

2025-2026 MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC GUIDE



11908 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78753
512.835.5983
www.brentwoodchristian.org

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MISSION

The mission of Brentwood Christian School is to lead students to love God and to nurture them in a Christ-centered academic environment that emphasizes excellence and inspires them to develop their God-given talents for lives of Christian leadership and service.

ACCREDITATION

Cognia (AdvancEd)
National Christian School Association

Brentwood Christian School
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Jay Burcham, President
Leah Smith, Middle School Principal
Granville Jones, Academic Advisor

STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Report Cards and Online Progress Reports

Grades are provided to students and parents to communicate the degree to which students are mastering the content and fulfilling the purposes for which each course is designed.

Report cards will be posted online at the end of each quarter via FACTS, a restricted-access Internet site. Students and their parents have online access to track student progress and current grades throughout the year.

Parents may request conferences by emailing their middle school teacher or the middle school office. Group conferences with parents, teachers, and administrators may be scheduled, when appropriate, through the middle school office.

Grading Scale

97-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	78-79 = C+	73 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	76-77 = C	71-72 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	74-75 = C-	70 = D-
Any grade below 70 is failing (F).			

Midterm and Final Exams

The weighting of these exams are as follows:

6th grade : 5%

7th grade : 10%

8th grade : 10%

High School Classes taken in the 8th grade: 15%

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)

Students in 7th and 8th grade classes with a 92.0 grade average or above (in core classes) will be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society. Grade 6 is a qualifying year. Selection for membership also requires evidence of outstanding performance in character, citizenship, leadership, and service. Students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate form by a specified date.

AWARDS

Content Area Awards

- Students are eligible at each grade level.
- The award is given by subject.
- The award is determined by the teacher.
- This is awarded at the Middle School Awards Ceremony.

Citizens of the Year

- A boy and girl in each grade level are selected for Citizens of the Year.
- This award is determined by teacher nomination and Principal approval.
- This is awarded at the Middle School Awards Ceremony.

President's Award for Academic Excellence

- 8th Grade must meet all criteria below:
 - 90% or above on year grade average in 7th grade and the first semester of 8th grade.
 - Score at or above 80th percentile on either the math or reading on MAP test at any point during the 8th grade year.
- This is awarded at 8th grade promotion.

Top Scholar Award

- This award is given to the two 8th grade students with the highest GPAs.
- This is based on cumulative average.
- This is awarded at 8th grade promotion.

MATH PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Advanced Credit Requirements

Most seventh-grade students will be assigned to Math 7. Students who demonstrate superior mastery of foundational mathematics skills in sixth grade will be assigned to 7th grade Pre-Algebra. Students who take Pre-Algebra in seventh grade and complete the year with an 85 or above may advance to Algebra I in 8th grade for high school credit. Students on this track will be expected to earn four additional math credits in high school, ending with a total of five Math credits.

Most 8th grade students will be assigned to Pre-Algebra. Students who are assigned to Algebra I in 8th grade must make a grade of 85 or above for the year to receive high school credit for this class.

5th Grade going to 6th:

- To be considered for the Advanced Math class, students must meet both of the following criteria:
 - MAP Test - met 70% or above on any math growth test taken in the year
 - Grade in class - 90 or above

*Placement in 6th Advanced Math does not guarantee Pre-Algebra for 7th grade. Students must meet the prerequisites.

6th Grade going to 7th:

- To be considered for Pre-Algebra in the 7th grade, students must meet two of the following criteria:
 - Readiness test - 70% or above
 - MAP Test - met 70% or above on any math growth test taken in the year (three opportunities)
 - Grade in class - 90 or above

7th Grade going to 8th:

- For students in Math 7 who would like to be considered for Algebra I in the 8th grade, students must meet two of the following criteria:
 - Readiness test - 80% or above
 - MAP Test - met 80% or above on any math growth test taken in the year (three opportunities)
 - Grade in class - 90 or above
- Transfer students:
 - 85 in Pre-Algebra and a 70 or above on the MAP test

