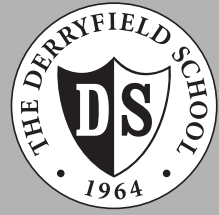


Breakthrough Manchester



Application for Admission Class of 2019

Keep This Page For Your Records



Congratulations on your decision to apply to Breakthrough Manchester at The Derryfield School and we hope you contact us with any questions you may have along the way. As you proceed through the application process, keep in mind that you are introducing your best qualities to the Breakthrough Admission Committee. We want to hear about your strengths, challenges, goals, experiences, and especially your personality! We look forward to receiving your application.



Breakthrough Manchester Student Profile

Breakthrough Manchester is forming its next class of fifth grade students from Manchester Public Schools and making a commitment to help these students get to college. Our goal in recruiting students for Breakthrough Manchester is to identify young people who are in need of and who will take full advantage of the opportunities that the program offers. Below is information about some of the things we look for in our students.



Key characteristics of all Breakthrough students include:

- Motivation to learn, work hard, and get to college
- Demonstrated academic achievement (mostly A's and B's in their classes)
- Ability to commit fully to the seven-year program
- Consistent attendance in school
- Respectful behavior in class with peers
- Appreciation of differences among others
- Need for the program
- A parent, guardian, or close family member committed to their success in the program



In addition, Breakthrough students typically meet two or more of the following criteria:

- Will be the first in their families to attend a four-year college in the United States
- Are lower-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 colleges
- Attend a Title I School (Bakersville, Beech, Gossler, Hallsville, McDonough, Northwest, Parker-Varney, Wilson)
- Have experienced some sort of relationship stress (i.e. parent passed away, terminal illness, etc.)



Frequently Asked Questions

How many students can Breakthrough accept?

Breakthrough accepts 36 students who are 5th-graders in the current 2011-12 school year. 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. If not getting offered a spot will make you overly upset, we suggest you not apply.

How can I do my best work on the application?

- Write a rough draft for all of the short answer and essay sections, and ask someone you trust to read it over for grammar and spelling corrections.
- Write in blue or black pen—not pencil!
- Use complete sentences.
- Be yourself and be honest. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions in the application. Do not worry about saying the right thing. Just be yourself and be creative!
- The application is designed to be a challenging learning experience. For extra encouragement, call, e-mail, or come by the Breakthrough office. You can also check out Breakthrough's website at www.breakthroughmanchester.org for inspiration!

What happens after I apply?

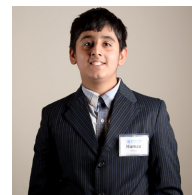
Your application will be reviewed by the Breakthrough Admissions Committee. All students who turn in a complete application will be invited to an interview at the beginning of April. We will make our final decisions after all interviews are conducted. You will receive a letter in the mail during April vacation 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. You will also participate in some group activities to get to know Breakthrough staff and other students. 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 and time. But if it is impossible, then please call us so we can assign you to a make-up interview day.



REQUIRED INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR FAMILIES

Parents/Guardians must choose ONE of the following sessions to attend with their child:

- Wednesday, March 7
6:00 to 7:00pm
- Monday, March 12
6:00 to 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 17
11:00am to 12:00pm

The Derryfield School
(Upper School Entrance)
2108 River Road,
Manchester

Learn more about the seven-year commitment we expect from students and families. **This is a required part of the application process.**



Completing Your Application

Keep This Page For Your Records

Instructions

Step 1: Attend a **required Family Information Session**. We require that you come with a parent or guardian as part of the application process. The sessions will be held at The Derryfield School (2108 River Road, Manchester; directions available on our website). Choose ONE of these dates* (no need to RSVP):

- Wednesday, March 7, 6:00 to 7:00pm
Buoi hop nay se duoc trinh bay bang tieng Viet va tieng Anh. Vietnamese interpretation available at this session.
- Monday, March 12, 6:00 to 7:00pm
Vamos a tener interpretaci3n en espa1ol disponible en esta reuni3n. Spanish interpretation available at this session.
- Saturday, March 17, 11:00am to 12:00pm

**If we need to cancel one of these sessions due to weather, we will post cancellations on WMUR.com, and a rescheduled date on our website.*

Step 2: Give a **current** academic teacher the **Teacher Reference Form** along with a stamped envelope addressed to Breakthrough so your teachers can mail the completed form directly to our office.

Step 3: Have your parent(s) or guardian(s) sign the **Grades & Testing Release Form**. Please give this form with a stamped envelope to either your counselor or your principal so your fourth and fifth grade report cards and test scores can be sent by your current school to our office.

Step 4: Complete the **Student Statement** in your own handwriting. Be sure to write in pen, not in pencil. We suggest you do a rough draft and show it to someone before you fill out the final version on the application. Also, please attach a snapshot of yourself.

Step 5: Have your parent(s) or guardian(s) complete the **Parent/Guardian Statement**.

