



English/Language Arts

English 6

Includes the language arts of spelling, grammar, handwriting, and composition. This class applies spelling patterns, basic grammar, usage, and punctuation skills in writing processes such as proofreading and editing. Students use listening, speaking, and writing skills to produce poetry, reports, short stories, and essays.

Text currently in use: *Spelling 6th grade*, Purposeful Design; *6+1 Writing Traits*, Evan Moor. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent work.

Reading 6

Applies vocabulary, comprehension, and reading study skills in all content areas. This study integrates literature themes and content with history, Bible studies, and other content areas. Students read from anthologies as well as complete novels and are encouraged to complete daily independent reading at home. Requires some summer reading.

Text currently in use: *Spelling 6*, Purposeful Design; *Promises to Keep*, Open Court; selected trade books. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

English 7

Focuses on writing as an essential facet of God's gift of communication. Approaches writing as a process combining spelling, usage, grammar, and other mechanics with organizational techniques and creative initiative. Literature is supplemented at intervals during the year. Students will read two novels during this course. Requires some summer reading.

Text currently in use: *Elements of Literature*, Holt, Rinehart, Winston; *Vocabulary Workshop Level B*, Sadlier-Oxford; and selected trade books. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

English 8

Focuses on communications skill as a gift from God designed to communicate his purposes and his truth to mankind. Continues the study of language, composition, literature and research as processes which enable humans to communicate more effectively. Develops skills in grammar, spelling, vocabulary, research, critical thinking, and writing for a variety of purposes. Includes short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, and four novels. Requires some summer reading.

Texts currently in use: *Elements of Literature*, Holt, Rinehart, Winston; *Vocabulary Workshop Level C*, Sadlier-Oxford; and selected trade books. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

Mathematics

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 by meeting three of the following four requirements will have the opportunity to take Pre-Algebra in seventh grade: earn a grade of 93 or above for the year; score 90 or above on the math composite score of the MAP test; successfully pass the Pre-Algebra Readiness Test; and have a math teacher's recommendation. 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.

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

Mathematics Overview

The study of mathematics seems to point to the changelessness of God. It reveals that he is a God of wisdom, order, and system. He 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.

Text currently in use: *Math Course 1*, McGraw Hill. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

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 percents. 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.

Text currently in use: *Math Course 2*, McGraw Hill. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

Pre-Algebra

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. Places emphasis on problem solving. Covers radical expressions, graphing in the coordinate plane, and basic geometric facts. Prepares students for success in algebra.

Text currently in use: *Math Course 3*, McGraw Hill. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

Algebra I (optional for 8th grade)

HS CREDIT: 1

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.

Text currently in use: Houghton-Mifflin *Big Ideas Math – Algebra 1*. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

Science

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 provides guidance in research and scientific method to prepare them for their future scientific endeavors. Science 6 uses field trips to enrich studies, including a trip to the Houston area where students visit NASA's Johnson Space Center and conduct a simulated mission at the Challenger Center. This class also includes worldview lessons that integrate Bible teachings and science topics to guide students to an understanding of God's power, viewing the Earth as God's creation for those he loves.

Text currently in use: *Earth Science*, Holt Science and Technology. Students explore scientific concepts through experimentation and direct instruction.

Life Science 7

Teaches students the intricacies of God's work from the microscopic level to the macroscopic level. First semester focuses on the microscopic basics of life and how it came to be. 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.

Text currently in use: *Life iScience*, McGraw-Hill. Students explore scientific concepts through experimentation and direct instruction.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) 8

Course covers 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.

Text currently in use: *Conceptual Integrated Science*, Pearson. Students explore scientific concepts through experimentation and direct instruction.

Social Studies

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 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 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The use of audiovisual and other resources enrich these studies.

Text currently in use: *Holt McDougal Ancient Civilizations through the Renaissance*, Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt. Students explore concepts about the history of the world.

Texas History/ World Geography 7

During the fall semester students will study significant Texas events, peoples, and issues from earliest beginnings to present. This class examines 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, to the physical characteristics of the earth as created by God, to 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.

Text currently in use: Fall semester: *Texas History*, McGraw-Hill. Students review concepts about the history and geography of Texas discussed in class. Spring semester: *Contemporary World Cultures*, Pearson. Students review geography concepts discussed in class.

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.

Text currently in use: *United States History to 1877*, McGraw-Hill. Students review concepts about the history and geography of the United States discussed in class.

Bible

Middle school girls alternate days with the middle school boys for Bible and physical education classes.

Old Testament Survey 6

Provides an overview of the first seventeen books of the Old Testament (Genesis-Esther). Focuses on biblical stories that emphasize the nature of God and mankind's appropriate response to him. Attempts to provide a coherent view of God, instill a biblical sense of what is right and wrong, inculcate Christian values in students, and enable them to make difficult moral choices with confidence.

Gospel of Matthew 7

Examines the life and teachings of Jesus through the study of Matthew's gospel. Focuses on Jesus as the one who came into the world in the most humble of circumstances and submitted His will to the Father in all things. Students will learn that God created us to live lives of love, forgiveness, self-control, and truth. Students will also recognize that faith is a process, and that there is a difference between knowing about God and truly knowing God. Finally, students will understand that by his death Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, and that the resurrected Christ is now interceding on our behalf at the right hand of God.