8th Grade going to 9th:

- Students striving to get on the Advanced Math Track, in order to take Calculus in the 12th grade, may complete Algebra I in the summer from an approved accredited institution with a grade of 85 or above.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course descriptions are grouped by subject area.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

English/Language Arts Overview:

Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are viewed as essential facets of God's gift of communication. A Christian English Language Arts curriculum should provide each student with opportunities to develop their reading, writing, and speaking skills from a Christ-centered perspective. The selections studied in the Middle School English Language Arts curriculum inculcate the Christian values of gratitude, truth, empathy, and hope as well as give glimpses of God's good and loving nature. The curriculum provides students with a framework for appreciating, interpreting, and writing literature through a Christian worldview.

English 6

Includes the language arts of vocabulary, grammar, critical analysis, and composition. This class applies vocabulary development, basic grammar, usage, and punctuation skills in writing processes such as proofreading and editing. Students use listening, speaking, and writing skills to produce poetry, memoir, a research project, a short story, an informational essay, and a literary analysis essay. Requires some summer reading.

Reading 6

Applies comprehension, reading fluency, and reading study skills while nurturing a life-long love of reading. Students read self-selected novels in class and at home. Students learn critical analysis skills by writing essays critiquing their chosen novels. Comprehension skills are further increased through listening to classic pieces of literature that are read aloud regularly by the teacher. Requires some summer reading.

English 7

Includes the language arts of reading and critical analysis, composition, grammar, and vocabulary enrichment. Grammar, mechanics, and composition skills are developed and strengthened through a writing and editing workshop. Written works include poetry, memoir, fiction narrative, persuasive essay, and a research paper. Reading fluency, comprehension, and analysis skills are developed as students read and critically analyze self-selected novels as well as several pieces of text-based literature. Vocabulary development and usage are emphasized through bi-weekly vocabulary units. Requires some summer reading.

English 8

Enhances and practices the language arts of reading and critical analysis, composition, grammar, and vocabulary enrichment. Grammar, mechanics, and composition skills are developed and strengthened through a writing and editing workshop. Written works include poetry, memoir, fiction narrative, persuasive essay, and a research paper. Reading fluency, comprehension, and analysis skills are developed as students read and critically analyze self-selected novels as well as several pieces of text-based literature and a teacher-selected novel. Vocabulary development and usage are emphasized through bi-weekly vocabulary units. Requires some summer reading.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Overview

The study of mathematics seems to point to the changelessness of God. It reveals He is a God of wisdom, order, and system Who can be depended upon; His logic is certain. A proper understanding and appreciation of the works of God demands a knowledge of the underlying principles of mathematics. To this end, God has led mankind to develop an efficient system of numbers, computation, and expression of natural laws. The mathematics department provides opportunities for students to develop (a) basic skills of mathematics in order to train their minds to use logical, sequential thought processes, (b) an understanding of principles and concepts in mathematics, (c) an enjoyment of mathematics, and (d) the mathematics background necessary to function as responsible members of society, serving and glorifying God.

Math 6

Requires mastery of the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers. This class explores concepts of number relationships, measurement, geometry, percent, ratios, and proportions and introduces algebraic reasoning. Math 6 applies concepts and skills in problem-solving activities and offers the opportunity to study integers, probability, and statistics.

Math 6 Advanced*

This course covers the same material as Math 6 plus additional assignments and rigor. It also places a greater emphasis on critical thinking skills.

Math 7

Emphasizes mathematical skills and structures. Stresses fundamental operations with whole numbers, integers, decimal fractions, and common fractions. Examines metric measures, number theory, exponents, ratios, and percentages. Explores geometry, statistics, and probability. This is a very important year in mathematics in that it is a time to master skills, particularly computation, which will be a basis for other math courses.

