

2023-2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC GUIDE



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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
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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 RenWeb, a restricted-access Internet site. Students and their parents have online access to current grades throughout the year. At the beginning of the school year, all families will receive a letter explaining the procedures for accessing these weekly grades online. Parents may request a hard copy of their student's grades from the secondary office at any time.

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

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).			

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)

Students 7th and 8th grade classes with a 92.0 grade average or above 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 is 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 top boy and girl their 8th grade year.
- 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 by meeting the following requirements will go 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.

Most eighth-graders will be assigned to Pre-Algebra. Students who are assigned to Algebra I in eighth grade must make a grade of 77 or above for the year to receive high school credit for this class.

6th Grade going to 7th:

- 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:

- 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

8th Grade going to 9th:

- Students striving to be on the fast track 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 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.

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.

English 7

The goal of the English 7 curriculum is to help seventh graders become more effective communicators for the glory of God. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are viewed as essential facets of God's gift of communication. Grammar and mechanics skills are developed and strengthened through the daily bell ringer. Vocabulary development and usage are emphasized through bi-weekly vocabulary units. Students learn the purposes of authors and practice writing and presenting a personal narrative, persuasive essay, and informational report. Course literature includes *Tuck Everlasting* (required summer reading), excerpts from *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Giver*, "A Christmas Carol" (drama), and *Out of the Dust*. These selections inculcate the Christian values of gratitude, truth, empathy, and hope as well as give glimpses of God's good and loving nature. Group work and collaboration are strongly emphasized to encourage and foster students' social and emotional development.

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 that 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.

MATHEMATICS

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.

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 grades only

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. In the Pre-Algebra class, emphasis is placed on 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- optional for 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.

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 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. 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.

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

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 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 statement at BCS is to "lead students to love God". In order 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 participating in discussions and activities where they can apply the lessons learned through those stories in order 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.

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Note: All students must be enrolled in a physical education class each semester throughout the middle school grades 6 - 8 at Brentwood Christian School except under unusual and extenuating circumstances.

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 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.

06 Art

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 grades only

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

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.

06 Beginning Band

Beginning Band is a year long 6th grade elective class where you will develop the basic skills needed in learning to play a musical instrument. No prior experience or knowledge of music is necessary. The skills learned in your first year will provide you with the solid foundation needed to advance to the developing, intermediate, or advanced levels of MS Band and beyond.

MS Band - 7th and 8th grades only

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.

MS Book Club

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 only

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.

06 Choir

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 grades only; Boys Choir and Girls Choir

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

Middle school choir is a course of study which 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 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 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 Literacy (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 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, and 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.

MS Computer II - 7th and 8th grades only

This course is for 7th and 8th grade students and is seen as an extension of the content covered in Computer Literacy. 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, 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.

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

MS Drama 1 and 2- 7th and 8th grades only

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 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 Cheer Team - 7th and 8th grades only

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 - 7th and 8th grades only

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 Spanish - 7th and 8th grade only

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 Honors 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.

Study Skills 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.

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.

MS Aide**Classroom Aide - *8th grade only***

Teaches skills necessary to aid classroom teachers in room preparation, grading, 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.

Library Aide - *8th grade only*

Teaches skills necessary to aid the librarian with shelving 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.

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.

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](#)