

Breakthrough

Scholarship. Diversity. Leadership. Community.



BREAKTHROUGH
CHARTER SCHOOL

Our Mission and Vision



Mission: The mission of Breakthrough Charter School is to prepare students in Perry County for success as citizens and leaders by providing a rigorous, service-oriented, and project-based public school that supports the social-emotional development of each individual child.

Vision: Our vision is to become a leading, diverse educational option for students in Perry County and to produce a citizenry that is empowered to achieve their personal ambitions, break the cycle of poverty, and give back to their community. As a school rooted in robust community partnerships and extensive support systems from leading experts, we aim to be a powerful complement to Perry County Schools, sharing best practices and resources wherever possible.

Core Values: Scholarship. Diversity. Leadership. Community.

Our Board of Directors



Brittany Crawford
Board Chairperson



Eva Painter
Vice Chairperson



Wendell Crews
Board Secretary

Our Board of Directors



Kalen Early
Board Treasurer



Matthew Dempsey
Community Rep.



Suzanne McKee
Community Rep.

Our Board of Directors



Carmon Paige-Fields
Parent Rep.



Lisa Rayfield
Community Rep.



Kristi Wallace
Parent Rep.

Our Leadership Team



Darren Ramalho
Head of School



Alice Barton
Assistant Head of
School



Kevin Timms
Director of School
Operations

Tonight's Topics



- Charter School 101
- Student Handbook
- School Operations and Logistics
- Instructional Program
- Family Involvement
- Athletics and Extracurricular Opportunities
- After School Program
- Questions and Answers

Accessing this Presentation

A screenshot of the Breakthrough Charter School website. The header includes the school's name, navigation links (WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE'RE DOING, HOW YOU CAN HELP, RESOURCES, CAREERS), and buttons for ENROLL and DONATE. A search icon and a menu icon are also present. The main content area features a large headline: "A new educational opportunity preparing Perry County students for success as citizens and leaders." Below this is a paragraph describing the school as rigorous, service-oriented, and project-based. A dark grey dropdown menu is open over the "RESOURCES" link, listing: "2021-22 School Calendar", "For Students", "For Families", "For Community Members", and "Breakthrough In The Press". The background of the website is a collage of images showing students working on projects and holding documents.

REAKTHROUGH
CHARTER SCHOOL

WHO WE ARE WHAT WE'RE DOING HOW YOU CAN HELP **RESOURCES** CAREERS **ENROLL** **DONATE** 🔍 ☰

A new educational opportunity preparing Perry County students for success as citizens and leaders.

Breakthrough is a **rigorous, service-oriented, and project-based** public school that supports the social-emotional development of each child. We are currently enrolling Pre-K through 8th graders for the 2021-2022 school year.

- 2021-22 School Calendar
- For Students
- For Families
- For Community Members
- Breakthrough In The Press

Visit www.breakthroughcharterschool.org, hover over the Resources tab, and click on “For Families”.

What is a charter? How are we different?



- Charter schools are public schools!
 - No tuition.
 - No required test scores or GPA.
- Flexibility with laws and mandates
- Allows for innovation and personalized learning
- Unique learning experiences
 - Project-Based Learning
 - Service Learning
 - Social-Emotional Development
 - Community and Family Engagement
- Higher accountability
- Partnership with Marion Military Institute

Why Breakthrough Matters



Data Points	Perry County	State of Alabama
Enrollment	1,142	724,128
Reading Prof.	24%	45%
Math Prof.	23%	47%
Science Prof.	13%	39%
%Econ. Disadv.	77%	52%
%Black	99%	33%
% Homeless	14%	2%

Where We Are and Why It Matters



Data from Perry County

- 4th poorest county in Alabama
- 35% poverty rate
- Median household income: \$23,447
- 14% child homelessness rate
- 5th worst-rated county in Alabama for child well-being¹
- On state's failing schools list in 5 of last 6 years

¹2019 Alabama Kids Count Data

Student Handbook

Student Attendance



- Students are allowed up to 10 excused absences a year with a written note from parent/guardian.
- Medical documentation may be required for absences above 10.
- 20 or more absences may result in a student failing and/or repeating a course.
- In order to be counted present, students must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day. One half-day is equivalent to 11:30am. Late arrivals must be present 3.5 hours in the day to be counted present.
- Students are expected to arrive to school and class on time. Five accumulated tardies will result in one unexcused absence.
- All work missed due to an excused absence must be completed within five days from the student's return to school.

