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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2025

Girls 5th, Boys 10th at XC State meet

By Margaret Banks

The Brentwood Christian School cross country team brought their A-game to the state meet on Oct. 27 in Waco. The Lady Bears placed fifth overall, and the Bears placed 10th.

It was a positive showing and completion to the season, as both the boys and girls had better finishes than in 2024.

“Having moved up to [TAPPS] 5A, the competition got better and stronger,” said head coach Katie Smith. “I’m very happy with how our team placed this year... the team worked hard and earned their spot.”

In the girls two-mile race, senior all-state runner and Harding University commit, Harper Counts, was fourth place with a time of 12:22. She closed out her career, which includes both an individual state championship and a pair of runner-up medals, with

another impressive performance.

Senior and Harding University commit Hailyn Counts, junior Lynden Worley, and freshman Darla Harlan all placed in the top 50 for the Lady Bears.

In the boys 5K, senior Nico Napper placed 17th with a time of 18:20, and juniors Evan Berger and Xavier Parra ended in the top 60 with times around the 20-minute mark.

“We all ran to the best of our ability and pushed ourselves to our limits,” said Berger. “We all had a very fun experience.”

The team has strengthened itself by leaning on each other, encouraging one another, and building each other up. Juniors Worley and Berger stepped into leadership roles this year, helping lead their team to state by self accountability and getting better each day and driving their teammates forward, as well.

“This year has been a year of teaching and training, but also building on the skills the

runners already had,” Smith said. “It was nice to see the experienced runners taking care of and training our newer runners...they pushed each other to be better and built each other up every step of the way.”

“I pushed myself to keep up with Nico and the better runners,” Berger added. “They kept me on track and gave me a goal. Keeping up with them made me grow as a runner in so many ways.”

Smith always preaches the importance of every runner, and this year’s boys finish at state was fully representative of what she preaches. Freshman Nathan Johanson was the tiebreaker between Brentwood and St. Michael’s for 10th in the team standings. Al-



Top Ten Senior Harper Counts (fourth to the left) was fourth place in state at this year’s TAPPS meet, capping off a career which also included a state championship last season in the cross country final.

though Johanson was sixth among BCS runners, he beat the sixth-place runner from St. Michael’s by 10 places, which is

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“Opal” delights crowds



Performance Ready Seniors Will Kurtz (left) and Emma Kent (right) showed off their astounding acting abilities in the BCS One Act Play, portraying their characters with flawless expressions, dialogue, and personality. Kurtz was named Outstanding Actor by the judges.

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TEFA arrives in Texas

By Anu Oguntade

A long-held privilege that only benefited the financially sound is on the precipice of finding its way into the lives of many Texas families.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, private education has seen growth in popularity due to the opportunities of personalized learning and safe environments. However, students who are unable to afford the cost of these benefits, even with financial aid, scholarships, and discounts, have been left in their current situations.

With the goal of changing this reality, Texas Senate Bill 2 was authored by Senator Brandon Creighton and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on May 3 of this year. It went into effect Sept. 1, and many schools, including Brentwood Christian School, have been bracing for potential impact.

This legislation gives Texas families



more choices in regards to their child’s education by attempting to remove financial barriers from being a reason parents are unwilling or unable to select what they feel is the best school for their child.

The certified education assistance organization selected to run this program is Odyssey, and they are now being supervised by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Previously called “vouchers” or con-

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Diving into the Deep End with Ally Robertson

Pursuing college based on ultimate values

What do we need to look for in a college?

The world operates on a schedule where everyone looks to the future. The moment freshman year rolls around, words start popping up like: scholarships, college, class ranking, and majors. That, to a 14 year old, often seems overwhelming.

While teachers and family are only attempting to help prevent stress and pressure later on and avoid years of procrastination, this pressure imposed upon students from a young age can cause unnecessary fear about the future.

With so many factors to consider, including the cost of college, in state tuition, choosing a major in relation to job opportunities after college, scholarship deadlines, application status, and dozens of other thoughts, expecting students to have a clear image of what they are planning to do in the future is too much to expect.

For students that are stuck spiraling in this mindset, I want to offer four pieces of advice:

1. Be on the lookout for what you value most, because that will be what you pursue. If what someone values most is success and knowledge, they will seek out a college and career that will provide success and knowledge in their future. If someone values happiness and stability most, they will choose a major that will support a lifestyle built on stability and happiness. Matthew 6 reminds us of this, and gives warning to putting value in worldly things over what the Lord offers us in heaven when He says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (6:19-21).

