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**We all want change. And we demand equality.
But we can't just talk about it. We need to be about it.**

Systemic racism in public education is real. When your zip code determines your value or level of education, it creates a vicious cycle for the kids and families trying to make it out.

“My Foundation has been at this important work for years now, challenging the systemic disparities and tackling racism at its root. With the I Promise School, we're creating a model for how it can be done within – not around – the public school system.

We've still got a long way to go, but we're seeing progress. And we hope the I Promise Huddle can be a place for those direct conversations that can lead to action across the country in every city, every community.”



LEBRON JAMES

Together we can change the world.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

ALL DAY

Arrivals

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration &
Continental Breakfast

CHAPTER 1 • THE LONG ROAD TO EQUALITY

Systemic racism in public education is real. When your zip code determines your value or level we can't just talk about change. We need to be about change. Let's unite a movement of Americans from all walks of life who believe in a new goal for public education — one that empowers every child to succeed on their own terms.

LeBron's legacy began many years ago when he was still a kid in Akron with an undeniable talent destined to propel him into the sphere of legends. His journey to equality has grown from grassroots to redefining entire communities. Conscious of our common humanity, and shared responsibilities for each other and future generations, LeBron's relentless mission guides us all, striving for greatness. This is His Story.

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Welcome

*Michele Campbell, Executive Director
The LeBron James Family Foundation*

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM

Opening

*Evan Feinberg, Senior Vice President
Stand Together*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

One of the primary sources of racial injustice is our country's education system. Sixty-six years after Brown v. Board of Education, students of color are still not treated equally. Starting the race toward opportunity several laps behind their peers has ripple effects throughout society – not only harming them and their families, but also their neighborhoods, communities, and our entire country.

It doesn't have to be that way. We know because we're living it in Akron. People who have been cast aside or counted out due to their history, circumstances, or socioeconomic status are driving the change they want to be for themselves and their families—restoring hope where there had been none.

The "We Are Family" approach provides a model that communities all across the country can use to address many of the problems in our education system. By unleashing solutions that do what the I PROMISE School does for its students, we can address deep-seated injustice and empower every child to succeed.

That's the change we hope to inspire across the country. And together, we can.

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Roundtable Discussion

"Still Separated, Still Unequal, Still as Originally Designed"

The separate and unequal reality of America's public schools today is the remnant of an outdated system originally designed during a dark chapter of our past – including public housing and transportation policies and official business practices that intentionally segregated where and how people of color lived. Eliminating the inequities inherent to public school systems today requires understanding, and addressing, these root causes.

A conversation with

TIM DEROCHE, Author *"A Fine Line, How Most American Kids Are Kept Out of the Best Public Schools"*

REBECCA SIBILIA, Founder & CEO, EdBuild

CHRIS STEWART, CEO, brightbeam

Moderated by Derrell Bradford, Executive Vice President, 50CAN

PANELISTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Live Virtual Performance by Stout

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM

In Their Own Words

"Our Life, Our Journey Against All Odds"

I PROMISE School parents share their life stories as powerful examples of the effects of American poverty, especially in black neighborhoods, as barriers to health, housing, economics, and education which further lends to the marginalization of black families and communities. An urgent reminder of our collective responsibility to the most disadvantaged and marginalized among us.

A conversation with

VICTORIA YOUNG, I Promise Parent, LeBron James Family Foundation Advisory Board Member

LAURA BROWN, I Promise Parent & LeBron James Family Foundation Advisory Board Member

Moderated by Brandi Davis, Principal, I Promise School

PANELISTS

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Townhall

"A New Goal for Public Education"

Given the injustices that are implicit to today's public-school systems, there is a growing call for defining an entirely new purpose for education altogether. We believe a new goal should be to empower every kid to succeed on their own terms, and that empowers families to create their own education roadmaps that reflect their specific goals and needs—rather than having someone else's imposed on them. Akron is the prime setting for this unprecedented conversation, as the I PROMISE School's "We Are Family" approach shows what's possible when people come together to not just talk about change, but be about it.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

A conversation with

WALTER BLANKS, Communications Associate, American Federation of Children

DON'MARIE REID, Akron I Promise Network Student, 330 Ambassador, The LeBron James Family Foundation

CHEVALIEÉ "CHEVY" ROBINSON, Akron I Promise Network Student, 330 Ambassador, The LeBron James Family Foundation

GRACE LATTZ, Student, Illinois

MIGUEL MACIAS, Entrepreneur, Arizona

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS, Current and recent students from across the country

Moderated by Askia Ahmad, Managing Director of Leadership Development, Stand Together

PANELISTS

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Live Virtual Performance by John Popper

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Roundtable Discussion

"Innovative Models to Unleash Potential Within Every Kid"

As the I PROMISE School quickly came to find, providing innovative approaches within the public education system is a daunting challenge, but one that can be overcome with determination and ingenuity. What other successful models exist that are challenging the status quo? Turns out, there's more progress being made in communities across the country than is widely realized – bringing the future of a new goal for public education closer to reality for every kid.