Step 6: Mail the Student Statement and Parent/Guardian Statement by March 12 to:

Breakthrough Manchester
Attn: Admissions Committee
2108 River Road
Manchester, NH 03104

Your Checklist

- Attend one of the Required Family Information Session with a parent or guardian
- Teacher Reference Form given to your current teacher
- Grades & Testing Release Form given to counselor or principal
- Your photograph attached to application
- Student Statement and Parent/Guardian Statement sent in
- Interview (to be scheduled by the Breakthrough Office after we receive your application)

Your application must be completed and postmarked by March 12.
Student admission results will be mailed to all applicants on April 20.

Questions?

For more information visit www.breakthroughmanchester.org, or contact Kate Erskine, Director at kerskine@derryfield.org or 603/641-9426.

School in the summer? Homework? Wow! Why are you applying to Breakthrough Manchester?

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

- less than 30 minutes half hour one hour 1.5 hours 2 hours more than 2 hours

My schoolwork and homework are usually: easy just right challenging too hard

How many hours per week do you spend reading for pleasure (this means reading books, magazines, and/or newspapers you **DO NOT** have to read for school)? Rarely 1 hour 2 hours 3 hours +

What is your favorite book and why do you like it?

What are some things that make you laugh?

What are some things that make you unhappy?

What is one thing that makes you different from most people you know?

Name a person you especially admire, and tell us why you admire him/her.

This summer, if I do not participate in Breakthrough Manchester, I will most likely:

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

What are three qualities a leader needs to have?

Describe a time when you were a leader. What did you learn from this experience?

Tell us about a time when you struggled with something in a class. How did you deal with it?

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

I understand that Breakthrough Manchester is a seven-year commitment. During 6th and 7th grade, I will participate fully for six weeks each summer and one Saturday per month during the school year. I also understand that Breakthrough Manchester requires that I do one-and-a-half hours of homework each night during the summer, enroll in the most challenging courses possible at school, and complete weekly tutoring or other 1-on-1 support if my grades drop below a B-. During high school, I will continue to participate and use Breakthrough as a tool to help me manage my academics and I will work hard to get into a four-year college.

Student Signature

Today's Date

Creative Expression

Use the box below to tell us about yourself. Fill it up! Use your creativity! You can put anything here.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to write or draw about themselves. The box is currently blank.

How many total people live in the student's primary household (including student and guardians)? _____

Please list ALL children living in the home or other dependents (attach separate sheet if necessary):

Full Name	Age	Current Grade	School or Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

What special activities is your child involved in or experienced in that are particularly important to you and him/her (e.g. music lessons, gymnastics, church group, baseball, summer camps, youth club, judo, etc.). Please list in order of importance:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

On average, how much time does your child spend on homework each night?

- less than 30 minutes
- half hour
- one hour
- 1.5 hours
- 2 hours
- more than 2 hours

Ideally, how much time do you think your child should spend on homework?

- less than 30 minutes
- half hour
- one hour
- 1.5 hours
- 2 hours
- more than 2 hours

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, IF YOU ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WRITING IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

What specific aspects of Breakthrough Manchester make the program a good fit for your child? What do you hope s/he would gain from the experience?

Please describe your child's strengths, talents, and academic abilities as you see them.

Please describe how your child responds to setbacks and challenges, academic or otherwise.

Please tell us about a time when you were most proud of your child, and why.

What do you see as the most important value in your family? Why?

Who has been your child's best teacher in his or her educational career? What made this teacher especially effective for your child? Please be as specific as possible.

Please explain any other personal circumstances in your family that should be considered by the Breakthrough Admissions Committee (attach a separate sheet if you need more space).

2012-2013 REQUIRED DATES

Orientation Day	Saturday, May 5 (required for students and parents/guardians)
Summer Session	July 2 - August 10, Monday through Friday (required for students)
Back To School Night	Thursday, July 12 (required for parents/guardians)
Parent Conferences	Tuesday, July 24 (required for parents/guardians)
Celebration	Saturday, August 11 (required for students and families)
Super Saturdays	8 Saturday sessions from October to May (dates and times TBD)
Tutoring	Required for students earning unsatisfactory grades during the school year

Agreement of Commitment

Daily Attendance is Required: The dates of the program are in the box above. If your child is accepted to the program and decides to enroll, you will need to plan family events and your child's doctor visits around these dates. **You may not schedule vacations during the program dates.** Missing scheduled Breakthrough dates could lead to dismissal from the program. Except in the case of illness, attendance is mandatory.

Will you be able to clear your child's schedule so that s/he may participate fully in Breakthrough?

Yes No If no, please explain conflict(s):

In addition to two summer sessions, Breakthrough involves a monthly Saturday morning program, parent conferences, high school and college planning and other forms of continuing communication. Will you and your child be able to fully participate in ongoing programming in the coming school year and future years?