2. Spend time in prayer about what the Lord's plan is for you in the future. The Lord directs our steps when we put our trust in Him (Proverbs 3:5-6), and He does not let us fall down (Psalms 121:3). Oftentimes, what the Lord has planned for us as followers of his will is not what we expect or want for ourselves. However, as children of God, as children of a creator who loves us all unconditionally, and knows the best path for each of us, we need to strive to hear his calling for us, and to follow where he guides us - even if it's not where we want to go at the time.

3. Take the college process one step at a time. Yes, there are a multitude of things to get done, and deadlines to meet, and essays to write, but don't stress out because everything is running straight towards you all at once. Meet the first obstacle, and go from there. Maybe send



This or That? With the increasing number of private, public, and community colleges continually opening and growing in the U.S., students are having to pick one out of the 6,000. A decision as impactful and difficult as committing to a college is not an easy choice.

out recommendation letters, and then take a break, or set up a CommonApp account.

When you are able to look at everything as its own little task instead of once huge force to battle through, it seems much more manageable.

4. Enjoy the time you have in high school! Yes, being intentional about the future is important, but right now is not the future, and it will come when it does. Have fun with friends, get to know new people, deepen relationships, continue to build on your foundation of faith. God specifically calls out the children in Mark 10, saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it" (10:14-15). Children possess the ability to accept the Lord with ease that adults can't. Don't push growing up before you have to, there will be time for that later. For now, recognize every moment, whether that be one of connection, growth, compassion, friendship, or even moments of difficulty.

There are also many people willing to help students through the struggles of all things college. At BCS alone, faculty members like Mrs. Zeledon, Mrs. Booker, and all high school teachers who have been writing student recommendation letters for decades, have experience with the college process and can give very beneficial advice.

Outside of Brentwood, graduated seniors who have already gone through the college application process are a great resource to get advice from, as well as other friends who are going through the same process that you are. Hebrews 10 expounds on this concept, and the importance of going to friends and fellow believers, saying, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (10: 24-25).

The Lord has granted us a community of believers that can assist and encourage each other, so let's use it!

Finally, I want to motivate each student to ask different questions of themselves while thinking about college.

Here are a few very common but complicated questions that can be rephrased/rethought:

1. Where do I want to go to college? → Where do I see myself thriving?
2. What major am I going into? → What major reflects what I value most?
3. How am I going to get everything done in time? → What's the next step I can take?
4. Will I be able to afford college? → Can I work towards earning scholarships and grants to decrease the cost of college?
5. Do I want to attend a private, public, or community college? → What environment will benefit me best?

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published quarterly by the journalism classes of BCHS. The paper is a learning tool which informs the student body while teaching students to become critical observers of their environment and to validate Truth within the context of the Christian world view.

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Students, families could benefit from TEFA

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nected to the nomenclature of “school choice,” the state has adopted the moniker of Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) as the new program by which Texas families can apply for funds to be used for school tuition, tutoring, uniforms, school meals, online learning programs, therapies for students with disabilities, textbooks, and other supplies and expenses required by the school. Most schools, BCS included, expect the majority of funds to be used by families toward tuition. If there are any funds left over, they could be applied to the categories above.

While the final number is still pending, a BCS attendee could receive approximately 10,000 dollars toward school expenses if accepted by TEFA, which would be a significant chunk of school tuition at BCS.

When a family receives money from TEFA, they are required to spend it on eligible expenses. Anything purchased with the TEFA funds can not be resold. When a child graduates from high school, enrolls in public school, or becomes disqualified

from enrollment, the guardian of the child must let Odyssey know within 30 days.

Both the Comptroller’s office and Odyssey have been creating policy and procedures for schools and organizations participating in the TEFA program, and BCS has been on the front lines of reading and applying those procedures to its enrollment policy moving forward.

To gear up for these potential changes, Brentwood is prioritizing educating the BCS community on what TEFA is and how to apply for the program through multiple seminars and workshops, including recent events on campus in the CSA on Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

BCS is encouraging all of its families to apply, and at time of print, the program is set to begin collecting applications in late January 2026.

It must be noted that not all applicants receive the money. The account supplies one billion dollars for approximately 70,000 students. If the number of candidates surpasses the allotted funding, a lottery will decide who gets finances according to the Comptroller’s prioritization groups, which

include siblings, children with a disability, and categories related to income, on down.

TEFA promises to have an impact across the state. While there are many unknowns

related to who will be selected and if the program will expand, it will be worth monitoring how TEFA changes the current and future education landscape in Texas.



Proud to Announce Brentwood Christian School President Jay Burcham (right) opened up the school’s TEFA forum on Nov. 10 in the CSA by introducing Texas Private Schools Association Executive Director Laura Colangelo (left), who spoke to the audience about the new program.

