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Tenacious Teachers – Spirited Students!



Tenacious = determined, persistent, relentless, steadfast, unwavering

Spirited = bright, energetic, enthusiastic, fearless, passionate

A Note from John Zitzner

There is nothing easy about totally transforming the way our children are being prepared for college-prep high schools and success in life. In partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and other high-performing public schools, we are relentlessly pursuing this mission.

Our Tenacious Teachers work with our Spirited Students every day. Every minute matters, and every second counts as we all work hard to catch kids up and help them compete with their

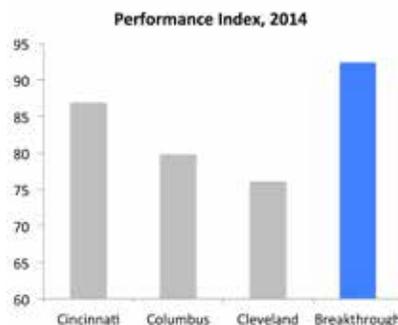
suburban peers. As you can see in the simple graph below, the hard work pays off. Our scholars are making incredible gains. Some of our middle schools are in the top 1% of all 3,444 schools in the state in terms of "value added scores." More simply put, we are catching kids up who are way, way behind... through no fault of their own. And, we don't make excuses by blaming others. We simply help them learn what they need to learn.

Through your financial gifts and your generous contribution of time and talent, you are part of this incredible journey. The entire greater Cleveland community can help turn this around. Our city WILL be the Championship City of Urban Education in America. With the 4 P's of persistence, patience, a positive outlook, and peace, we will prevail.

Please join Friends of Breakthrough and be a vital partner in the most important initiative in Cleveland's transformation... educating our children to help create a prosperous city.

Thank you for your support,

John Zitzner



Volunteer Spotlight

The support and guidance of our volunteers and donors makes a difference in our students' lives from Kindergarten through College. Perfect example: **Bob Kerscher** has been making a difference and opening doors to Breakthrough students for many years. While not only financially donating and volunteering his time to Breakthrough Schools, Bob has started a program with Ohio Northern University (ONU) that offers scholarships solely to qualifying Breakthrough students! Currently there are four students enrolled at ONU thanks to Bob's efforts. Chartering a bus and exposing Breakthrough students and their families to experience the college campus is just one opportunity that Bob has assisted with. He hopes that programs like the one at ONU will expand to other college campuses offering Breakthrough students options to continue learning. Bob meets with and follows the students that attend ONU.

(continued on next column)

Volunteer Spotlight:

continued

"I came to a college night for Breakthrough Schools and some students and faculty from ONU were there. After talking to them I decided to check the school out and apply. After visiting ONU it became my number one choice because I completely fell in love with it. It's a small school, has a very good engineering program, the people were friendly; I could see myself spending four years of my life there. I ended up picking ONU because it was my dream school and I had an amazing financial aid package that allows me to pay basically nothing to attend school, which I owe a big thanks to Breakthrough and Bob Kerscher for helping to make that possible." – Celeste Kamasa

Thank you, Bob!

Upcoming
Events
See back page!



Learn how you can get involved and support our students:

BreakthroughSchools.org/Friends

3615 Superior Avenue, Suite 3103A • Cleveland, OH 44114 • (216) 539-9349



Tenacious = determined,
persistent, relentless,
steadfast, unswerving

Tenacious Teachers,

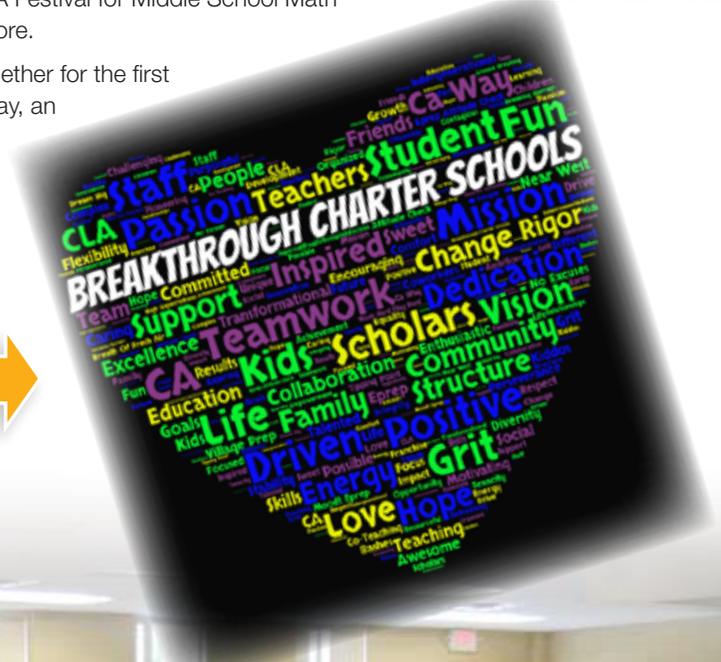
a key factor in the success of the Breakthrough Schools network! **Our teachers** make personal sacrifices by working long hours and a longer school year to ensure our children receive the high-quality education that they deserve. The care and concern of our teachers is reflected in the way that our students perform and represent themselves, both in and out of the classroom.