A conversation with

CARRIE MUSCI, Teacher, I Promise School

KELLI PESTELLO, Teacher, I Promise School

LESLIE TALBOT, Founder and Principal, Talbot Consulting

MASHEA ASHTON, Founder, Digital Pioneers Academy

HASSAN HASSAN, CEO, 4.O Schools

Moderated by Kylie Stupka, President, Youth Entrepreneurs

PANELISTS

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

Live Virtual Performance by Robert Randolph



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

3:30PM - 4:00 PM

In Their Own Words

"Unlikely Partners"

A critical step in achieving this new goal requires working together toward fair and meaningful change. If the last 50 years have shown us anything, it's that change will not happen on its own. We don't all have to agree on everything before we can work together on anything. People who try to find common ground usually do – establishing a critical foundation of trust that serves as a gateway to making progress we can all build upon going forward.

A conversation with

MICHELE CAMPBELL, Executive Director, The LeBron James Family Foundation

EVAN FEINBERG, Senior Vice President, Stand Together

Moderated by Dhani Jones, Vice President, Stand Together

PANELISTS

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Conclusion to Chapter 1

Special Performance

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS
PRESENTED BY

WHEATIES

7:00AM - 7:15 AM

Welcome Remarks

*David Lieberth, LeBron Advisory Board Member,
The LeBron James Family Foundation*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:15 AM - 7:40 AM

Conversation

A conversation with

VICTORIA MCGEE, Director, I Promise School Family Resource Center, The LeBron James Family Foundation

LATOYA TAYLOR, Parent, I Promise Program

CIARA DEBRUCE, Parent, I Promise Program

Moderated by David Lieberth, LeBron Advisory Board Member, The LeBron James Family Foundation

PANELISTS

7:40 AM - 8:00 AM

Special Remarks

*Gloria James, Board Member,
The LeBron James Family Foundation*

8:00 AM-8:25 AM

Break

CHAPTER 2 • NEW GOAL, NEW PROMISE: EMPOWER *EVERY* KID

We must demand a new and more equitable goal for public education—one that empowers every kid to succeed on their own terms. We know it's possible because we're living it in Akron. Working with the city's most vulnerable students and families, the I PROMISE program is taking a whole new approach to education – one that emphasizes social emotional learning and empowers the entire family so that no one is left behind. And when they succeed, we all win. **These are Their Voices.**

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

In Their Own Words

"From At-Risk to At-Promise"

Dr. Victor Rios seeks to uncover how to best support the lives of young people who experience poverty, stigma and social exclusion. Dr. Rios created Project GRIT (Generating Resilience to Inspire Transformation), a human development program that works with educators to refine leadership, civic engagement and personal and academic empowerment in young people placed at-risk.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

A conversation with

VICTOR RIOS, Associate Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, The University of California, Santa Barbara

Moderated by Nia Lewis, Akron I Promise Network Student, 330 Ambassador, The LeBron James Family Foundation

PANELISTS

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM

Roundtable Discussion

"The Trust Factor"

Creating authentic partnerships among families and faculty that lead to success, supporting an educational culture that values children including children of color, and understanding why others matter are key ingredients to a classroom culture of trust, safety, challenge and joy and the foundation for every aspect of improved teaching and learning.

A conversation with

PAMELA CANTOR M.D., Founder & Senior Science Advisor, Turnaround for Children

NICOLE HASSAN, Liaison, Akron Public Schools & The LeBron James Family Foundation

CYNTHIA ROBINSON-RIVERS, Founding Head of School, Van Ness Elementary

Moderated by Keith Liechty-Clifford, Coordinator, Akron Public Schools

PANELISTS

10:00 AM - 10:10 AM

Break

10:10 AM - 11:00 AM

Roundtable Discussion

"The Story, The Promise"

Gloria James gave birth to LeBron at the tender age of 16. They were often homeless, and LeBron missed almost 100 days of elementary school one year. His athletic talent encouraged a network of family, friends, mentors and coaches to house and nurture him. Although, he is well aware that without those gifts, he may have easily fallen through the gaping holes in our educational system. It's a public school that grew out of LeBron James' determination to help kids like him, and his enduring commitment to Akron. LeBron James promises to do his part.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

A conversation with

COACH DRU JOYCE II, Men's Basketball Coach, St. Vincent – St. Mary High School

SHANNON SHIPPE, I Promise Parent, Advisory Board Member, The LeBron James Family Foundation

PATTY BURDON, Advisory Board Member, The LeBron James Family Foundation

Moderated by David Lieberth, LeBron Advisory Board Member, The LeBron James Family Foundation

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Live Virtual Music Performance by Elliott Yamin
"The Trust Factor"

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

In Their Own Words
"Under The Hood"

An honest look at segregation and systemic racism in our communities, our schools, and classrooms by first unpacking our own stories and providing students and families with the power to imagine and create a more equitable society.