Talent on the stage shown in successful OAP

By Ava Johnson

The Brentwood Christian One Act Play cast wrapped up their competition season with a performance of “A Girl

Called Opal” that left the BCS community proud.

Although the group did not qualify for the state round of the TAPPS competition this year, the Fine Arts department and theater as a whole are pleased with the results and growth from the high school cast and crew.

“I was most proud of how committed the students were to the process,” said director and theater teacher Corey Jen-

nings. “They put in real work - not just memorizing lines or hitting marks, but learning how to listen, respond, and support one another onstage.”

After weeks of rehearsals, emotional composing, and long after-school practices, the cast was deeply moved by the experience.

Sophomore Hollis Leeward, who played Opal, shared that preparing for her role required deep focus and emotional honesty.

“I spent a lot of time immersing myself in Opal’s world,” Leeward said. “Once I understood how she thought and felt, stepping onstage felt much more natural.”

Senior Emma Kent, who played Ms. Ryden, highlighted the unique balance of underclassmen and upperclassmen within the cast.

“I think it was an interesting dynamic, having mostly freshmen and sophomores, and then just a few seniors,” she said. “They worked very hard, and there was clear leadership.”

This mix of experience helped guide the younger performers while allowing everyone to grow in confidence throughout the

season.

Several actors were awarded by the judges on competition day, including Leeward and Kent, who were named honorable mention cast. Sophomore Julia Alexander was awarded all star cast status, and senior Will Kurtz was named Best Actor in the competition.

Looking back on the season, Jennings said his favorite moments came from watching the students grow throughout rehearsals and practices.

“My favorite part was watching the cast come together, that moment when the show stopped being ‘my’ project and became our project,” Jennings said. “Seeing students build confidence, rely on one another, and discover what they’re capable of was the most rewarding part.”

“The laughs at rehearsal, the breakthroughs during tough moments, and the way they supported each other backstage - those are the things I’ll remember long after the final bow.”

As the cast looks ahead to future productions, they carry forward more than just memories of their final performance.



Smile for the Crowd Sophomores Julia Alexander (front left) and Hollis Leeward (front right) participate in the One Act Play, with many other BCS students behind them, locked into their roles.

BCS realigns through TAPPS

By Ella Kennedy

As the end of the two-year period where Brentwood Christian School participated in TAPPS 2-5A in most sports comes to a close, it's time, yet again, for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools to realign for athletics, arts and extracurricular competition.

The past one and a half years, still an ongoing struggle for BCS, have included long trips to district opponents in Tyler and Dallas.

"Traveling has definitely been a struggle the past two years," said athletic director Kyle Maxfield. "I am hoping with the new district we are able to prevent such long travel trips, especially on school nights."

TAPPS is in charge of creating the districts for the schools within each school's area and size. Although details are kept under wraps by TAPPS, proximity and size are the main two factors in the decision.

In the 2026-2028 school years, Brentwood will be staying in the 5A classification, but removing all of its out-of-town travel. The main opponents in every team sport will be Hyde Park, Hill Country and Regents, a true Austin-area district ripe for rivalry and school pride to make district matchups raucous and fun.

One exception is football, where the Bears will be playing an independent schedule unaligned from TAPPS next year. Elsewhere, in cross country, track and field and golf, BCS will still have Grace Community and Brook Hill (both Tyler schools) and McKinney Christian (outside of Dallas) in district, alongside the local schools.

Fine Arts is also realigned every two years. In the One Act Play competition, Brentwood will be in Division I District 3, with local schools St. Michael's and St. Dominic Savio, among others.

Band, choir and orchestra will be considered Division I schools for their competition times with TAPPS.

The new district realignment will be something that the entire school looks forward to. No matter the district or the competition Brentwood faces, there will always be adversity to overcome, but BCS will always give glory to God in how they play and will compete to the best of their ability.

"I am always confident in our academics, artists, and athletes," said school president Jay Burcham. "We will put in the work and will not only compete, we will thrive."

"BCS has lots of banners hanging on its walls because our students are taught to put the work in and face every obstacle and opponent with the confidence of preparation."

For full alignment information, visit the TAPPS website.

2026-28 TAPPS 3-5A Team Sports District Alignment:

Brentwood Christian
Hill Country#
Hyde Park
Regents^
John Paul II - Schertz*

#No girls soccer team
^No softball team
*Boys and Girls Soccer Opponents Only

Note:

Football will be playing an independent schedule from TAPPS, with confirmed opponents for 2026 including St. Dominic Savio and John Paul II - Schertz.



