete sentences)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

If you are admitted into Breakthrough, what do you expect to get out of the program? (2 or more sentences)

What is your greatest accomplishment so far? (2 or more sentences)

Make a list of subjects or skills you are interested in learning more about on your own. Choose one and tell us why you selected that skill.

List: _____

Why? _____

Finish this sentence: The most exciting thing about growing up and being a 6th grader is.... (3-4 sentences)

Fill in the blanks. Be creative!

If everyone in the world could just agree on _____,
we would all be a lot better off.

When I think of the word homework, I think _____.

If I could take anyone in the world to lunch, it would be _____.

STUDENT SECTION—Essay

This section should be completed by the student alone.

Please choose **ONE** of the following essay topics.

TOPIC ONE: You are probably concerned about a problem you see in your school, neighborhood, country, or the world. Please describe the problem and how you feel about so that you can provide details and elaboration. Then offer a possible solution to the problem.

TOPIC TWO (mandatory topic for 7th grade applicants): Imagine that you could give advice to someone --- it could be someone you know personally, a historical figure, or a famous person living today. Write an essay that identifies the person and the advice you would give. Choose a familiar subject so that you can provide details and elaboration that explain why this person needs your advice.

How to write this essay:

- Write a rough draft first, and ask someone to check your spelling or grammar.
- Write the essay in a formal, five-paragraph format.
- Then write the final draft in blue or black ink.
- You may type the essay.
- Your final draft should be no longer than one typed page or two handwritten pages.

**Do not write your essay in this space!
Please use fresh sheets of paper.
Turn the essay in with the application.**

STUDENT SECTION—Express Yourself! (Mandatory)

This section should be completed by the student alone. Student Name: _____

Please use this box to tell us about yourself. Fill it up! Be creative! You can draw, write a poem, do a math problem, write a rap, make a collage, put in photos, write a song, or anything else that expresses you!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for students to express themselves through drawing, writing, or other creative means.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION *[This section should be completed by the parent(s) or guardian(s).]*

Please use blue or black ink.

<p>The parent/guardian section is long and has a lot of questions. Why are we asking so many things?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need your contact information so that we can communicate in case we have any questions. 2. Breakthrough serves students who have limited access to educational opportunities. By asking you these questions we can better understand how we can serve you as a family. 3. We expect a lot from Breakthrough parents. By answering these questions you show that you are committed to what the program is asking. 	
Information about Mother or Guardian 1	
Relationship to student <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Stepmother <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Does the student live with this person? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes
Last Name	First Name
Home/Cell Phone	Work Phone
Student Cell Phone	Email
If Breakthrough needs to contact you, what is the best way to communicate? (check one, please) <input type="checkbox"/> Home phone <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> Work phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email	
Country of birth	Occupation
Highest level of education (check one, please) <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary school <input type="checkbox"/> Middle school <input type="checkbox"/> High school or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Two-year college, vocational or technical degree <input type="checkbox"/> Four year college degree <input type="checkbox"/> Master's degree or higher	
Information about Father or Guardian 2	
Relationship to student <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Stepfather <input type="checkbox"/> Grandfather <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Does the student live with this person? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes
Last Name	First Name
Home Phone	Cell Phone
Work Phone	Email
If Breakthrough needs to contact you, what is the best way to communicate? (check one, please) <input type="checkbox"/> Home phone <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> Work phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email	
Country of birth	Occupation
Highest level of education (check one, please) <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary school <input type="checkbox"/> Middle school <input type="checkbox"/> High school or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Two-year college, vocational or technical degree <input type="checkbox"/> Four year college degree <input type="checkbox"/> Master's degree or higher	

Information about the Family

Including the child applying to Breakthrough, how many children under the age of 18 live in the household?

Have any siblings or other family members (cousins, aunts, uncles) been Breakthrough or Summerbridge students?

Yes No

If yes, please list their names and relationship to the student applying.

Does the child receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch? Yes No In the past, but not right now

Annual household income*

Less than \$10,000 \$10,001 to \$20,000 \$20,001 to \$30,000
 \$30,001 to \$50,000 \$50,001 to \$70,000 More than \$70,000

*Breakthrough seeks to increase educational opportunities for motivated middle school students from Fort Worth schools. We ask about family income to help us assess whether your family might have access to other opportunities aside from our program.

