March 31, 2020

To our Breakthrough Silicon Valley community,

We wanted to provide an update on our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the extended school closures and shelter in place orders in Santa Clara County, both of our offices, at Hoover Middle School and the Franklin-McKinley School District, will remain closed through at least Friday, May 1. All staff will continue to work from home during this time, and all in-person programming is suspended.

However, school closures do not mean we’ve slowed down; in fact, the opposite is occurring - we are gearing up to meet this moment with innovative, creative, and continuous support, including online tutoring; virtual 1:1 and group advising; lending Chromebooks to students; regular phone calls to our families to check in and to refer to community resources; and strengthening our students’ connection to their Breakthrough community through virtual social events such as movie nights, study groups, and even live baking classes on Instagram.

In addition, this is an especially critical time for our seniors who have seen acceptances come in from nearly 90 four-year colleges and universities and continue to receive support from our advisors as they navigate the financial aid and decision-making process of where they want to go in the fall.

Here at Breakthrough Silicon Valley, we are working hard on the front lines to ensure continuity, connection and joy for our students and families. From our family to yours, we hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy during this time.

Thank you,

John Hiester
Executive Director