



**BREAKTHROUGH**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

**2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR  
FAMILY ORIENTATION PACKET**

**ADDRESS:**

**1820 PRIER DRIVE  
MARION, AL 36756**

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**WEBSITE: [breakthroughcharterschool.org](http://breakthroughcharterschool.org)**



# **BREAKTHROUGH**

## **CHARTER SCHOOL**

Dear Breakthrough Family,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that your child(ren) is officially eligible to enroll at Breakthrough Charter School for the 2021-22 academic year.

I am so excited to be able to officially welcome your child(ren) into the founding class of Breakthrough Charter School. For months, my team and I have been working to design a school that will bring unique, life-changing opportunities for our children, families, and Black Belt communities.

I became an educator because I firmly believe education is transformative and has the power to create opportunity. Breakthrough Charter School was started by parents in our community because we believe all children and families deserve access to diverse, high-quality public options. More than a year ago, Breakthrough was simply an idea. Now, we have secured a facility, raised more than \$2 million in start-up grant funding, and continue to work to educate the community about our school's mission, vision, and core values.

Breakthrough Charter School will be more than a learning space. We aspire to be a community school, working with local partners to create a truly revolutionary experience for children, investing in students as learners and young leaders. Our core values (Scholarship, Diversity, Leadership, and Community) are more than buzz words. Our school community will work to embody these core values every single day because students and families deserve nothing less than our best effort.

Again, I want to welcome you to the Breakthrough family. You get to be part of our movement in our very first year of operation! I look forward to seeing how our school will impact education in the Black Belt. Please read the next page for important follow-up information to secure your child's enrollment at Breakthrough Charter School!

All my best,  
Mr. Darren Ramalho  
Head of School

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## **IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS**

Follow these important steps to make sure you and your family are ready for a great school year:

**1) Secure your spot by registering your child through *PowerSchool*.**

*This must be done by August 1 to keep your child's seat in his/her class.* This link has been sent to you in email format. Or you can access by scanning this code:



*If you have already done this, proceed to step 2:*

**2) Get your Breakthrough Uniform.**

A detailed uniform policy is included in the packet. Please read this information thoroughly.

**3) Get your Supplies.**

A general school wide supply list is included in the packet.

*Note: Because this is our first year of operation, newly hired teachers did not have adequate time to send out a specific grade level school supply list.*

*You can expect an additional, short grade specific list to be sent home via your child's backpack on the first day of school. In the future, these will be sent out over the summer.*

**4) Let us know your anticipated after care needs.**

We plan to offer after care services, but we need to know if your child plans to be there! Email us at [breakthroughcharterschool@gmail.com](mailto:breakthroughcharterschool@gmail.com). We will provide more detailed information during the first week of school.

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## **5) Read the Student Handbook.**

The student handbook can be accessed on our website or by scanning the below QR code. A hardcopy will be sent home the first day of school.



## **6) Regularly check your email and social media for important updates.**

### **7) Other Important Dates to Note:**

- Labor Holiday/ No School – September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Mini Fall Break/ No School – October 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>
- Veteran’s Day and Weather Day/ No School – November 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Break / No School – November 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Break / No School – December 20<sup>th</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Teacher Work Day / No Students – January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Return from Winter Break – January 4<sup>th</sup>
- MLK Day Holiday/ No School – January 17<sup>th</sup>
- President’s Day / No School – February 21<sup>st</sup>
- Spring Break/ No School – March 21- 25<sup>th</sup>
- Last Day of School for Students – May 25<sup>th</sup>

*Note: A full academic calendar is available on our website.*



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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>General Questions</b>	breakthroughcharterschool@gmail.com	
<b>Attendance or Registration</b>	bparten@breakthroughcharterschool.org	Brandi Parten, Operations Manager
<b>Operations (Buses, Meals, Technology, Uniforms, etc.)</b>	ktimms@breakthroughcharterschool.org	Kevin Timms, Director of School Operations
<b>Health, Reporting COVID-19 case</b>	tjohnson@breakthroughcharterschool.org	Tiffany Johnson, Health and Wellness Coordinator
<b>Academic Questions</b>	abarton@breakthroughcharterschool.org	Alice Barton, Assistant Head of School
<b>Counseling Questions</b>	rwells@breakthroughcharterschool.org	Reginald Wells, Counselor
<b>Special Populations (Gifted, 504, SPED, etc.)</b>	sjones@breakthroughcharterschool.org	Shelley Jones, Special Education Teacher

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**The first day of school is August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Students will be dismissed at 1:00 PM. Remember, students will be dismissed every Wednesday at 1:00 PM.**

Students are expected to attend school every day. If a child is sick and unable to attend class, parents should notify the school via email or phone call.