Family Conferences and Homework



Conferences

- Request to meet with teachers or administrators in advance.
- Reach out to your child's teacher before bringing concerns to main office.
- Teachers are encouraged to reach out to parents frequently.

Homework

- Students may be assigned homework at the teacher's discretion.
- Homework should not encompass much time outside of school.
- It's design should be enrichment-based and tied to relevant content and skills.

Electronic Devices



- Students will be issued an iPad/Chromebook during the first week of school and required to sign a user agreement.
- These may be taken home if checked out from their classroom teacher.
- Cell phones must be off/silent and stowed in the student's backpack.
- Teachers may allow use of cell phones for instruction at times.
- Families who need to touch base with their children should go through the Breakthrough Main Office.



School Visitors



- Visitors must enter through the main doors of Breakthrough Charter School.
- Visitors must report directly to the central office and show ID to enter.
- Visitors must present photo identification when signing out a student.
- Schedule teacher visits in advance.
- Families may sign in to eat with children during lunch.
- Parties should be scheduled in advance during non-instructional times.



School Uniforms



- Uniforms are available for purchase on Lands End's website, which can be found on our website.
- Uniform clothes do not have to be purchased on Lands End's website.
- Polo shirts colors: Black, white, maroon, gray
- Girls are allowed to wear shorts and pants.
- A final uniform policy will be posted and emailed to families when board approved.



Arrival to School



- Drop off will be from 7:30 - 8:00 AM.
- Families will pull into the drop-off lane and follow guidance from on-campus staff.
- All students will be escorted into the gym and wait for teachers to escort students to class.



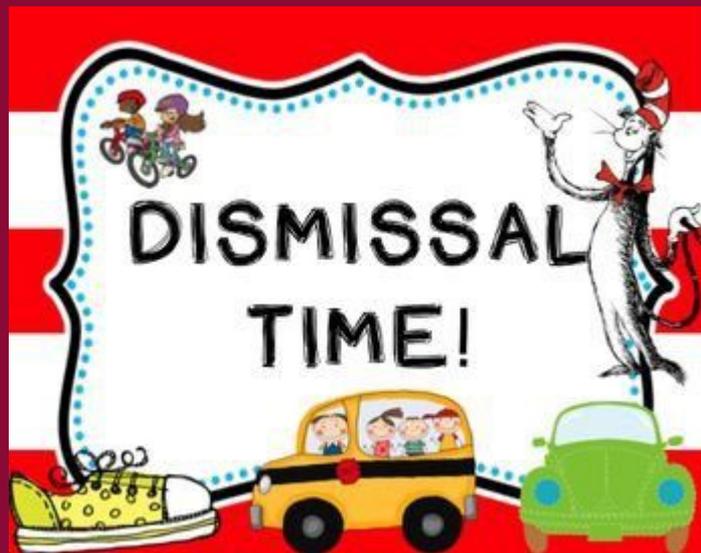
School Map



Dismissal From School



- Dismissal will begin at 3:10 PM.
- All students Pre-K through Grade 8 will relocate to the Auditorium for afternoon dismissal.
- Teachers on duty will look for Breakthrough vehicle tags to radio in for the appropriate students to enter vehicles in the drop off lane.
- Tags will be made available at the beginning of August.
- Students may not be signed out from the school's main office after 2:45.



Food Services



- Breakthrough will provide breakfast and lunch options for students.
- Students are welcome to bring lunch from home.
- We are currently working with the ALSDE to confirm a food vendor.
- Prices will be made available when a food vendor has been confirmed.
- Free and reduced lunch applications will be made available at the beginning of the school year.



Transportation



- We will be offering transportation, partnering with STS based in Birmingham.
- Please indicate on PowerSchool enrollment if your child will need a ride.
- We are currently determining drop-off and pick up locations.
- These locations will be made available at the end of July/beginning of August.



