

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark hair, smiling and looking down at a spiral-bound notebook. He is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom setting with colorful objects.

2026
**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER ACADEMY**

SUMMER AT A GLANCE



750+

Participated in
Summer Academy



120

AmeriCorps
Teaching
Fellows



80

Hours of
Instruction



25

Field Trips



22

Student
Volunteers



5

School
Partners



4 SITES. ONE BREAKTHROUGH.

MANOR



Manor welcomed its largest cohort of new students yet, with 94 rising 6th graders attending 12 or more days of programming and officially becoming Breakthrough students. More than 100 returning students also participated throughout the summer, building community through academics, field trips, cheers, and Pie Day. Rising 9th graders prepared for high school workshops focused on skills and strategies for a successful transition. The summer culminated in a celebration with more than 400 students and community members coming together to celebrate five memorable weeks.

CENTRAL SOUTH AUSTIN



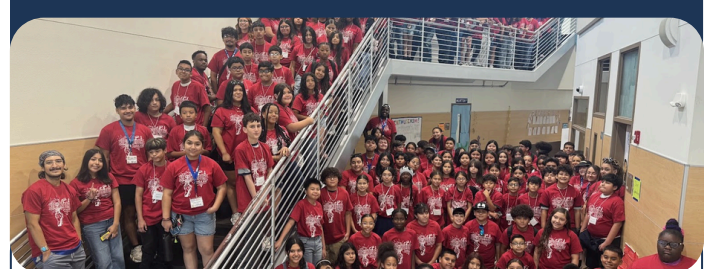
Central South Austin had a record-breaking summer, with the strongest consistent attendance since COVID-19 and increases among both new and returning students attending 12+ days of programming. Students and Teaching Fellows brought incredible energy and enthusiasm while building a strong, welcoming Breakthrough community. That sense of belonging was especially evident at the End of Summer Celebration, where a record-breaking number of families joined us. Together, they celebrated students' growth, experiences, and accomplishments throughout the summer.

NORTH EAST AUSTIN



North East Austin celebrated increased student attendance this summer, especially among rising 9th graders. Returning Breakthrough students, Teaching Fellows, and Instructional Coaches brought their experience, ideas, and energy to create a strong community at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. A standout moment was Presentations of Learning, where every student confidently shared their projects with families, visitors, and fellow students. Families celebrated the incredible energy, confidence, and pride students demonstrated while showcasing everything they had learned.

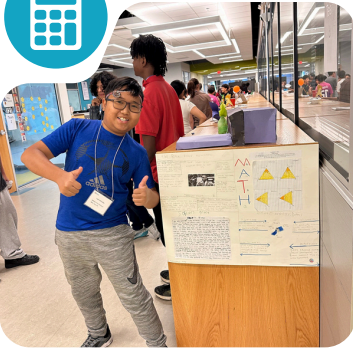
DEL VALLE



Del Valle celebrated increased attendance this summer, especially among its 6th grade cohort. Students and Teaching Fellows built a strong sense of community while representing diverse backgrounds, identities, and educational journeys, creating an environment where students felt seen and supported. Breakthrough alumni also returned to teach and mentor our newest students, adding a meaningful layer of connection between generations. Their leadership helped shape a summer filled with pride, belonging, and joyful memories.

LEARNING IN ACTION

MATH



In this photo, Laykuhtoo proudly shares the math portion of his Presentation of Learning (POL). His excitement reflects the enthusiasm students brought to math throughout the summer. "Getting the kids interested in math was a breeze. They enjoyed a challenge and wanted to engage in something that kept them thinking."
— Ellise Rodriguez, 8th Grade Math Teaching Fellow

ELA



This summer in English Language Arts, students explored themes of resilience, identity, and opportunity through *The Circuit*, a community novel that follows a migrant family as they navigate hardship, frequent moves, and the pursuit of a better future. The story sparked meaningful connections as many students saw reflections of their own experiences and aspirations in its pages.

HISTORY



In this photo, William, one of our 9th-grade Social Studies teachers, explains an escape room project to his students. The activity was a hit, bringing students together to collaborate, problem-solve, and stay engaged as they worked to solve the mystery!

