



2021 STUDENT APPLICATION OPEN TO ALL SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS



Breakthrough Manchester is a tuition-free, academic enrichment program for highly motivated, middle school students from Manchester public schools. The program is designed to help students excel academically and socially as well as forge a successful path through college.

WHAT IS BREAKTHROUGH MANCHESTER?

IS BREAKTHROUGH MANCHESTER FOR ME?

Breakthrough Manchester students come from many different backgrounds, but they all share one thing in common: a love of learning! Breakthrough Manchester students participate in programming all year, exploring academic classes like science and English through the lens of social justice issues impacting our community, and enrichment classes like criminology, coding, soccer, and more. If you are a student who wants to achieve academically, has a desire to go to college, and wants to make a real impact in our community, then Breakthrough may be the place for you!

WHAT DOES COMMITMENT TO BREAKTHROUGH MANCHESTER LOOK LIKE?

Students who are accepted into the program attend THREE six-week summer programs and TWO school-year programs which meet on five Saturdays. Students have the option to continue their commitment into the College-Bound program at Southern New Hampshire University which focuses on financial aid, college visits, college applications, and more!

WILL BREAKTHROUGH SUMMER 2021 BE ONLINE OR IN-PERSON?

Breakthrough Manchester is currently considering an in-person program, a virtual summer program, and a hybrid model. We will make a final decision in accordance with state and city health and safety guidelines and will notify families as soon as that decision is finalized.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHERS AND THE CLASSES LIKE?

At Breakthrough Manchester, all of the teachers are talented high school and college students. They make learning exciting, challenging, rewarding, and fun! During the summer, Teaching Fellows design classes that focus on math, science, English, and literature, while during the school year, the Super Saturday Program focuses on enrichment and skill-building courses. In addition to classes, students will visit colleges in NH and MA, visit museums and historical sites, volunteer in the community, and participate in Breakthrough Olympics & Spirit Day!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Breakthrough Manchester is completely FREE, including all summer and school-year programming, transportation, field trips, meals, and snacks. However, you must be committed to showing up, working hard, and staying involved.

IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?

Yes! Buses will pick you up near your home in the morning and return you there in the afternoon. During the school year, families are asked to help out with transportation. However, transportation is available if needed.

IS THERE HOMEWORK?

At Breakthrough Manchester, our goal is to cultivate a community in which students and teachers can think, learn, and grow. As part of that process, students will be expected to complete up to one hour and thirty minutes of homework every night during the summer.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Once your application is submitted, administrators review each application. Breakthrough selects students based on their demonstrated academic commitment and motivation, teacher recommendations, parental commitment, and demonstrated need. Selected students and families will be invited to participate in a short interview in March. Acceptance letters and enrollment packets will be sent out in April. Whether accepted or not, going through the process is a valuable experience. Remember to relax and have fun with the application, write your final draft in blue or black ink (unless completing online), follow all instructions carefully, and most importantly, be yourself!

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To be eligible to apply for Breakthrough, you must:

- currently be in sixth grade
- like to learn and be willing to work hard (mostly A's and B's on report cards; no D's or F's)
- aspire to attend college and obtain a four-year degree (even if you decide to start at a two-year school)
- commit to THREE six-week summer programs and TWO school-year Saturday programs

All applications will be considered, however, we prioritize applications for students who live in Manchester, NH and meet two or more of the following criteria:

- student will be the first in family to graduate from a college or university in the U.S. with a four year degree
- student is eligible for free or reduced lunch at school
- student speaks a language other than English at home
- student identifies as a racial or ethnic minority
- student lives in a single-parent household or alternative family household

What is the Application Process?

To apply to Breakthrough, please use the following checklist:

Step 1: Review

Review all sections of the application with a parent or guardian. Please email Chau Ngo, cngo@derryfield.org, if you would like a hard copy of the application mailed to you. An online version of the application is also available: <https://bit.ly/btm2021app>

Step 2: Complete Student Section

Complete the Student Section. Please write NEATLY using COMPLETE sentences where indicated. Do not wait until the last minute to work on this!