Languages spoken in the home (check all that apply)

English Spanish Other: _____

Does anyone in the immediate family have a four-year college degree from a college or university in the United States? Yes No Not sure

If so, who? (check all that apply)

Mother Father Grandparent Brother or sister
 Other: _____

Please indicate who has a 4-year college degree and from where.

<u>Name / Relationship</u>	<u>University Attended</u>	<u>Degree & Year</u>
(example) Jennifer Smith, mother	University of Texas TCU	B.S. 1995 M.A. 2005

The following three questions are optional. You do not have to answer the questions if you do not want to, but it will help the admissions committee to better understand the child applying to Breakthrough.

Please check all of the following that apply. (Optional)

The student lives with...

Both Parents Mother Father
 Grandparent(s) Foster Parent Legal Guardian
 Other: _____

Parents or guardians are... (Optional)

Married or together Separated Divorced
 Single parent Mother deceased Father deceased

Please describe the family situation if it would be helpful. (Optional, more space on next page)

Please describe the family situation if it would be helpful.

The rest of the questions are **required**. Please answer them in order for the application to be complete.

Information about Your Child

Has your child ever been held back a grade? Yes No

Has your child ever been advanced (skipped) a grade? Yes No

Has your child been identified as gifted and talented? Yes No

Has your child ever been diagnosed with a learning disability? Yes No

If Yes, please explain the year(s) and the nature of the diagnosis or diagnoses.

* Breakthrough does not discriminate against any child for learning disabilities. We ask because we want to know how we can best serve your child and your family.

In the past three years, has your child ever been involved in a disciplinary infraction at school that resulted in his/her probation, suspension, in-house suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion? Yes No

If yes, please explain the situation(s):

Breakthrough

Why do you want your child to be in Breakthrough?

If your child does not attend Breakthrough, what are some other summer experiences s/he might enroll in?

How did you learn about Breakthrough? (Please check all that apply.)

Your child A friend A relative Brochure Church
 Teacher Counselor Web site Letter sent home
Other: _____

Middle School Summer Program
During every summer before 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th grade, students attend the six-week Breakthrough Summer Program Monday through Friday. During this time it is expected that students complete at least two hours of homework each evening, including weekends.

Summer 2023 Program Dates:

June 13-14	Meet the Teachers Night
June 20	First Day of Summer Program
July 3-4	Holiday (No School)
July 5-6	Family Showcase
July 28	Last Day of the Summer Program
July 29	Celebration

Do you foresee any possible conflicts with summer program attendance or completing homework?
 No Yes If yes, please explain:

Middle School—School Year Program
Students will attend at least 6 half-day (9am-1pm) Saturday sessions during their seventh- and eighth-grade years. These sessions occur once a month and consist of academic classes plus enrichment opportunities.

Do you foresee any possible conflicts with school year program attendance?
 No Yes If yes, please explain:

Middle School—Grades and School Expectations
All Breakthrough students need to enroll in honors classes and a foreign language in 7th and 8th grade (if available at their school). Students are also expected to take Algebra 1 and English 1 in 8th grade. Students must maintain grades of 81 or above in each subject. If they receive a grade lower than 81 on any report card, they are required to meet with a Breakthrough advisor and bring up their grades for the next report card.

Do you foresee any possible conflicts with the grades and school expectations?
 No Yes If yes, please explain:

8th Grade—Options

Students and parents will participate in informational events to learn about high school options, including comprehensive public schools, public school programs of choice, parochial schools, independent schools, and boarding schools. Students and parents will communicate with Breakthrough as they explore their options and make their decision on what high school they will attend. All Breakthrough students will attend a strong college-preparatory high school program.

Do you foresee any possible conflicts with the High School Options expectations?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

High School—School Year Program

Students will participate in College Counseling activities as organized by Breakthrough, including Saturday and weekly activities once a month. They will maintain grades of 80 and above and take honors and AP-level classes. In 12th grade, Breakthrough will assist students in applying for college, scholarships, and financial aid.

Do you foresee any problems with the high school and college expectations?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

Family Involvement

Breakthrough Fort Worth is able to achieve the results it does because everyone involved sets and meets high expectations. Families play an important role in the program, including supporting your student in his/her homework, schoolwork, attendance, and participating in Breakthrough events.