Pre-Algebra* - 7th and 8th grade

Reviews fundamental skills of arithmetic, introduces the basic language of algebra and the operations with directed numbers, and utilizes this information to solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable. The Pre-Algebra class emphasizes problem-solving, providing opportunities to work with radical expressions, graphing in the coordinate plane, and basic geometric facts. Pre-Algebra prepares students for success in Algebra.

Algebra I Honors* - 8th grade

HS CREDIT: 1

This Honors level class introduces the basic abstract skills required to advance beyond mathematical intuition and counting application. Introduces the basic language and properties of algebra, studies solutions and applications of linear equations and inequalities, develops operations with exponents and polynomials, introduces factorization of polynomials, and solves quadratic equations by factoring. Introduces studies of functions and relations and their graphs, systems of open sentences, the roles and uses of irrational numbers, the solution of quadratic equations by various methods and operations, and problem-solving using rational expressions. See prerequisites on page 6.

SCIENCE

Science Overview

Science is a gift from God, Who is the source of all good things (James 1:17). Science is a way of knowing and exploring God's creation. We believe that in studying science, the students get a unique opportunity to peek into the mind of God as they use their senses to observe and understand God's world.

Science 6

Explores the wonders of God's creation in topics from earth including geology, earth history, weathering and erosion, astronomy and rocketry, climate, and air and water cycles. Students develop critical thinking skills through questioning, projects, labs, and modeling. This study integrates science studies with other academic disciplines and guides research and scientific methods to prepare them for their future scientific endeavors.

Life Science 7

Teaches students the intricacies of God's work from the microscopic level to the macroscopic level. The first semester focuses on the microscopic basics of life and how it came to be. The second semester focuses on how those tiny basics of life come together to make the visible world around us. This year in science is to prepare the students for high school biology, as well as help them begin thinking about future scientific study.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) 8

Covers the study of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonds, and reactions. Students will explore solutions, acids, and bases, and examine carbon and nuclear chemistry. Motion, forces, work, power, and energy will be investigated. Students will also study waves, magnetism, electricity, and optics.

HISTORY

History Overview

Within a framework of a God-ordered universe, a Christian social studies curriculum should provide each student with opportunities to develop an awareness of the geographic, historic, cultural, and social roots of modern culture, critical thinking skills (in light of God's word) through which to interpret events and data, and a desire to understand and act as discerning moral agents and servant leaders within their culture.

History 6

Examines the physical environment, culture, government, religion, technology, and economics in historical developments from Creation to the Reformation. Students apply skills in reading, reference use, geography, and study strategies in interdisciplinary activities. The class combines Texas history and cultural study in a project including research activities and the use of audiovisual and other resources to enrich these studies.

Texas History/ World Geography 7

During the fall semester, students will study significant Texas events, peoples, and issues from their earliest beginnings to the present. This class examines the historical and spiritual significance of political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic influences. In addition, students will learn map reading, outlining, note-taking, and research skills. The study of world geography in the spring introduces students to the nature of geography, the physical characteristics of the earth as created by God, the interrelationships of the physical and cultural environments, and to the regions of the world, including major cultural, political, and economic patterns. Students will learn to identify natural and political divisions of the world.

American History 8

Describes significant individuals, events, and political/social/economic changes from the period of exploration through the Reconstruction (approximately 1450-1877). Emphasizes the importance of the Christian heritage in the formation of the American character. Presents geography as a significant factor in the creation of the American story.

BIBLE

Bible 6, Bible 7, and Bible 8

Part of our mission at BCS is to "lead students to love God". For students to love God, they must first know Him and His Word. All students explore God's word in Bible class to hear, learn, and study Bible stories of both the Old and New Testaments and participate in discussions and activities where they can apply the lessons learned through those stories to lead lives of Christian service and leadership. Bible 6 is for our 6th Graders, Bible 7 is for 7th Graders, and Bible 8 is for 8th Graders.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education

Provides instruction in-game rules, health, and safety practices and develops Christian character and motor skills basic to participation in physical recreation and leisure-time activities. This class also includes a variety of individual, dual, and team sports that develop fitness and skills basic to the activity being taught, plus rhythm, fitness, and conditioning activities.