After a series of unexcused absences and missed assignments, the student will be referred to the school counselor. We will work with families to prevent and address any attendance barriers.



## TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION AND AGREEMENTS

Students will be assigned either an iPad (Grades K-3) or Chromebook (Grades 4-8). Students will be allowed to take these devices home. Please review the technology agreements highlighted below on our website. Physical copies will be sent home with children during the first week of school.

[Student/Parent Technology Use Agreement](#)  
[Device Check-Out Liability Agreement](#)  
[Student Images and Online Publication Form](#)

If you need assistance or have issues with a device, please contact Kevin Timms, Director of School Operations, at [ktimms@breakthroughcharterschool.org](mailto:ktimms@breakthroughcharterschool.org).

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

**English-Language Arts:** Students will use EL Education for English-Language Arts curriculum. Our approach to curriculum makes standards come alive for students by connecting learning to real-world issues and needs. Academically rigorous, project-based learning expeditions, case studies, projects, fieldwork, and service learning inspire students to think and work as professionals, contributing high-quality work to authentic audiences beyond the classroom.

**Mathematics:** We are adopting enVision Mathematics for our curriculum. Lessons start with Problem-Based Learning (PBL), where students must think critically about a real-world math problem, evaluate options, collaborate, and present solutions. This is followed by Visual Learning to solidify the underlying math concepts. It's the best way to help kids better understand math ideas.

**Science and Social Studies:** Teachers will use a project-based approach to teaching the science and social studies standards.

**Instructional Strategies:** Teachers will use project-based learning, service learning, and social emotional learning strategies to engage students. Students will also receive direct instruction, small group instruction, and effective integration of technology.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST**

*A short list of additional, grade specific supplies will be sent home in your child's backpack on first day of school (if required by teacher).*

- Pencils
- Pens (Blue or Black Ink)
- 2 packs of Loose Leaf Paper (Wide-Ruled)
- 2 composition notebooks
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Post-It Notes
- Headphones
- Backpacks
- 2 packs of index cards
- glue sticks
- highlighters (blue, green, pink and yellow)
- 2 reams of copy paper

## **DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURE**

**By Car:** Families will enter the school through the entry closest to Highway 5. A Breakthrough staff member will escort children into the gymnasium, where their teacher will escort them to class. Students will only be released to vehicles with Breakthrough car tags, which will be distributed before the first day of school.

**By Bus:** Children will be picked up and dropped off at their designated community locations, which we are currently working to determine. Bus transportation will be available to students in Marion, Uniontown, Greensboro, Gallion, and Faunsdale.

Contact Kevin Timms, Director of School Operations, at [ktimms@breakthroughcharterschool.org](mailto:ktimms@breakthroughcharterschool.org) with questions.

## **DRESS CODE POLICY**

### **The Reason for Uniforms (Our Why):**

Breakthrough's school attire regulations were designed with our core values in mind to ensure all students are provided the very best atmosphere to learn and thrive. Our school uniform is intended to reduce energy and money spent on name brand clothing and to promote unity and respect for our school community. **For this reason, students are expected to wear the uniform correctly.**

### **Day to Day Guidance:**

School uniform requirements are in place for all students, every day while on campus.

- If a child is out of uniform, a family member may be contacted and required to bring the necessary items before students are admitted to class.
- Coats and jackets that are not part of the school uniform may not be worn inside the building
- All Uniform items must be properly sized and in good condition.
- Shorts, Skirts, Skorts or Jumpers should be worn no shorter than two inches above the knee.
- Pants/ Shorts and belts should be worn at waist.
- All shirts should be tucked in at all times so the skirt/pant waist or belt is showing.
- Students are highly encouraged to wear a pair of cotton shorts beneath skirts or jumpers to allow for greater freedom of motion and activity during recess and P.E.
- When Approved by School Administration, select clothing may be worn on particular "out of uniform days"
- Ultimately, appropriate uniform adherence is at the discretion of BCS Staff.
- Repeated or extreme violations may result in the student being sent home until the infraction is corrected.

### **Exceptions:**

Circumstances may arise that make wearing the school uniform impossible (example: injury).

- A written note from the guardian explaining the situation should be submitted to the Head of School or other authorized designee.
- Failure to present the note will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Dress Days:**

Dress uniforms may be required for special events and presentations. Families will be notified when this is requested/required.

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**Where to Purchase:**

All uniform materials can be purchased through the Lands’ End website, but this is not a requirement. The only pieces (which are optional) that must be purchased from Lands’ End are the plaid skirts or jumpers.

Go to [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com) → Click School → Click Shop by School → enter school number: **900194895** or you can search the school by Name and Location.