Do you foresee any problems with the family involvement expectations?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

Transportation

Due to the generosity of Fort Worth ISD, Breakthrough is able to provide transportation during the summer to all students who live within the district lines. We will have bus stops in every Fort Worth neighborhood, usually at middle and elementary schools, sometimes at street intersections. The bus schedule is not yet available; however, if you are accepted into Breakthrough, we will ensure that there is at your nearest neighborhood middle school or elementary school. During the school year, Breakthrough is able to provide some transportation upon request. In the school year program, you must provide your own transportation to Breakthrough activities or contact the program if you need help.

Do you foresee any problems with transportation?

No Yes If yes, please explain:

For your child's application file to be complete, the teacher recommendation at the back of this packet **must** be completed by one of your child's current teachers in math, science, English language arts, or reading. The teacher may return the recommendation to you or directly to the application box at your child's school.

If you would like, you may ask one other adult to write an additional letter of recommendation for your child. This adult may be another teacher, a community or church member, a friend, or anyone else who knows your child personally and who is not a relative. Please ask the person to mail the additional recommendation letter directly to:

Student Admissions
Breakthrough Fort Worth
4200 Country Day Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76109

By signing in the space below, I promise that the information given in this application is true and that my child completed the "Student Section" on his or her own. I agree to support my child's enrollment in Breakthrough if she or he is accepted into the program, and I will contact Breakthrough with any questions.

Signed,

_____ Date: _____
(name of parent or guardian)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please use this space if it would be helpful to explain any of your answers in this section.



GRADE RELEASE FORM

This section should be completed by the parent(s) or guardian(s). Please use blue or black ink.

Name of Student: _____

Middle School: _____

As a part of the admissions process, Breakthrough Fort Worth requests that all students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) sign this form allowing the program to access their academic files. Materials requested may include report cards and standardized test scores. These materials will be kept confidential in the Breakthrough Office. This form also gives Breakthrough staff permission to speak about your child with school teachers, counselors, and other staff members.

I, _____, allow Breakthrough Fort Worth to have access to the
(Parent or Guardian Name)

academic records of my student, _____.

Parent or guardian Signature _____ Date _____

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Student Name: _____

The student whose name appears above wishes to make a commitment to his/her future by applying to Breakthrough Fort Worth, a tuition-free academic enrichment program that prepares motivated middle school students for high school and college (formerly known as Summerbridge).

Applying to Breakthrough is a lengthy process and we rely on teachers like you to help ensure students complete the process successfully. Part of the application includes this recommendation. We appreciate your candid responses, which will be kept confidential. After completing the recommendation form (**front & back**), please turn it in using one of the following methods:

- Return the form to the student in a sealed envelope with your signature over the closure, which the student will then submit (**preferred**);
- Submit the form directly to the central Breakthrough deposit box in your school (normally located in the main office, counselor's office); or
- Mail the form directly to us at Student Admissions, Breakthrough, 4200 Country Day Lane, Fort Worth, TX, 76109.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please visit us at www.fwcd.com/breakthrough, or contact Rudi Flores, Director of Student Affairs, directly at rudi.flores@fwcd.com. Thank you for your assistance.

Please check the box which best describes this student in relation to other students you teach.

	1 -Below average	2 -Average	3 -Above average	4 -Outstanding	Comment
Academic					
Motivation to succeed academically					
Homework completion					
Class participation					
Organizational skills					
Overall academic promise					
Perseverance					
Willingness to try new ways of thinking					
Gives 100% effort					
Maintains positive attitude about school					
Enjoys learning for its own sake					
Overall perseverance					
Interpersonal					
Ability to be a group leader					
Ability to work independently					
Ability to work with other students					
Respect for teachers					
Overall interpersonal qualities					

I recommend this student to the Breakthrough program (check one):

With great enthusiasm

With some confidence

With reservations (please explain on back of form)

I do not recommend

Your name: _____ Signature: _____

Subject you teach: _____ School: _____

If you would permit us to contact you with further questions about the student, please give your contact information:

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

**Additional questions can be found on the back of this form. Please answer all questions.
All information will be kept strictly confidential to members of the Admissions Committee.**

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION (Continued)

In your class, is this student working above grade level, at grade level, or below grade level?

___ Above ___ At ___ Below

What are some general areas of improvements for this student?

Breakthrough aims to provide educational enrichment for students who have otherwise limited access to such opportunities. If not admitted to Breakthrough, do you believe that this student would have access to many other educational enrichment programs?