SCIENCE



In this photo, we get a peek inside one of our 7th-grade science classes, where students are building their very own worm hotels! Through this hands-on activity, students learn about worm anatomy and what worms need to survive and thrive.

FIELD TRIPS

Learning went beyond the classroom

STEM ACTIVITIES



ROBOTICS WITH AMD



ARCHERY



ACC COLLEGE VISIT



LAKE ADVENTURES



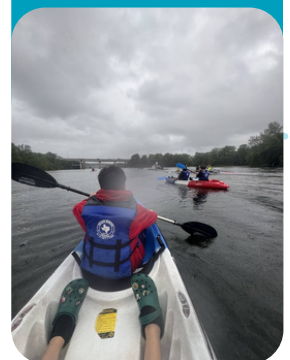
MUSEUM VISITS



SWIMMING



KAYAKING



SUMMER EXPERIENCES

SPirit WEEK

Students and Teaching Fellows brought the energy during Spirit Week, celebrating community, creativity, and plenty of summer fun.



EXPLORATIONS

Led by our Teaching Fellows, Explorations gave students the opportunity to discover new interests, try something different, and learn beyond the traditional classroom. Through activities like art, music, dance, sports, and creative writing, students explored their creativity, built teamwork skills, and discovered new passions.



DISTRICT & SCHOOL PARTNERS

We're grateful for our district partners—Austin ISD, Del Valle ISD, and Manor ISD—as well as The University of Texas at Austin, St. Andrew's, and our community partners who help make Summer Academy possible. Their continued partnership, resources, facilities, and support create meaningful experiences for our students.



VOICES OF SUMMER

Summer in their words

“

My favorite thing about the Camp Moody Field Trip is that I got to learn more about Archery which happens to be my favorite sport. The field trip was actually fun and I'm hoping we can do something similar again.

– Avion
Rising 8th Grade Student

”

“

My favorite thing about the field trip to ACC was getting to use the virtual simulator lab they had. I also liked the part when the staff got to test the stools we made in the design lab.

–Mason
Rising 8th Grade Student

”

“

My favorite field trip was when we took the rising 8th grade students to kayak on Ladybird Lake. It was a new experience for a lot of them, and they had so much fun! It was awesome seeing them spend time on the lake with their friends and figure out how to row.

– Kendall
8th Grade Social Studies Teaching Fellow

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

At the end-of-summer celebration, she cried her eyes out because she didn't want it to end. As a parent, there is no greater compliment to a program than seeing your child that heartbroken to leave. Thank you for believing in these kids and investing so much in them.

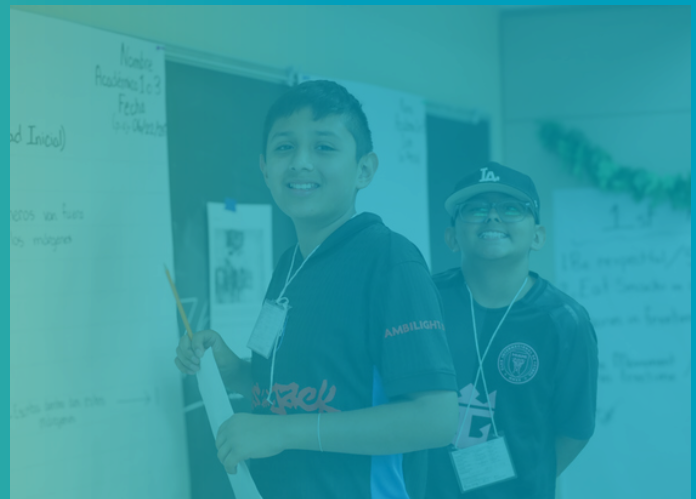
– Katie



AmeriCorps

Breakthrough is a proud AmeriCorps Program.

25 SUMMERS OF BREAKTHROUGH



BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

3100 E 5th St., Suite 375, Austin, TX 78702

This program is made possible in part by Raising Travis County.