**Detailed Guidance by Grade Level:**

**Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4**

Category	Approved Choices
Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray, Maroon or White Polo Shirt</li> <li>• White Peter Pan Collared Shirt</li> <li>• Breakthrough Charter School T-Shirt</li> <li>• Lands’ End T-shirt with logo</li> <li>• Must have sleeves</li> <li>• No insignia (logo) other than the Breakthrough logo</li> <li>• Solid Gray or Maroon pullover / sweaters may be worn inside the building</li> </ul>
Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khaki, gray, or black pants</li> <li>• Khaki, gray, or black shorts</li>   <li>• Patterned plaid (Land’s End), Khaki or Gray Skirts/ Skorts</li>   <li>• Gray knit Jumper or Patterned plaid jumper (found on Lands’ End website)</li>   <li>• Solid Black or Gray tights or leggings may be worn under appropriate bottoms when weather permits</li> </ul>
Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shoes:</b> Closed toe shoes, any combination of Black, Gray, White or Brown</li> <li>• The following forms of shoes are not permitted: heeled, flip-flops, platforms, sandals.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoes with buckles and laces must be buckled or laced. We recommend younger students wear Velcro or slip-on shoes until they can tie their own laces.</li> <li><b>Socks:</b> solid white or solid black socks of any length.</li> </ul>
Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solid Black or Brown Belts should be worn with any bottom that has belt loops</li> <li>All other accessories should align with the spirit of the uniform policy. Head coverings are only allowed for religious reasons inside the school building.</li> </ul>
Dress Days (REQUIRED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Khaki Pants (October – March) / Shorts (April – September)</li> <li>Plaid Jumper, Gray Knit Jumper</li> <li>Plaid or Khaki Skirt</li> <li>White Collared Shirt</li> </ul>

### Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Category	Approved Choices
Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gray, Maroon or White Polo Shirt</li> <li>White Oxford Shirt</li> <li>White Peter Pan Collared Shirt</li> <li>Must have sleeves</li> <li>No insignia (logo) other than the Breakthrough logo</li> <li>Solid Gray or Maroon pullover / sweaters may be worn inside the building</li> <li>ALL TOPS MUST BE TUCKED IN</li> </ul>
Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Khaki, gray, or black pants</li> <li>Khaki, gray, or black shorts</li> <li>Patterned plaid (Land’s End), Khaki or Gray Skirts/ Skorts</li> <li>Patterned jumper (found on Lands’ End website)</li> <li>Solid Black or Gray tights or leggings may be worn under appropriate bottoms when weather permits</li> </ul>
Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Shoes:</b> Closed toe shoes, any combination of Black, Gray, White or Brown</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following forms of shoes are not permitted: heeled, flip-flops, platforms, sandals.</li> <li>• Shoes with buckles and laces must be buckled or laced. We recommend younger students wear Velcro or slip-on shoes until they can tie their own laces.</li> <li>• <b>Socks:</b> solid white or solid black socks of any length.</li> </ul>
Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid Black or Brown Belts should be worn with any bottom that has belt loops</li> <li>• All other accessories should align with the spirit of the uniform policy. Head coverings are only allowed for religious reasons inside the school building.</li> </ul>
Dress Days (REQUIRED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khaki Pants (October – March) / Shorts (April – September),</li> <li>• Plaid Jumper or Skirt, Khaki Skirt</li> <li>• White Collared Shirt</li> </ul>

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Category	Approved Choices
Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray, Maroon or White Polo Shirt</li> <li>• White Oxford Shirt</li> <li>• White Peter Pan Collared Shirt</li> <li>• Must have sleeves</li> <li>• No insignia (logo) other than the Breakthrough logo</li> <li>• Solid Gray or Maroon pullover / sweaters may be worn inside the building</li> <li>• <b>ALL TOPS MUST BE TUCKED IN</b></li> </ul>
Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khaki, gray, or black pants</li> <li>• Khaki, gray, or black shorts</li> <li>• Patterned plaid (Land’s End), Khaki or Gray Skirts/ Skorts</li> <li>• Solid Black or Gray tights or leggings may be worn under appropriate bottoms when weather permits</li> </ul>

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Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shoes:</b> Closed toe shoes, any combination of Black, Gray, White or Brown</li> <li>• The following forms of shoes are not permitted: heeled, flip-flops, platforms, sandals.</li> <li>• Shoes with buckles and laces must be buckled or laced.</li> <li>• <b>Socks:</b> solid white or solid black socks of any length.</li> </ul>
Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid Black or Brown Belts should be worn with any bottom that has belt loops</li> <li>• All other accessories should align with the spirit of the uniform policy. Head coverings are only allowed for religious reasons inside the school building.</li> </ul>
Dress Days (REQUIRED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khaki Pants (October – March) / Shorts (April – September)</li> <li>• Plaid Skirt or Khaki Skirt</li> <li>• White Collared Shirt</li> </ul>