Athletics

Provides coaching and character training in girls' volleyball, boys' football, and girls' and boys' basketball, soccer, track & field, and cross country for students who participate in Capital Area Private and Parochial League competitions. Students must maintain eligibility.

***Off Campus PE (OCPE)**

OCPE is not offered in the middle school grades

ELECTIVES

Students enroll in elective classes which meet on alternating days throughout the year. Every effort is made to assign students to their first choices; however, class size is limited for effectiveness and some choices are offered at the same time as others.

06 Art (\$50.00 fee)

6th Grade Art uses a variety of media which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Focuses on foundational skills and disciplines. Presents artistic expression as a gift of God and a reflection of His creativity, introduces general art history, and examines values and beliefs expressed by artists. An art fee is required for materials.

MS Art - 7th and 8th grade (\$65.00 fee)

This 7th and 8th grade class expands visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world by learning about, understanding, and applying the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities. The student uses what the student sees, knows, and has experienced as sources for examining, understanding, and creating original artwork.

06 Band (\$50.00 fee)

6th Grade Band is a year-long elective class where you continue to develop the skills needed in learning to play a musical instrument. Prior experience or knowledge of music is recommended. The skills learned will provide you with the solid foundation needed to advance to the intermediate or advanced levels of MS Band and beyond.

MS Band - 7th and 8th grade (\$65.00 fee)

Middle School Band consists of a 7th/8th grade performing ensemble. The focus is on the development of the fundamentals of wind and percussion instruments. Band students learn about commitment and excellence by working as a team to create musical experiences. Band class meets every other day. Students will prepare two concerts during the year. The 7th-8th grade band will also participate in a competitive festival in the spring. One specific performance attire piece for a fee is required.

06 Drum Line - 7th and 8th grade (\$65.00 fee)

Prerequisite: Director approval and current participation in an additional fine arts class.

Focuses on the development of proficiency in performing in a Drumline and Percussion ensemble, basic to advanced rudimental development, and public performance. Requires attendance at some before and/or after school rehearsals and performances as necessary. Requires academic eligibility for competition and off-campus performances.

MS Drum Line - 7th and 8th grade (\$65.00 fee)

Prerequisite: Director approval and current participation in an additional fine arts class.

Focuses on the development of proficiency in performing in a Drumline and Percussion ensemble, basic to advanced rudimental development, and public performance. Requires attendance at some before and/or after school rehearsals and performances as necessary. Requires academic eligibility for competition and off-campus performances.

06 Choir (\$50.00 fee)

Introduces 6th graders to basic singing techniques, emphasizing proper vocal production and development of the changing male and female voices. Presented as a gift of God that can be used to mold human hearts and minds. Attention is given to individual and group performance and music reading skills. Attendance at performances and rehearsals outside school hours is required. One specific performance attire piece for a fee is required.

MS Choir - 7th and 8th grade only ; Combined Mixed (\$65.00 fee)

PREREQUISITE: Teacher approval and preferred completion of the 06 Choir class

Middle school choir is a course of study that introduces and develops musical concepts and skills related to choral music. Students learn to sing and perform music. No previous experience is required. Participation in a performing group offers the students the opportunity to experience a high level of teamwork, develop a high degree of personal responsibility, and acquire leadership skills.

MS Orchestra - 6th - 8th grades (\$50.00 fee)

MS Orchestra is a year-long elective class where students continue to develop the skills needed in learning to play a musical instrument. Prior experience or knowledge of music is recommended. The skills learned will provide

you with the solid foundation needed to advance to the intermediate or advanced levels of MS Orchestra and beyond.

MS Competitive Math

The Competitive Math class is designed for students who wish to strengthen their mathematical skills and expand their knowledge of mathematics beyond the standard curriculum. The focus will be on problem-solving, calculator applications, and number sense skills. Students will prepare for and possibly participate in academic competitions. The preparation and the competitions are designed to help students discover and develop their God-given talents in the area of mathematics.

