Dear Breakthrough Family,

Alongside the entire nation, our Breakthrough family has witnessed and grieved the anguish that members of the Black community have experienced throughout the history of our country. It is a tragic testament to how far we still must go to be the nation of unity, equality and equitable treatment that we long for and should already be.

As these events force our communities to recognize and acknowledge the covert and systemic racism, marginalization, and police brutality that our Black brothers and sisters face because of the color of their skin, we must admit that these injustices impact us all. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be."

Over the years, Breakthrough has become a formidable force in our minds, both on a national and local level, uniting individuals from every background imaginable, and creating, through its students, families, teachers and staff, a stronger more diverse community of leaders.

Now is the time to stand as one family with our alumni, current and former teaching fellows, the parents, and the students who are Black and say the names of those who have lost their lives to police brutality: George Floyd, Atatiana Jefferson, Breonna Taylor, and way too many others. As one family, let us lean into our core values of accountability, courage, leadership, and respect. Let us speak up against these injustices, leading others in holding our community accountable to taking action against racism and respecting the differences that make this Breakthrough community beautiful.

Breakthrough is a place where young people who choose to make a difference come together as a family and a team for change. Together, we must do the work to grow a community where our Black students feel safe, affirmed and valued in a world that tells them otherwise.

Black students, alumni, families, teaching fellow alums and other Breakthrough community members--your Breakthrough family sees you, we hear you, we grieve with you and we stand with you. As a united family of learners and leaders, we know “all lives can’t matter until Black Lives Matter.”

Breakthrough Fort Worth