- Part 1:** Student Information
- Part 2:** Student Short Answers
- Part 3:** Essay

Step 3: Parent/Guardian Section

Ask your parent(s)/guardian(s) to complete the Parent Statement section. This section has four short parts.

- Part 4:** Parent/Guardian Information
- Part 5:** Household Information
- Part 6:** Tell Us About Your Child
- Part 7:** Student and Family Statement of Commitment

Step 4: Grades & Testing Release Form

- Part 8:** Complete Grades and Testing Release Form - a parent/guardian needs to sign this form.

Step 5: Teacher Reference Form

- Part 9:** Select a teacher/coach/advisor/guidance counselor that knows you very well. Ask them if they would recommend you for the program. Complete the Teacher Reference Form. Breakthrough will use the information you provided to reach out to your recommender.

Step 6: Submit

Please submit your complete application in one of the following ways:

1. Email Chau Ngo, Program Director, a copy/scan of your application at cngo@derryfield.org
2. Mail application to
The Derryfield School
Attn: Breakthrough Manchester
2108 River Road
Manchester, NH 03104
3. Complete the online application: <https://bit.ly/btm2021app>

What is the Deadline?

All application materials are due **no later than Thursday, February 18, 2021**. You are strongly encouraged to complete your application earlier, if possible. **UPDATE: EXTENDED DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2021**

What Happens After I Apply?

Every application is carefully reviewed by Breakthrough staff. Qualified candidates and their families will be invited to an interview during the months of March and April. **You will be notified by April 23, 2021 if you have been accepted to the program.**

Part 1: Student Information

PLEASE NEATLY PRINT THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS

Full Name: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Preferred Name/Nickname: _____

Student's Address: _____
Street/ Apt.# City State Zip Code

Home Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth (country/state/city): _____

Student's Gender (female/male/other): _____ Pronouns: _____

What Elementary School did the student attend? _____

Student's Current School: _____ Student's Current Grade: _____

Student's Racial Background: African/African American American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian/Asian American Latinx/Hispanic
 Multi-racial White or Caucasian
 Other: _____

List all languages spoken at home: _____

Has anyone in your immediate family graduated from a 4-year college in the United States? _____

If you are related to a current or former Breakthrough student or teacher, please list their name(s) and how you are related: _____

Does the student have a documented disability or learning difference? Yes or No

If yes, does student have (check all that apply):

- Individualized Education Plan (IEP) from the school system
- Section 504 Plan
- Other: _____

Is the student involved in other programs? (select all that apply)

- Boys & Girls Club
- Girls Inc.
- Other: _____

Would you like to receive information about other programs similar to Breakthrough Manchester? Yes / No

Part 2: Student Short Answers

PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS NEATLY IN FULL SENTENCES

Student Short Answer Section: students, please complete the questions by yourself. Answer all questions below in complete sentences using blue or black ink (unless completing online).

1. Breakthrough is designed to help you succeed and achieve your life goals and it is a big commitment. During the summer, students are expected to attend programming M-F for six weeks. During the school-year program, students are expected to attend five Super Saturday sessions. Why are you interested in participating in Breakthrough?

2. What is your favorite subject? Why?

3. Describe something that you struggle with in school. How do you overcome this challenge?

4. Describe the proudest moment of your life so far. What made you feel proud?

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

6. What is the best advice you've ever gotten? Where did you hear this advice? How have you used it in your life?

7. On average, how much time do you spend on homework each night? Please check one:

- Less than 30 minutes Half hour 1 hour 2 hours 2+ hours

8. How many hours per week do you spend reading for pleasure (this means books, magazines, and/or newspapers you DO NOT have to read for school)?