Recognizing the importance of our educators, Breakthrough welcomed teachers and staff to the inaugural Breakthrough Network-Wide **Professional Development Day for Educators** held on **August 6, 2014**. Over 300 teachers and staff spent the day, appropriately hosted by Notre Dame College, attending sessions from Weaving Character into the DNA of our Classrooms (K-8), the Common Core (6-8), Assessment-PALOOZA: A Festival for Middle School Math and Science Educators (5-8), and more.



Following the 10 schools coming together for the first network professional development day, an **inaugural all-staff BASH** was held to further reinforce and celebrate the importance of everyone in our network. Held at the Cleveland State University Student Center, the celebration and kick-off for FY15 was received with excitement!

Check out this "Wordle", a creation from one-word answers provided about what makes "Breakthrough Charter Schools"!



Spirited Students

Fall
Newsletter
2014



Spirited =
bright, energetic,
enthusiastic, fearless,
passionate

**Congratulations 8th Grade
Graduates and class of 2014!
Continue to Shine at Your
New High School:**

Bard High School Early College
Beaumont
Benedictine
Brush High School
Cleveland Central Catholic
Cleveland Heights High School
Cleveland High School for
the Digital Arts
Cleveland School of the Arts
Design Lab Early College
Facing History New Tech
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MC2STEM
Mentor High School
Montessori
Poly-Technical High School
Saint Edward High School
Saint Ignatius
Saint Martin de Porres
Solon High School
Trinity
Twinsburg High School
University School
Villa Angela Saint Joseph
Washington Park Environmental
Studies
Whitney Young

Moving Forward!

One of the biggest challenges for high-performing public school networks around the country, including Breakthrough, is helping our scholars persist through high school and college. While our charter school peers are far outperforming the results of most urban districts, the results are not yet what we have hoped for. Even the best in our field are seeing only a 40% college graduation rate. It's a huge challenge with so many contributing factors.

Breakthrough only has two years of results so far, and we wanted you to know exactly how it's going:

Our first 8th grade class graduated from high school in 2013 and our second class graduated this past June. Of the scholars we are able to track through our Breakthrough Through College department (of two persons), we can report that:

1. 90% of the first class graduated from high school (vs. 50+% district rate) and 81% were accepted to and attended college (vs. 45% national low income average)
2. 95% of the second class graduated from high school. At this time, 61% are enrolled in college. Others were accepted, but for a variety of reasons, did not attend





4th Annual Breakthrough BASH 2015

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015

Proud Founding

Supporter:



Presenting Corporate Sponsor:



Honorees:

Tony Asher – *Graystone Properties*

and

Bob and Phil Perkins –

Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation

Sponsorship and reservations available at
www.BreakthroughSchools.org/Friends/Events

THANK YOU TO OUR BASH HOST COMMITTEE

Diane Singer – Chair

Dale and Gigi Kates – Co-Chairs

John and Eliza Saada – Co-Chairs

Sanjay and Rita Sehgal – Co-Chairs

Laura DeMarco Petkovic | Ann Dreher | Debbie and Marc Duvin | Jennifer Goldberg | Sonja Harris-Haywood | Lawrence and Linda Hatch | Anshawn Ivery | Whitney and Clarke Jones | Megan Kayser | Chris and Christine Kelly | Katie and Charlie Lougheed | Susie and Dan Mascaro | Lee Trotter and Lolly McDavid | Kurt Meinberg | Lori and Pat Morris | Randy and Amy Paine | Robert and Judy Rawson | John Sinnenberg and Cassi Handler | Gauri Wagle

Be Tenacious and Spirited!

We'd like you, our friend, to attend one of our upcoming tours/urban education update sessions in the next few months, **and we need you to invite a few friends of your own to join you. Breakthrough's Tenacious Teachers and Spirited Students** need you to help spread the word!

Contact Katie Emerson, Director of Engagement and Donor Relations, kemerson@breakthroughschools.org or (216) 373-8360 to arrange a visit or go online www.BreakthroughSchools.org/Friends/Tour-Our-Schools.

Swing for the Stars – 4th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, September 8, 2014 was a beautiful day for golf and to hear from Breakthrough student Micah Caldwell. Micah shared her story about transitioning to a Breakthrough School and the success she is having!



Swing for the Stars
4TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Presenting Sponsors:

BakerHostetler

Beverages and Putting Contest Courtesy of:

The Collection Auto Group
WHERE ABOVE AND BEYOND COMES STANDARD.



Thank you to our sponsors:

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Superhero Flyby 5k

Saturday, September 20, 2014 – The race was organized by Breakthrough Schools' young professionals group. Race Chair Rick Ferrara, a longtime Cleveland resident and attorney, believes strong schools are critical to improving urban communities: "Breakthrough Schools is changing the future for thousands of Cleveland families, all without 'Waiting for Superman.'" 



Thank you to our sponsors:

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