Yes No If no, please explain reservations:

I understand that Breakthrough Manchester is a seven-year commitment. During 6th and 7th grade, my child will participate fully for six weeks each summer and one Saturday per month during the school year. I also understand that Breakthrough Manchester requires my child to do one-and-a-half hours of homework each night during the summer, enroll in the most challenging courses possible at school, and complete weekly tutoring or other 1-on-1 support if his/her grades drop below a B-. During high school, my child and I will continue to participate and use Breakthrough as a tool to help manage academics on the path to a four-year college.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



**Breakthrough
Manchester**



Teacher Reference Form

Must be postmarked no later than March 12.

To the Parents/Guardians: By signing below you agree to waive your right to view this completed form and give permission for your child's teacher to offer his/her confidential recommendation to Breakthrough Manchester.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Name _____ School _____

Teacher's Name _____ Subject(s) _____

To the Teacher: The student above is applying to Breakthrough Manchester, a tuition-free, seven-year academic enrichment program. The program prepares motivated students to succeed in rigorous courses through middle and high school, and ultimately, to go to college. **Special consideration will be given to those applicants who come from backgrounds with limited economic resources and/or will be the first generation in their family to attain a four-year college degree.** We appreciate your candid responses in this recommendation, which will be kept confidential.

Please return this form no later than March 12 to the above address. If you have questions or would like to share additional information, please feel free to contact Kate at (603) 641-9426 or kerskine@derryfield.org with your thoughts. Thank you for your help in this process; we appreciate your input.

Below, please circle the response which best suits the student in relation to the other students you teach.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No Basis for Judgement
ACADEMIC					
Motivation to Succeed Academically	4	3	2	1	N/A
Homework Completion	4	3	2	1	N/A
Class Participation	4	3	2	1	N/A
Organizational Skills	4	3	2	1	N/A
Academic Promise	4	3	2	1	N/A
PERSEVERANCE					
Willingness to Take Positive Risks	4	3	2	1	N/A
Gives 100% Effort	4	3	2	1	N/A
Self-Esteem	4	3	2	1	N/A
Maintains Positive Attitude About School	4	3	2	1	N/A
Enjoys Learning for its Own Sake	4	3	2	1	N/A
INTERPERSONAL					
Ability to Work Independently	4	3	2	1	N/A
Ability to Work with Other Students	4	3	2	1	N/A
Ability to be a Group Leader	4	3	2	1	N/A
Reaction to Criticism	4	3	2	1	N/A
Respect for Peers and Teachers	4	3	2	1	N/A
Maturity (relative to age)	4	3	2	1	N/A

--over--

In general, is this student working above, at, or below grade level? ____ above ____ at ____ below

What are the first three words that come to mind when you think of this student?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

What are this student's greatest strengths and challenges?

How have you seen this student respond when faced with failure or setback? Please be specific.

Breakthrough aims to provide academic enrichment for students who have otherwise limited access to such opportunities, and one of the criteria for admission to the program is the student's need. How would this student benefit from being a part of Breakthrough?

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, etc.).

I recommend this student for Breakthrough:

- With Great Enthusiasm With Confidence With Reservation* I Do Not Recommend*

*Please list any reservations or additional comments or information that might be helpful for the Admissions Committee in considering this applicant (feel free to attach an additional sheet if necessary).

Teacher Signature

Teacher Name (printed)

Email

A Paid Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers: Instructional Coach

Breakthrough Manchester is seeking professional educators for part-time, summer Instructional Coach (IC) positions. Applicants should have expertise in working with the adolescent learner and in one of four subject areas (math, reading, science, or writing). Ideal candidates understand the connection between rigor, opportunity, and achievement, and have committed their professional lives to helping students overcome academic and personal challenges that hinder success in school. ICs communicate curricular objectives to teacher interns, guide teacher interns through effective planning and implementation, and hold both teacher interns and students to the highest expectations. ICs work approximately 30 hours per week throughout the eight-week summer session. To request a complete job description with application instructions, please contact Trevor at tmunhall@derryfield.org or (603) 641-9426.



**Breakthrough
Manchester**



Grades & Testing Release Form

Must be postmarked no later than March 12.

To the 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. Please complete the top of this form and deliver it to your child's Elementary School Guidance Counselor or Principal.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Name _____

Student's Guidance Counselor/Principal _____

To the School Official: The student named above is a candidate for admission to Breakthrough Manchester. The Admission Committee places considerable weight on the academic and personal qualifications of each student. Please send the following documents by March 12 to the Breakthrough office:

- 4th Grade Report Card & Teacher Comments
- 5th Grade Report Card & Teacher Comments
- Most Recent NECAP Test Results (or other relevant standardized test results)

Please mail to: Breakthrough Manchester
Attn: Admissions Committee
2108 River Road
Manchester, NH 03104

Feel free to contact Kate with questions at (603) 641-9426 or kerskine@derryfield.org.