

A central value of the Breakthrough community is: “Once Breakthrough, always Breakthrough.” While this may appear to only apply to Breakthrough’s alumni-engagement strategy, it takes shape much earlier in our tutoring program. Students join Breakthrough because they are academically motivated and doing well in school, but most students will encounter—at some point or another—a challenging class where they need extra help. Breakthrough’s tutoring program is a place where students are reminded that struggling in their calculus class does not mean they aren’t college material.

Breakthrough Santa Fe supports approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its students through one-on-one tutoring through the school year. Students are matched with a tutor that can best support them in their academics and personal development. Breakthrough recruits tutors from around the community including St. John’s College, Santa Fe Community College, and other partner organizations.

Aside from academically supporting students, Breakthrough’s tutoring program also serves as a teaching and leading incubator for older Breakthrough students who work as tutors for their younger peers. These student-tutors not only bring their enthusiasm for Breakthrough to the work, but they are often able to relate to younger students’ life experiences and perspectives in a way that enhances the tutoring experience. Many tutors go on to teach at Breakthrough in the summer program.

Marvin Nogueta has run Breakthrough’s tutoring program as part of his position as Student Support Coordinator for the last 5 years. He is a first-generation college student and Questbridge alum. His identity and his years spent as a classroom teacher in Virginia have informed his well-honed approach to tutor training that encourages tutors to break down difficult academic concepts into manageable steps. Affable and passionate about Pokemon, students look forward to tutoring partially for the friendly and welcoming environment Marvin creates in each session. “Tutoring is really about reminding students that we are there for them no matter what, it’s about showing them that facing challenges is normal and healthy.”

If you are interested in becoming a tutor or have any questions about our tutoring program, please contact Marvin Nogueta at [mnogueta@sfbprep.org](mailto:mnogueta@sfbprep.org).