Instructional Program

What Makes Breakthrough Different



We want to offer unique opportunities at Breakthrough Charter School for students, parents, and the community. Here are some of the ways we hope to add to the education landscape in Perry County:

Partnership with Marion Military Institute

Our unique partnership with Marion Military Institute will provide Breakthrough students with the following opportunities, among others:

- access to MMI facilities,
- leadership development programs (Rane Center Leadership Dilemmas)
- dual enrollment opportunities
- tutoring and mentorship with MMI students

What Makes Breakthrough Different

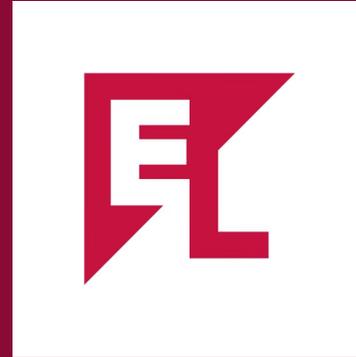


Project-Based Focus

Our students will learn with an emphasis on project-based learning. Students will merge content and skill, learning to become creative problem solvers. This will be done through EL Education and enVision Mathematics curriculum with support from PBLWorks!

Service-Learning Focus

Our students will identify projects they want to start that work to improve Marion, Perry County, and the greater Black Belt. We are learning best practices from leadership in the Jefferson County School system in Birmingham and the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence in Delaware.



What Makes Breakthrough Different



Early Release Wednesdays

Students will be released at 1:00 PM weekly, giving teachers the opportunity to collaborate and prepare the best possible lessons for your child!

Foreign Language Immersion

Our current schedules have protected time to learn Spanish throughout their time at Breakthrough.

A Day in the Life of a Breakthrough Student



TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:30-8:45	Morning Circle and Character Education			
8:45-10:00	Language Arts: guided reading, literacy centers, whole class and small group instruction, differentiated instruction			
10:00-10:20	Recess and Snack			
10:20-11:20	Math			
11:20-12:30	Project-Based Learning: interdisciplinary learning with language-arts emphasis; focus alternates between social studies and science-based projects that incorporate mathematics		Project-Based and Service Learning: interdisciplinary learning tied to "real world/community" practical problems and student-driven solutions	
12:30-1:00	Lunch and Recess			
1:00-1:15	Read Aloud (Parent and Community Volunteers)			
1:15-1:45	Language Arts: Writing Workshop			
1:45-2:45	Physical Education	Art	Art	Physical Education
2:45-3:00	Closing Circle			

TIME	WEDNESDAY (EARLY RELEASE DAY)
8:30-9:00	School-Wide Assembly (Announcements, Speakers, Performances)
9:00-9:30	Targeted Intervention and Enrichment
9:30-10:00	Foreign Language
10:00-10:20	Recess and Snack
10:20-11:35	Language Arts
11:35-12:30	Math
12:30-1:00	Lunch and Dismissal
1:00-4:00	Faculty Meeting, Professional Development

Our sample schedule demonstrates a commitment to our mission, vision, and core values.

Required Testing



NWEA MAPS Assessment

Students will take this assessment three times a year to help us determine how our students perform nationally. Grades K-12.

ACAP

Students will take this state assessment in Spring 2022 to assess student performance locally and statewide. Grades 3-8.

Literacy Act Assessment

3rd grade students are required to pass a literacy test to advance to 4th grade.



Grading Practices



Grade Reporting

- PowerSchools SIS
- Progress reports available every 4.5 weeks
- Grades are final every 18 weeks
- Retesting opportunities for elementary and middle school classes on summative assessments

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities



Athletics

- Fall: Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer
- Winter: Basketball, Dance
- Spring: Golf, Tennis
- Additions/modifications can be made and will change as grade levels expand.

Extracurricular Opportunities

- Dance and Tumbling
- Christian Club
- Student Government Association
- Music
- Art
- Students are inspired to start clubs, with the support of a faculty sponsor
- Additions/modifications can be made.

After School Program



- Breakthrough will be offering an after school program daily.
- Students will be able to complete homework and engage in extracurricular activities.
- There will be a fee - we are determining costs and will post more detailed information on our website.
- Fees may be reduced based on family need.

Family Involvement



- Families will have the opportunity to join Breakthrough's PTA!
- Meetings will take place monthly starting in August.
- The president of the PTA for year one will be a Breakthrough Board Member. Other positions will be elected at the first meeting.
- Families are encouraged to visit the school and volunteer!



Thank you!



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