Please describe the involvement of the parents or guardians in this student’s education as you have experienced it (e.g. returning phone calls, attending conferences and school events, supporting homework completion).

Should the admissions committee be made aware of any other factors that have had an impact on this student’s academic or social progress to date?

Is there additional information that would be best relayed in a phone conversation?

Other comments:

Instructional Coach Job Openings, Summer 2022
Instructional Coaches (ICs) are experienced and successful professional educators who provide instructional and management support for college and high-schoolers serving as Breakthrough teaching fellows.

Responsibilities include:

- Lead workshops during teacher orientation
- Guide teachers in using Breakthrough curriculum
- Observe teachers twice weekly and provide feedback in post-conferences
- Lead department meetings

Qualifications: bachelor’s degree required; 2 years’ classroom experience in grades 7, 8, or 9 required; 5+ years of experience preferred.

Compensation negotiable for eight-week commitment from June 6-Aug 3, including Teacher Training and Evaluation Week. For further information, contact Jessica Manzano-Valdez at jessica.manzano-valdez@fwcd.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ABOUT BREAKTHROUGH

MORE INFORMATION

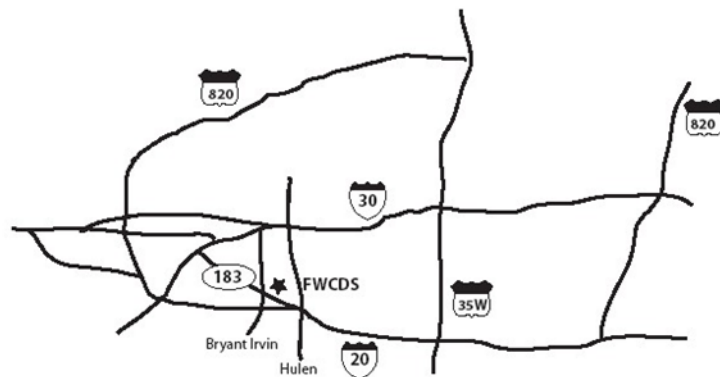
How do I get to Breakthrough Fort Worth?

I-20 Heading West

- From I-35, continue on I-20 approximately 4 miles.
- After Hulen St exit, I-20 splits and Southwest Blvd/hwy183 forks off to your right. Stay right on Southwest Blvd and take the first exit, Frontage Road.
- Go right (north) on Bryant Irvin two blocks and turn right on to campus.

I-30 Heading West

- Pass Downtown Fort Worth.
- Exit Bryant Irvin and go left (south) 3.0 miles.
- At the light at Bellaire Drive, turn left on to campus



What is the Information Evening?

Parents and students are invited to come see our program in person and to learn more. You will have the chance to see the school, work on your application, and ask questions. If you have already completed the application, its a perfect opportunity to submit the application or review.

Date: Wednesday, February 8 / Tuesday, February 21

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Place: Fort Worth Country Day, Upper School Commons

What if I have more questions?

The BEST way to get your question answered is to email rudi.flores@fwcd.com. Other ways to get in touch:

Phone: (817) 302-3280

Instagram: [btftworth](https://www.instagram.com/btftworth)

Facebook: Breakthrough Fort Worth

Web: www.breakthroughfortworth.com



INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

ABOUT APPLYING TO BREAKTHROUGH

How much does Breakthrough cost?

Breakthrough is **free**. All student expenses, including transportation, school supplies, books, and meals are covered by generous donors. We ask that you “pay” with your hard work and commitment to the program. Families will need to ensure that students attend all events and activities on time, ready to work.

What commitments will I make to Breakthrough?

If you are accepted and join the program, you are expected to participate in all four aspects of Breakthrough: the summer program (for the next three summers), the school year program (for the next two years), the high school options program (in eighth grade), and the high school program (during 9th-12th grade).

Is it OK to miss a few days of the program for vacation or another program?

NO. Daily attendance at Breakthrough is mandatory, except in cases of severe illness or family emergency. **If your family is planning an extended vacation during the Breakthrough dates, please do not apply to the program.**

Where is Breakthrough Fort Worth?

Breakthrough is hosted at Fort Worth Country Day, a private school at 4200 Country Day Lane, Fort Worth, TX, 76109. It is near the intersection of Bryant Irvin and I-20. See the next pages for a map and directions.

Is transportation provided?

