

STUDENT APPLICATION – TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

Dear Recommender,

Your student is applying to Breakthrough New York, a college access and preparation program for highly motivated, underserved 6th grade students in NYC. BTNY seeks to support students on their pathway to college through six years of tuition-free academic and personal development programming.

We appreciate your candid responses in this recommendation form, which will be kept confidential. Admission to BTNY is a selective process, and your perspective is vital in assisting us to identify students who would most benefit from participating in our program. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to admissions@btny.org.

To complete the recommendation, you can either:

- **PREFERRED:** Complete the online recommendation form at <http://tinyurl.com/btnyrec>
- **Alternative:** Complete this hard copy form and submit via email to admissions@btny.org, or fax or mail to our office (address below)

**The deadline for this recommendation is Wednesday, March 18, 2015.
We will not be able to consider applications with incomplete recommendations.**

Student Name: _____ **School:** _____

Teacher Name: _____ **Course:** _____

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR THE RESPONSES BELOW.

1. What are the first three words that come to your mind when you think of this student?

2. What are this student's greatest strengths as a learner and / or community member?

3. What are this student's greatest challenges as a learner and / or community member?

4. How does this student respond when faced with a failure or setback? Please be specific.

5. Please describe the interaction(s) you have had or observed with this student's guardian(s). What role do you anticipate they would play in supporting their student for this six-year commitment?

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Course: _____

Socio-Emotional Characteristics: Please circle the rating that best describes the consistency with which the student models each of the characteristics below. Only assign scores based on evidence you could point to for the characteristic.					
	NEVER	RARELY	SOME-TIMES	MOSTLY	ALWAYS
6. BELIEF in GROWTH MINDSET / GRIT: Student believes they are capable of achieving goals through hard work; approaches setbacks as learning opportunities; applies new learning to future situations.	0	1	2	3	4
7. RELATIONSHIPS MATTER: Student operates as a positive community member, seeking to include others and learn from the diversity of identity around them. They may seek opportunities for leadership, and attempt to proactively resolve conflicts around them.	0	1	2	3	4
8. EXCELLENCE: Student works hard and aims high, always striving to set and meet personal goals towards continued improvement. They consistently do their best work academically, and make their best effort in and out of the classroom setting.	0	1	2	3	4
9. ADVOCACY: Student makes appropriate judgments in balancing independence versus seeking help or support from others. They practice asking for help appropriately, considering timing and tone. They model trust in adults.	0	1	2	3	4
10. KNOW-HOW: Student uses critical thinking and creativity to approach problems, seeking new solutions to practice applying. They are willing to take positive risks and apply previous learning to new situations.	0	1	2	3	4
11. Y? CURIOSITY: Student models love of learning in and out of the classroom, and fully engages in new learning. They pursue opportunities for independent learning, and ask questions to deepen their understanding. They share their learning with others, fostering the same sense of curiosity around them.	0	1	2	3	4

12. SOCIO-EMOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS COMMENTS: Use the lines below to include any specific details about the scores you gave for the student above, or to give specific anecdote(s) in regards to their characteristics.

13. Other Comments: This student is applying to be a part of a cohort of some of NYC's brightest, most motivated and hard-working students for the next 6+ years. Is there anything else we should know about this student's academic skills, social behavior, family situation, etc. in order to make our most informed admissions decision?

14. Recommendation Rating: Choose the box below that best indicates your level of recommendation:

☐ I do not recommend ☐ With reservation ☐ With confidence ☐ With great enthusiasm

Teacher signature: _____

Date: _____

Teacher email address: _____

Apply to be an Instructional Coach this summer!

ATTENTION: BTNY will recruit, hire, and train 10 professional teachers to serve as Instructional Coaches in our summer programs this year – housed at our Brooklyn, Bronx, and Manhattan middle school sites. The IC role is an excellent PAID professional development opportunity for educators seeking to expand their skills through coaching novice "Teaching Fellows" at our program (our TFs are college students!). Click the link before to download the IC job description – we'd love for you to consider applying and/or for you to share this with other teachers who may be interested! Visit www.btny.org/internships/ for more information!