

# BREAKTHROUGH LOUISVILLE 2024

## SUMMER RECAP

### **MISSION:**

To prepare and support talented under-resourced middle school students for greater academic success and increased confidence while introducing college students to careers in teaching. Our main goal is to empower students to stay in school, succeed academically, and pursue their dreams of college or career readiness. We also strive to introduce diverse and passionate college students to the teaching profession. As is the case in most of the country, our community is struggling with a debilitating teacher shortage and we believe we are helping curtail this trend.

### **TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED: 52**

Highlights: Initially 59 students were accepted and assigned transportation. One dropped out due to no access to a bus stop. Several dropped out or were asked not to return weeks into the summer due to: parents not following our 3-absence rule and just sending students when it was convenient, 2 dropped out due to a job change/transportation issue, and 1 dropped out we believe due to not having access to his phone (student said he didn't think the program was as fun as last year). We had 24 returning students. We accepted four rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders and had leadership training for them with Dr. Candice Johnson. We had seventeen 8<sup>th</sup> graders, nineteen 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and eight 6<sup>th</sup> graders represented at graduation. 16 schools throughout Jefferson County were represented. Student diversity: 58% were African American, 37% Hispanic/Latino and 5% white.

### **NUMBER OF TEACHING FELLOWS: 14 + 2 FLOATERS**

Hired 16 college students: 7 ELA teaching fellows, 7 Math teaching fellows, 2 floaters

Highlights: Hired full-time Education Director, Sam Long, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Collegiate Teacher. Two Instructional Coaches: Chaney Greer (ELA) and Nicole Weeks (Math). Teacher diversity: 55% white, 31% African American, 13% Hispanic/Latino, 1% Asian. Leadership staff: 66% white, 33% African American. 90% of our students improved in math!

### **CURRICULUM:**

Highlights: We utilized the Breakthrough Collaborative tests, curriculum, and lesson plans for both math and language arts but had to adjust to our student achievement level and for the rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders (BC does not provide curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Students are still struggling, and most were not on grade level. Much of the BT curriculum seems to be geared toward students above grade level.

## External Programming in 2024:

- Dr. Tiffany Bridgewater (Collegiate) talked twice to our students about cultural diversity.
- Dr. Diane Courington, Professor of Education at Bellarmine University spoke to our students about Juneteenth and higher education.
- We toured Bellarmine University, students participated in a STEM lab, and we ate lunch on campus.
- Steam Exchange: Helped us tie-dye t-shirts and create huge bubbles.
- Louisville Science Center taught the students about the brain (dissection of sheep brains).
- Lance Newman visited us several times to talk about poetry and rap; he was the MC for our first Poetry Slam.
- Peace Education taught us about conflict resolution and how to take control of our emotions.
- The Louisville Astronomical Society taught us about the solar system.
- Metro Councilman Jecorey Arthur introduced our students to the power of civic engagement.
- The Prophecy Foundation gave us three days of entrepreneurial classes that ended up with many successful lemonade stands!
- WAGS Therapy Dogs visited and our students learned about their role in helping seniors and children.

## **SUMMER SUCCESSES:**

1. More staff (including a permanent sub, a Director of Education and Admin Assistant) allowed for an organized and successful summer.
2. Meeting early and often with Collegiate Staff helped communication stay positive and productive.
3. Two new events were well received and well attended: The Launch of Breakthrough Louisville and our first Poetry Slam.

## **SUMMER CHALLENGES:**

1. A handful of students dropped out after 2-3 weeks. (We may need to start collecting a refundable deposit.)
2. Several students struggled in the lowest classes, and this held up the others. We may institute a "general" class for both math and language arts to help these students learn the basics.
3. Breakthrough's pre and post tests for language arts were completely different (typically, we use the same reading comprehension test) and they did not correlate with the books the students read. This skewed the post tests for most of our students. Only 26% increased their score. The exception was our 9<sup>th</sup> graders: All 4 dramatically increased their language arts scores. (Kate will reach out to the National Office for guidance.)
4. Ninth graders were required to attend three leadership training classes, but due to lack of time and varying levels of interest, it was not successful. Our two floaters oversaw these students outside of class but, due to absences by the students on key days, and a planned vacation by one of our floaters, the outcomes did not meet our expectations. More targeted programming and integration of leadership skills will need to be added to our daily schedule.

## **PRIORITIES FOR NEXT SUMMER:**

May want to implement a deposit for parents (sliding scale may be necessary).

Implement a generalized class in math and language arts for students who are far from grade level.

Implementation of Breakthrough Collaborative Practices and Procedures for all students and staff.

Develop better leadership programming and procedures for our 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION: ENDING 2023**

Total Income: \$227,666

Total program expenses: \$172,941

Total fundraising expenses: \$11,667

Total admin expenses: \$28,763

Total ending net assets: \$54,719

