



Breakthrough
of Greater Philadelphia

School Year Program Volunteer Teacher Application
Locations: Germantown Friends School and St. Joseph's University

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Breakthrough! After reading these pages, we are confident that you will want to join the unique Breakthrough community.

The Program

Breakthrough (BT) is a tuition-free academic enrichment program for low-income, high-potential middle and high school students. Through a six-year program offering school year enrichment, year-round academic support, extra-curricular enrichment activities, and four intensive summer sessions, BT empowers students to succeed in academically rigorous high school programs and then gain entrance to four-year colleges and universities. Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia is a member of The Breakthrough Collaborative, a national non-profit organization with sites in 30 communities across the country. Since its inception in 1978 in San Francisco Breakthrough Collaborative has had an enormously successful track record: more than 90% of its graduates go on to college preparatory programs.

Breakthrough at GFS has been in operation for 14 years and is located on the campus of Germantown Friends School. The program serves 60 7th and 8th graders from the Northwest Philadelphia area, more than 90% of whom are African-American. Breakthrough at SJU, located on the campus of Saint Joseph's University, is in its ninth year. The program serves 60 7th and 8th grade students from West Philadelphia and from Camden, NJ. The student population of this site is 75% African-American and 25% Latino/a.

Breakthrough employs the unique and effective "students teaching students" model. High school and college students are responsible for teaching, implementing curricula, advising, and mentoring middle school students. As role models, they show that educational success is both possible and exciting. In turn, our young faculty discovers the many rewards and challenges of teaching and mentoring an exceptionally talented and lively group of young people.

During the School Year Program, the middle school students continue their commitment to the program by attending classes once a week and by participating in other School Year events.

Volunteer Teachers – An Overview

Breakthrough volunteers are responsible, dynamic college and high school students with diverse backgrounds, skills, and academic interests. The program offers its volunteers the responsibility and creative freedom to use their skills to affect students' lives in immediate and significant ways.



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BT volunteers are TEACHERS who instill a love of learning and the skills necessary for our students to thrive in their schools.

The Role of a Volunteer Teacher

Each teacher will instruct at least one class of 5 to 16 middle-school students, assist students in completing school assignments and projects, and support the overall program during special trips and/or workshops. Teachers will be trained in the various academic curricula, which will be provided by Breakthrough. Due to time constraints, School Year Program teachers will not develop their own lesson plans, but they are encouraged to infuse their own style and ideas into the provided curricula. ***In addition to classroom teaching, volunteer teachers should spend at least an hour reviewing and preparing each week's lesson plan in order to ensure well-prepared and effective instruction.***

For 2011–2012, the School-Year Curriculum will focus on the Civil Rights Movement in 1960's era Philadelphia. While it is not required, we prefer teachers with a background in U.S History and/or African-American History.

After-school programs operate at two sites, Germantown Friends School in Germantown and St. Joseph's University off City Avenue near Overbrook.

The Commitment

1. Orientation and Training

All volunteers must attend the Orientation/Training Sessions. Training sessions will provide further information about the program, the curriculum, and the responsibilities of teachers. *In order to work with our students, you must attend this training. If you have an **unavoidable** conflict with these dates, let us know and we can make other arrangements.*

GFS Volunteers: Tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 30th from 3:00-6:00pm

SJU Volunteers: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 31st from 3:00-6:00pm



2. Program Schedules

The School Year Program will run from February 6th to March 31st.

Germantown Friends School (GFS):

Monday's: 3:00-6:00pm

There will be no program on President's Day, Monday, February 20th; instead, program will meet on Wednesday, February 22nd.

There will be no program on Monday, March 5th, due to universities' Spring Breaks.

Saturday: February 11th and March 10th, from 9:30 – 2:30 pm.

St. Joseph's University (SJU):

Tuesday's: 3:00-6:00pm

** There will be no program on Tuesday, March 6th, due to universities' Spring Breaks.**

Saturday: February 18th and March 31st from 9:30-2:30pm.

Volunteers must commit to a minimum of one day per week for the semester. We strongly prefer a commitment to be present for all program days at your chosen site.

- 3. All volunteers are expected to honor their weekly time commitment** for the entirety of the fall or spring semester. Only in case of an emergency is an absence excused. Teachers must call or email the supervisor *by 9am on they day they are scheduled to teach* to let them know if an emergency has occurred and they are unable to attend so we are able to find a substitute.
- 4. All volunteers will have a 15 minute pre-instruction meeting and a 30 minute wrap-up session** after each day of working with students.
- 5. All volunteers will be observed and evaluated** by a supervisor.
- 6. **Breakthrough is a work-study site. Please indicate on your application if you would like to use your time at Breakthrough as a work-study opportunity. Work study policies vary depending on the university, and are dealt with on an individual basis; we cannot guarantee a work study partnership with your university.****

How to Apply:

- Complete ONLINE application at <http://breakthroughphilly.org/teacher-application> . If selected, you will interview with a Site Director (if needed).
- If asked to participate, you must attend a Teacher Orientation Session.



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3. Questions or concerns about the School Year Program or application process should be directed to the relevant Site Director. General questions can also go to the Program Assistant:

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SJU Site Director
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