- Rarely 1 hour 2 hours 3 hours +

9. Breakthrough students do 1-1.5 hours of homework each night during the summer session. How do you feel about spending that amount of time on homework each night during the summer? Explain.

Part 3: Essay Question

SHOW US YOUR BEST WRITING!

Please write this essay on your own, without help from an adult.

Writing Prompt: In your opinion, what is the most significant issue or challenge facing our community today? Be sure to consider the following:

- What is the issue/challenge?
- Why does it matter? Why is this issue the most important? What impact is it having? On what/whom?
- What specific steps would you take to address the issue? For example: Would you work alone or with a group? Which types of people or groups would most benefit from hearing your message? What would you say or do to help other people understand/support your views?
- How would you know if you were successful?

Instructions:

1. Complete a rough draft on a separate piece of paper.
2. Essay must be three to five paragraphs in length. Remember to include an introduction, supporting evidence, and a closing.
3. Edit your first draft and ask an adult to check your spelling and grammar, but remember the ideas and words must be yours.
4. Handwrite or type out your final version on the following pages of this application (pages 8-9).

Part 4: Parent/Guardian Information

PARENT/GUARDIAN: PLEASE NEATLY PRINT THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS

Parents/Guardians are: Married Single Separated Divorced Widowed

Parent/Guardian #1

Full Name: _____

Relationship (Mother, Father, Grandparent, other):

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Employment Information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Work Phone: _____

Racial Background:

- African/African American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian/Asian American
- Latinx/Hispanic
- Multi-racial
- White or Caucasian
- Other: _____

Language:

Languages I speak at home: _____

Will you need a translator: Yes No

If yes, which language: _____

Education:

Highest level of education that you have received?

- Some high school High school/GED
- Some college Two-Year college degree
- Vocational/Technical School
- Four-Year college degree
- Masters degree Doctoral Degree

School Name: _____

Parent/Guardian #2

Full Name: _____

Relationship (Mother, Father, Grandparent, other):

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Employment Information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Work Phone: _____

Racial Background:

- African/African American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian/Asian American
- Latinx/Hispanic
- Multi-racial
- White or Caucasian
- Other: _____

Language:

Languages I speak at home: _____

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Education:

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- Some college Two-Year college degree
- Vocational/Technical School
- Four-Year college degree
- Masters degree Doctoral Degree

School Name: _____

Part 5: Household Information

Please complete the chart below regarding your child's **primary** household. **INCLUDE your child.**

| Name | Age | Relationship to your child |
|------|-----|----------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

1. Does your child qualify for free or reduced lunch? Free Reduced Neither

2. What was the total **annual household** income last year?

- Less than \$10,000 \$10,001 - \$20,000 \$20,001 - \$30,000
 \$30,001 - \$50,000 \$50,001 - \$70,000 \$70,001 or above

3. Please explain any other personal circumstances in your family that should be considered by the Breakthrough staff.

4. Are there alternative living arrangements for your child? Please explain any custodial situations.

Part 6: Tell us About Your Child

Complete the following section to the best of your ability. If you have difficulty with English, please seek the assistance of a friend or family member who can help. Translators may also be available through your child's school or you may call Breakthrough for language assistance.

1. If you could only use two words to describe your child, what would they be? Why those words?

2. What talents and skills do you hope your child will develop at Breakthrough Manchester? Why?

3. At Breakthrough Manchester, we require that our students work hard throughout the summer and school year programs. The success of your student depends on the continual support of parents and family members. As a parent or guardian, how would you contribute to the Breakthrough community in helping your student reach their fullest potential?

4. Breakthrough Manchester is a college-preparatory program, which means Breakthrough will prepare your student to enter and graduate from high school and attend a four-year college. Why are these goals important for your student and your family?

