



Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia

School Year Program Volunteer Information

**Locations: Germantown Friends School, St. Joseph's University &
Grover Washington Jr. Middle School**

Welcome to the extraordinary world of 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. 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 65 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 at Grover Washington is in its fourth year. The program currently serves 35 students, 61% are African-American, 17% are Asian-American, and 20% are Latino/a. The students come from the Olney and North section of Philadelphia.

Breakthrough employs the effective model of "students teaching students." 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 participating in classes and mentoring sessions during school year. Each student is expected to attend the after school program two-three times per week.

The Volunteers

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 significant ways.

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



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School Year Volunteer Opportunities

1. Teachers (middle-school students)

On their chosen day(s), each teacher will instruct at least one class of 5 to 12 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 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.

After-school programs operate at three sites, Germantown Friends School in Germantown, St. Joe's University off City Avenue near Overbrook; and Grover Washington Middle School in Olney. Please note that *at the Grover Washington site there is the opportunity for teachers to develop their own elective class for the students. This may include chess, drama, music etc.*

2. Tutors (middle-school students)

At our Grover Washington site, tutors will work one-on-one with students to support their academic development. This will include helping students with homework and with skill development.

3. Drop-in Center Tutor (high-school students)

Breakthrough staff also recruits college and high school students to volunteer at the **Drop-In Center** on the Germantown Friends School campus and at SJU. This Drop-In Center is a resource offered to Breakthrough students and alumni seeking tutoring, homework help or assistance with the college application process. If there is student interest, mini-workshops from prepared curricula may also be taught. The Drop-In Center will be open at GFS from Monday through Thursday afternoons from 4pm-6pm, and at SJU on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4-6pm.

The Commitment

1. **Orientation and Training**

All volunteers must attend the Orientation/Training Sessions. *No volunteer will be permitted to work with students before attending the mandatory training.*

GFS Volunteers: **Tentatively Wednesday, September 30th from 4-7pm @ Germantown Friends School**

Drop-In Center Volunteers: **On an individual basis**

Grover Volunteers: **Tentatively Wednesday, September 9th and September 30th from 4-7pm @ Grover Washington Jr. Middle School**

SJU Volunteers: **Tentatively Tuesday September 29th 4– 7pm @ SJU (McGuire Campus)**



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2. Program Schedules

Volunteers must commit to a minimum of one day per week for the entire semester. For our teachers, we prefer a two day per week commitment.

Programs at **SJU** will run on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** afternoons.

Programs at **Grover** will run on **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday** afternoons.

Programs at **GFS** will run on **Monday** and **Wednesday** afternoons.

GFS Drop-In Center will run **Monday through Thursday** afternoons.

SJU Drop-In Center will run **Tuesday and Thursday** afternoons

The Grover program will operate from September 14th, 2009 and June 22nd, 2010.

All other programs will operate between October 5th, 2009 and April 16th 2010.

Volunteer hours are 3:00-6:00pm.

Volunteers may teach on one or more program days.

- 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 the supervisor *by 9am on they day they are schedule 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 formally 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. ****

How to Apply:

- 1. Complete the online application at <http://www.breakthroughphilly.org/teachers.html>. For volunteers interested in working at the Grover Washington site, applications are due September 5th. All other applications are due September 21st.** Site Directors will review applications and schedule interviews with selected candidates.
- 2. If selected, you will interview with a Site Director.**



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3. If asked to participate, you must attend a Teacher Orientation Session.
4. Questions or concerns about the School Year Program or application process should be directed to the relevant Site Director:

Farish Sawyer
SJU/Senior Program Director
215.951.2398
fsawyer@breakthroughphilly.org

Sophia Harrison
GFS Site Director
215.951.2398
sharrison@breakthroughphilly.org

Roanne Mejilla
Grover Site Director
215.951.2398
rmejilla@breakthroughphilly.org

Biany Perez
High School Student Services Director (Drop-In Center Supervisor)
215.951.2398
bperez@breakthroughphilly.org

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