During the summer, **YES!** Buses will be able to pick up students at a location near the home and drop them off in the afternoon. Most students will ride the bus. During the school year, we help provide transportation to families who need assistance but for the most part students need to be able to get to program events on their own.

What are the responsibilities of Breakthrough parents and guardians?

Parental support is very important for academic success and that holds true at Breakthrough. We will ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends the program every day and does his or her homework consistently. There are also a couple of events, conferences, and other activities that parents must attend annually. Please read the details in the parent section of the application.

What is the summer curriculum?

Our curriculum is written by professional teachers and educators, and is used by Breakthrough sites across the country. It is designed to be challenging, building the skills students will need to succeed in top college-preparatory high schools.

- *Literature:* Students read advanced texts, usually including one novel or one play. Past literature texts have included plays by Shakespeare, *House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer, *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, and *Black Boy* by Richard Wright. Students take Literature in all three years at Breakthrough.
- *Writing:* Students learn how to write personal statements and persuasive essays. Both of these are skills needed when applying to top high schools and colleges. In addition, students learn how to read informational texts. Students take Writing in 7th, 8th, and 9th grade.
- *Science:* Breakthrough science is based on a belief that students need to learn how to read, talk, write, and think about science effectively. We combine a content-rich approach with carefully designed hands-on activities. By the end of the ninth grade summer, students will have preparation in each of the three core science subjects: physics (7th), chemistry (8th), and biology (9th).
- *Mathematics.* All Breakthrough students are expected to be on track to take pre-algebra in 7th grade (or earlier), Algebra 1 in eighth grade (or earlier), and Geometry in 9th grade (or earlier). We offer the option to accelerate an extra year for those students who are ready.

Who are the teachers and how are they prepared to teach?

All Breakthrough teachers are high-school and college students. They go through a very rigorous selection process and must demonstrate that they are capable of teaching. Additionally, they start 2 weeks before students in the summer program, learning instructional and management strategies to become effective in the classroom. They are supported all summer long by professional teachers we call "Instructional Coaches."

What about homework?

Students will be given a lot of homework! In order to extend their learning and prepare them for top high schools, students should expect to have at least two hours of homework every weeknight, plus some homework on the weekends. Families need to talk with their children about this expectation and be ready to support them in completing their homework.

What about extra-curricular activities?

Breakthrough offers "Clubs" as a specific class period of the day. Past clubs have included Spanish Club, Dance, Basketball, Student Council, and many others. The specific clubs will change from year to year depending on student interest.

Who gets accepted into Breakthrough?

We are looking for academically motivated students who have limited access to educational opportunities. Specifically, all Breakthrough students have all of the following qualities...

- Motivation to learn, work hard, and get to college
- Demonstrated academic achievement (primarily 75 and above in their classes)
- Respectful behavior in class with peers and teachers (primarily E's and S's in citizenship)
- Ability to commit fully to the program
- Consistent attendance in school

In addition, Breakthrough students have one or more of the following qualities...

- Would be the first generation in their families to complete a four-year college degree
- Come from a lower-income household
- Come from a single-parent family
- Speak a language other than English at home

How many students can Breakthrough accept?

We will take 45 students who are 6th-graders in the school year 2017-18. Admission to Breakthrough is highly selective, which means that we will not be able to take all of the wonderful qualified students who apply. This doesn't mean that you should be upset if you are not accepted, it means that you should be proud that you took the risk! Some students will be put on the waitlist but we do not guarantee places.

Due to the long-term commitment of the program, Breakthrough traditionally recruits 6th-graders only. We may have a very small number of spots available for current 7th-graders. Please inquire directly at (817) 302-3280 or email rudi.flores@fwcd.com to learn if spots have become available for 7th-graders.

What happens after I apply?

Your application will be reviewed by the Breakthrough Admissions Committee. Some students who turn in a complete application will be invited to an interview. We will make our final decisions after all interviews are conducted. You will receive a letter in the mail during the last week of April that will tell you if you are accepted, waitlisted, or denied.

What happens during the interview?

We will ask you some questions about yourself and your life, what you like to do, and why you want to be a Breakthrough student. There will be three sections to the interview: a student interview, a parent information session, and a math quiz. It's okay to be nervous, but remember that we just want to get to know you!

What if I can't come to my interview?

It's important to make your best effort to come to the interview on the assigned date (April 1st) and time.