Part 7: Student and Family Statement of Commitment

Parents and students, please read each paragraph together and sign to acknowledge that you understand the time commitment and expectations of the Breakthrough program

2021 Summer Session Dates:

Monday–Friday, June 21 – July 30, 8:00 am-3:15 pm (in person) or 9:00 am-12:00 pm (virtual)

At Breakthrough Manchester, we expect you to:

Show Up

Attendance is very important and we expect all Breakthrough students to live up to their three-year commitment by showing up every day prepared, and being ready to learn. Families are expected to plan family vacations and outings around the dates of Breakthrough activities. Attendance is required at a variety of family events during the summer and school year including: family orientation, Back to School Night, parent conference, and the end of summer Celebration.

Work Hard

At Breakthrough, students set and pursue high academic goals for themselves. This includes completing all of your homework, classwork, and projects to the highest quality. In an effort to attend a college preparatory high school program, students are expected to demonstrate the same level of commitment to academic success that they show at Breakthrough at their home school as well.

Speak Up

Breakthrough students take responsibility for their own learning and the well-being of their community. They are expected to contribute their opinions and ask for help when they need it. Families are expected to contact Breakthrough with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or needs they may have.

Demonstrate Respect

At Breakthrough, students treat others the way that they want to be treated. Students can also expect to be treated with respect by their peers, teachers and administrators.

Have Spirit

Breakthrough students love to celebrate their voice and the voice of others! At Breakthrough we encourage each other’s success with enthusiasm and we do not give up.

By signing below, I am letting you know I understand the expectations of parents and students enrolled in the Breakthrough Manchester program.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE **Date**

STUDENT SIGNATURE **Date**

Part 8: Grades & Testing Release Form

To Parents/Guardians: Your signature below indicates your consent to the release of your child's records to Breakthrough Manchester in order for him/her to be considered for admission.

Student's Full Name: _____

Student's Guidance Counselor: _____

Parent/Guardian Full Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

To the Guidance Counselor: The student named above is a candidate for admission to Breakthrough Manchester. We place considerable weight on the academic and personal qualifications of each student. Please collect the following documents and place them with the student's other application materials as they are submitted to you (or hold for Breakthrough to pick up if application was submitted online):

- 5th Grade full year report card and teacher comments
- 6th Grade report card year-to-date and teacher comments
- Most recent relevant standardized test results
- IEP's or 504 plans (if applicable)
- Significant medical plans/protocols for student (if applicable)
- ELL proficiency assessments (if available)

Part 9: Recommendation Form

Students, as part of your application to Breakthrough Manchester, you will need TWO recommendation forms from teachers, mentors, coaches, or other adults who are NOT a family member, and who can tell us a variety of things about you. Breakthrough will use the information you provided to reach out to your recommender.

Recommendation #1

Recommender's Full Name: _____

Relationship (teacher, coach, etc.): _____

Recommender's Email: _____

Recommendation #2

Recommender's Full Name: _____

Relationship (teacher, coach, etc.): _____

Recommender's Email: _____



CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the 2021 Breakthrough Manchester Application!

Please go through the checklist on page 3 to make sure you did not forget anything. To submit, you may copy/scan your application and email to cnngo@derryfield.org or mail by post to Breakthrough Manchester, 2108 River Road, Manchester, NH 03104. An online version of the application is also available: <https://bit.ly/btm2021app>

Below is a list of important dates that you will need as you continue through the application process. **Please save these dates for your records.** If you have any additional questions, contact Chau Ngo, Program Director, at 603-641-9426 or cnngo@derryfield.org

2021 Student Application and Program Timeline

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| January 2021 | Application Released: Breakthrough recruits at Manchester schools |
| APRIL 1, 2021 | EXTENDED APPLICATION DEADLINE |
| March 2021 | Students and families invited to interview after school or on Saturdays |
| April 2021 | Final decision letters are mailed to students and families |
| May 8, 2021 | New Family Orientation (Required for all families) |
| June 21-July 30, 2021 | Six-week Summer Program (Monday-Friday) |
| July 31, 2021 | Celebration! Friends and families are encouraged to attend! |