MS Computer 1

This is a project-based classroom focused on individual student's areas of interest and skill levels. The primary skill base students develop is in G Suite apps, including Gmail, Google Drive, Google Slides, and Google Docs. Students create projects based on Genesis 1:28, where God gives rule over the earth to men and women. Through their projects, students explore how God might be calling them to use technology to make the world a better place. Work products might include slideshows, documents, collaborations, creative solutions, presentations, websites, 3D designs, and more. In their use of technology, students are taught to abide by the fruits of the Spirit as represented in Galatians 5:22-23, approaching their work with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

MS Computer 2 - 7th and 8th grade

This is an extension of MS Computer 1. Students develop their computer design skills with projects. Depending on a student's area of interest, design skills include using G Suite Apps and also could include coding, circuits, graphics, games, drawing, apps, animations, industrial design, 3D design, music, film, photography, and more. They collaborate and work on their presentation skills as well.

MS Computer 3 - 8th grade only

This is an extension of MS Computer 2. This class is for 8th graders who are interested in developing their ideas and design skills to eventually compete in the high school TAPPS program at Brentwood. Competition categories include communication design, graphic design, computer-rendered art, photography with computer editing, and applied/industrial design. This class will run concurrently with the MS Computer II class, but the assignments and instruction will be differentiated.

06 Intro to Theatre - 6th grade (\$50.00 fee)

Introduces dramatic arts as one of many forms of expression with which humans have been endowed by the divine Creator. Covers basic acting techniques, improvisation, and mime. Teaches oral interpretation of literature, including prose, poetry, and Scripture. All students will participate in a readers' theater production. Outside performances and limited after-school rehearsals are required.

MS Drama 1 and 2 - 7th and 8th grade (\$65.00 fee)

Prerequisite: Teacher approval and completion of the Drama class

Through simple scripted scenes, performance projects, and/or practical application, students learn to identify what makes performances believable and explore the tools used to create, articulate, and execute them. The primary focus of this class is to produce the Middle School One Act Play for competition.

MS Aide - 8th grade only

Students can serve as a classroom aide, library aide, or office aide. Teaches skills necessary to aid classroom teachers, office personnel, or librarians. This can include room preparation, grading, filing, preparation of teaching materials, shelving books and magazines, book repair, copying, etc. These activities emphasize personal

responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as an aide.

MS Book Club (\$25.00 fee)

Provides students the opportunity to become willing, engaged, and strategic readers while encountering a wide variety of books. Students will be placed in small literature circles where they will encounter their books through written and artistic mediums. Book Club is the class where students will learn to personally respond to their readings and make connections in their own lives.

MS Career Pathways - 7th and 8th grades

This course assists students with exploring careers and developing skills necessary to make meaningful decisions about their career choice. This course will assist the students in assessing their personal strengths and weaknesses as well as relate to career decisions. This course will aid the student in developing strategies to make an effective transition from school to work. The student will develop skills in this course that are generic to all occupations, such as properly preparing career documents needed to obtain employment. The student will be able to recognize that career enhancements and career changes are common and that they need to be prepared with proper tools, resources, and guidance to make informed decisions about their career choice throughout their lifetime.

MS Cheer Team

Required for girls who successfully completed tryouts for the middle school cheerleading squad. Girls will learn stunts, cheers, chants, and rehearse routines for pep rallies and games. Practice is during the school day with occasional, required outside rehearsals and performances.

MS Drill Team

Required for students who successfully completed tryouts for the Lady Bellas. The focus of the class will be technique and skills. Students will also learn routines for pep rallies, games, and other performances. Outside rehearsals and performances are required.

MS Journalism

Introduces students to the journalistic process through a broad, hands-on experience. Enables students to become critical observers of their environment as a means of seeking to understand, discuss, and determine truth within the context of Christian perspective and experience. Defines what constitutes news, introduces the concept of journalistic responsibility, and begins the development of writing skills used in the production of newspapers, yearbooks, and other journalistic writing tasks.