New Testament Survey/Moral Decision-Making 8

The fall curriculum begins with the intertestamental period, focusing on Jewish faith and culture. Students will then study Paul's letters to the Ephesians and Galatians to understand and appreciate the centrality of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for the Christian faith and to discuss the ways in which we should respond. During the spring semester students will survey different criteria involved in making moral decisions, analyzing the seven virtues and discussing how our decisions shape the kind of person we are becoming. Students will be challenged to envision and live the Christian life through their personal decisions, their interpersonal relationships, and in dealing with contemporary cultural challenges.

Physical Education

Note: All students must be enrolled in a physical education class each semester while attending Brentwood Christian School except under unusual and extenuating circumstances.

Physical Education

Provides instruction in game rules and 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 activity being taught, plus rhythm, fitness, and conditioning activities.

Athletics

Provides coaching and character training in girls' volleyball and softball, boy's football and baseball, and girls' and boys' basketball, soccer, track & field, and cross country for students who participate in Austin Inter-Parochial League competition. Students must maintain eligibility.

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.

Art

Exploratory experiences using 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.

Band

Focuses on the development of fundamental wind/percussion techniques, the execution of rhythmically and melodically independent lines, the appreciation of music as one of God's gifts to his creatures, and the public performance of selected band literature. Some instruments are provided by the school for a modest rental fee. Most students rent or purchase their own instruments. Attendance at performances and rehearsals outside school hours is required.

Book Club

Provides students an opportunity to read a wide variety of books. Focuses on responding to books in different ways, including oral response, written response, and artistic expression. Book Club class is a place for students to develop the life-long skill of reading for pleasure. A Book Club class fee covers the purchase of books.

Choir

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

Competitive Math

The Competitive Math class is designed for students who would like to strengthen their mathematics skills and expand their knowledge of mathematics beyond what is included in the normal curriculum. The focus will be on problem-solving, calculator applications, and number sense skills. Students will prepare for and possibly participate in virtual meets as well as on-site meets through PSIA and TCSA. The preparation and the competitions are designed to help students discover and develop their God-given talents in the area of mathematics.

Computer I

By the time students enter middle school they will have already been given a school email account, and had some experience with Google Apps for Education's productivity tools. Students are then expected to work towards mastery of those tools, including Gmail, drive, docs, slides, and spreadsheets, but now with a global audience in mind. Time is dedicated to helping students understand how to be safe and make responsible and ethical choices online, and to recognize online threats to their privacy and actions that could harm their digital

footprint. In addition, students will design, develop, and publish media to share with others, including online content such as webpages, websites, blogs, and fully utilize Google Classroom, which prepares students to transition to receiving and submitting assignments online with ease. Students are expected to create, share, and utilize collaborative workspaces, documents or other digital tools for asynchronous and synchronous collaboration. Students also begin creating digital content, using more complex applications such as Adobe CS6 (*Photoshop*, *InDesign*, and *Illustrator*). In addition, computer programming becomes more intricate using *Hour of Code*, followed by *Scratch*. Students will program their own interactive stories, games, and animations to share their creations with others in an online community, using either block-based visual programming or a text-based language. Differentiation is key, as students dive deeper into Computer Science related fields. Students will submit projects/assignments online, participate in online discussions, post/reply to comments, and view content for class.

Texts currently in use: *EasyTech* www.learning.com;

SCRATCH <https://scratch.mit.edu/> *Code.org* at <https://code.org>

Computer II

Computer Science Discoveries (CSD) is appropriate for 7-8th grade students and is seen as an extension of the content covered in Computer I. It is a year-long introductory course dedicated to Computer Science and covers topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. The first semester of CSD introduces students to Computer Science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression, through app development, web development, and animations and games. During the second semester of CSD students explore the impact of Computer Science on society. Students will see how a thorough user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways

Drama

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' theatre production. Outside performances and limited after-school rehearsals are required.

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 development of writing skills used in production of newspaper, yearbook, and other journalistic writing tasks.

Middle School Cheer

Required for students who successfully tried out for the cheerleading squad. Students will learn cheers and rehearse routines for pep rallies and games. Outside performances and limited after-school rehearsals are required.

Middle School Drill Team

Required for students who successfully tried out for the Lady Bellas. Students will rehearse routines for pep rallies, games, and other performances. Outside rehearsals and performances are required.

Middle School Spanish

Introduces 6th and 7th 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.

Study Skills/Study Hall

Required for all middle school students (four days per week during Bridge period). Provides opportunity for homework preparation, study, and reading in a supervised setting. Offers training in study skills. Grade will be given for maintenance of notebook system and proper use of time.

Mastering the Standards

Provides differentiated instruction in a smaller class. Designed to increase student capability and confidence by reinforcing fundamental math facts, improving equation manipulation, building problem-solving skills, and increasing understanding of key concepts and ideas through differentiated and multi-sensory instruction.

Spanish I *(optional for 8th grade)*

HS CREDIT: 1

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.

Introduces students 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.

Texts currently in use: *TPRS Readers* by Blaine Ray; *Autentico 1*, Pearson. Students review vocabulary and concepts discussed in class.

Classroom Aide – *8th grade only*

Teaches skills necessary to aid classroom teachers in room preparation, grading and filing, and preparation of teaching materials. Activities include assisting in reading to students or helping with learning activities. Emphasizes personal responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as elementary classroom aides.

Office Aide - *8th grade only*

Teaches skills necessary to assist office personnel with copying, duplicating, filing, and other secretarial activities. Emphasizes personal responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as office aides.

Library Aide - *8th grade only*

Teaches skills necessary to aid librarian with shelving of books and magazines, filing, book repair, and preparation of teaching materials. Emphasizes personal responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as library aides.