A conversation with

GLADYS "TIARA" SARGEANT, Coordinator, Student Group on Race Relations, Shaker Heights High School

ADAM DIAZ, Student Group on Race Relations Leader, Shaker Heights High School

ANGELA WHORTON, Teacher, I Promise School

MITHIL PUJAR, Research Assistant, yes. every kid.

Moderated by Dr. Dameon Alexander, Director of Partnerships, Stand Together

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

In Their Own Words
"Do The Right Thing, Be Color Brave"

Being color brave means having candid conversations about race that can help us better understand each other's perspectives and experiences so that we can make better decisions and secure better prospects for future generations.

A conversation with

MELLODY HOBSON, Co-CEO & President, Ariel Investments

Moderated by Michele Campbell, Executive Director, The LeBron James Family Foundation

PANELISTS

PANELISTS

PANELISTS

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

12:45 PM - 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Field Trip (optional)

I Promise School Visit

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Closing Dinner

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

CHAPTER 3 • OUR PROMISE: WE ARE FAMILY

The “We Are Family” approach is changing lives of at-risk students in Akron—providing a model that communities across the country can take and make their own to address many of the systemic issues our society faces today. That’s the change we hope to inspire nationwide and globally. Together, we can engage and galvanize a community of supporters to achieve collective impact, with exponentially larger and more lasting results. We can’t just talk about change. We need to be about change. **This is Our Promise.**

9:00AM - 9:05 AM

Welcome

*Stephanie Myers, Core Leadership Team,
The LeBron James Family Foundation*

9:05 AM - 9:45 AM

In Their Own Words

The Civic Spring Project

The idea behind the Civic Spring Project is to match a significant need – communities seeking to respond to their immediate challenges – with a tremendous asset – young people seeking action, purpose and agency. Developed and executed in partnership with local institutions and civic organizations, these responses to local issues allow young people to civically engage and allow us to understand the different ways that civic learning takes place.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

A conversation with

RAJIV VINNAKOTA, President, The Woodrow Wilson Foundation

Moderated by Erik Stangvik, Social Entrepreneur & Senior Strategist

PANELISTS

9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Introducing the X-Change

"What's Your Promise?"

Participants will be invited to experience the "Be Best Circle" practice. The concept of "Be Best" starts with LeBron and his infinite pursuit of improvement. The LRMR and LeBron James Family Foundation teams have since infused that principle of always striving to be better into every element of their work – which resonates with adults, students and everyone in between. From the office at Suite 360 to the classrooms at the I PROMISE School, these daily Be Best and I Promise circles are how each and every day is started. As the adults and students alike unpack so much of what they're dealing with before they're prepared to learn for the day, this invaluable time is known to uncover raw moments of empathy, vulnerability, and understanding. They're a consistent reality check reminding us to take a moment to be still, to reflect, and to process how we're doing and how we can do better. For it's in this self-reflective and shared journey that can take us where we all want to go – together.

"Be Best Circle" Group Leaders

STEPHANIE ARNETT, Teacher, I Promise School

ELENA SOSTER, Teacher, I Promise School

JESSICA TOZZI, Teacher, I Promise School

SHARDAY SUTTLES, Teacher, I Promise School

Presented by Erika Mayer, Core Leadership Team, The LeBron James Family Foundation

PANELISTS

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM

Break

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Roundtable Discussion

"It Takes A Village"

Many of us are familiar with the African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child." The truth is it takes a village to achieve just about any meaningful change in our world and in our communities. For years, purpose-driven organizations believed that change could result from a handful of generous supporters, vocal advocates or committed volunteers. We know that the most effective change makers inspire participation at a broader and deeper level and require multi-stakeholder commitments to progress at scale.

A conversation with

NATALIE WATRAL, Executive Director, Market Director of Consumer Banking, JP Morgan Chase & LeBron Advisory Board Member

RICK KELLAR, President, Peg's Foundation & LeBron Advisory Board Member

DORI GURWITZ, Senior Managing Director, PwC

Moderated by Johnny Taylor, CEO, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM

In Their Own Words

"Closing The Gap"

21st century leaders must reflect the country's rich demographic mix and be of diverse backgrounds. A group of I Promise higher education partners committed to uplifting students who serve as catalysts for individual and community development join the conversation. Their contributions to a promising future for our nation is to support the personal journey of students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential.

A conversation with

TONI MONTGOMERY, Director of Strategy, Culture & Operations, The LeBron James Family Foundation

JARROD TUDOR, Professor and Director of Regional Campuses and Education, The University of Akron

JUSTIN HILTON, Senior Administrator for Community Outreach, Kent State University

Moderated by Michele Campbell, Executive Director, The LeBron James Family Foundation

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Closing Remarks

*Michele Campbell, Executive Director,
The LeBron James Family Foundation*