MS Spanish - 7th and 8th grade

Introduces 7th and 8th grade students to the process of acquiring a second language, with a focus on listening, comprehension, and reading. Basic vocabulary is developed through songs, stories, and games to form a solid foundation for Spanish 1. This class meets on alternate days.

HS Spanish I - optional for 8th grade

HS CREDIT: 1

PREREQUISITE: "A" in English 7 or an "A" in MS Spanish

This class introduces students to the four basic skills of language learning (learning, speaking, reading, and writing), develops appropriate concepts, and emphasizes practical vocabulary building and conversation skills. Students are also introduced to the culture and civilization of Spain and Hispanic countries. Highly motivated students who can assimilate new material at an accelerated rate and who are able to spend extra time on homework may qualify to take Spanish I instead of study hall in eighth grade. An average grade of 85 or above for the year is necessary to receive high school credit for Spanish I.

MS Speech - 7th and 8th grade

MS Speech class helps students to become better communicators in our families, friendships, and in public settings. Students will learn the different parts of a formal speech, then write and perform informational and persuasive speeches in front of their classmates. We will practice nonverbal control in our communication such as: tone, rate, volume, posture, and gestures. Students will learn and practice valuable communication skills including active listening and conflict management.

MS Study Hall

This optional study hall is an additional study hall that will provide extra time for students to focus on completing their homework.

Skills and Service Class

Students will develop fundamental basic life skills and be able to identify need and apply those skills in service.

Study Skills (AM) Study Hall - required for 6th - 8th grade

Required for all middle school students. Provides an opportunity for homework preparation, study, and reading in a supervised setting. Offers training in study skills. A grade will be given for the maintenance of the notebook system and proper use of time.

COURSE REQUEST CHANGES

We do allow course request changes, but each request is subject to the discretion of the Academic Advisor and Middle School Principal. The course change request guidelines are as follows:

- All course request changes should be completed within the first 10 days of school.

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GOALS

Development of Christian Faith and Conduct. Students should learn to integrate Christian beliefs and principles into all areas of life and to base their conduct on faith in God.

- † *Students will study the Bible as the canon of Christian faith and learn to appreciate the heritage of God's people throughout the ages.*
- † *Students will participate in group activities designed to develop cooperative attitudes and skills, deferring to others' strengths, contributing their own strengths, and encouraging each other in areas of weakness.*
- † *Students will be helped to recognize their limitations without developing a sense of failure, to overcome them where possible, and to recognize their strengths without developing arrogance.*
- † *Students will develop a confident and secure sense of personal worth as children of God, regardless of their appearance, ability, or achievement.*
- † *Students will treat others as valuable, regardless of their physical, social, economic, ethnic, or racial characteristics, or their performance, recognizing they are all children of God intended to live and work together.*
- † *Students will be disciplined for misbehavior in a way that recognizes them as children of God and encourages the development of self-discipline.*
- † *Students will be encouraged to love God and to submit their lives to Christ.*
- † *Students will learn to respect and care for their minds and bodies as God's creation.*
- † *Students will learn to recognize their daily decisions as the arena of Christian faith and will be encouraged to apply godly wisdom in making choices.*

Development of Talents and Skills. Each student is created by God with potential for individual contribution to the world God has made; therefore, each should develop talents and learn skills which will enable him or her to function constructively and critically in that world.

- † *Students will learn skills and develop talents in oral and written communication.*
- † *Students will learn to locate, evaluate, and use resources for finding information.*
- † *Students will understand and be able to use foundational concepts in all academic disciplines to analyze and evaluate information and to solve problems.*
- † *Students will learn fundamental physical and aesthetic skills so that they may explore and develop individual talents to the praise of God's glory.*
- † *Students will be encouraged to evaluate the ethical potential of the application of their talents and skills in the light of Christian faith.*

[RETURN BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)