Band and choir tuned in

By Ife Oguntade and Troy Kennedy

Brentwood Christian School's choir and band students have had a busy year filled with performances and competitions. From early rehearsals to late night shows and competitions, their dedication shines through every note.

The performances are not just about the music; they are about building friendships, teamwork, and using their musical gifts to glorify God.

This year, the band has had multiple performances, including home football games, a special homecoming performance, the field band competition through TAPPS, and pep rallies.

Caleb Rektenwald leads the band. He and his wife, high school English teacher Emma Rektenwald, came to Brentwood before the 2024-25 school year and were immediately welcomed into the community. He leads all of elementary, middle school, and high school in band, as well as the high school drumline.

"You can really tell how each student is giving towards the whole," said Caleb Rektenwald. "It's like each individual person is pulling their weight and the group is more cohesive."

At the field band competition in October, BCS earned third place in the state, including superior ratings across the board (highest possible score). The group is now diligently preparing for state band, which is March 26-27, 2026, in Temple.

The choir program has also had an exciting and productive year under Yen-Ching Chiu.

"This year, I've noticed something truly

special about my choir students," Chiu said. "They're more engaged, more invested, and more connected to the music and to each other than in previous years."

Students in all choir levels have been hard at work developing proper vocal technique and strengthening their sight-reading skills. With an emphasis on musical precision, Encore and its students have shown remarkable progress as they prepare for upcoming concerts and competitions, and take on the challenge and joy of leading worship time in chapel most weeks.

Christmas performances for both high school and middle school Fine Arts students took place the week of Dec. 1. They performed classic Christmas songs like Carol of the Bells, Stars I shall find, and Stars still shine.

In conjunction with those concerts, art students had their work showcased in the CSA lobby before and after the performances.

As a whole, both band and choir, alongside the entire Fine Arts department, is thrilled with the dedication and direction of its students, with events such as the musical and state competition coming soon in 2026.

As the groups count their blessings this Christmas season, Chiu in particular has reason to be grateful for her students' continued growth and maturity.

"One moment that really made me proud was when I saw how deeply they cared about creating something beautiful together," Chiu said. "A few students were having trouble staying focused, but instead of ignoring it, the others gently encouraged them to join in and do their part."

"And amazingly, they listened. Suddenly, everyone was working together, cooperating, and contributing to the harmony we were trying to build. Watching them hold each other accountable — not out of frustration, but out of a genuine desire to succeed as a group — reminded me why I love teaching choir."



Note by Note Sophomores Isabella Segura (left) and Natalia Baney (right) play the clarinet in the high school winter concert, which took place Dec. 4 in the CSA.

2025-26 NHS Members

2025 - 2026 NHS Officers:
President: Emma Hertel
Vice President: Liora Naidu
Secretary: Ian Wiggins
Treasurer: Ames Peterson
Historian: Jack Gonzalez
Advisor: Mrs. Kaleen Grassle

10th grade:
 Julia Alexander*
 Margaret Banks*
 Ava Bills*

Faith Bollinger*
 Bee Briseno*
 Hannah Brunke*
 Kaliana Cardenas*
 Sarah Echols*
 Njenga Kinuthia*
 Anna Kostas*
 Chloe Krudwig
 Chayce Lee*
 Hollis Leeward*
 Teagan McBride*
 Elizabeth McKinnerney*
 Nathan Moore*
 Katherine Morgan*
 Alison Nelson-Cook*
 River Phillips*
 Arianna Rainelli*
 Emily Robertson*
 Isabella Segura*
 Mark Sheth*
 Baileigh Tindel*
 Sofia Velazco*
 Natalie Weed*
 Gavin Wygant*

11th grade:
 Graham Auberger
 Kenton Auberger
 Evan Berger
 Mayah Brinkley
 Noah Cabiya
 Ava Cavada*
 Ella Crouch*
 Henrik Dawson
 Dalton Griswold*
 Renee Groomes
 Arden Haertl*
 Joshua Howe*
 Valeria Jacobo Sandoval
 Skyla Jimenez
 Ella Kennedy
 Jacob Klein-Bradham*

A.J. Koncaba
 Joffe Li*
 Samuel Moore
 Liora Naidu
 Rachael Nguyen
 Anu Oguntade
 Okay Okorafor
 Charlie Osborn*
 Xavier Parra
 Alyssa Pennies
 Ames Peterson
 Tucker Smith*
 Sergio Spehar*
 Peyton Tucker*
 Livy Villanueva*
 Ellie Walters
 Lynden Worley

12th grade:
 Kale Anderson
 Evan Cardenas
 Caleb Catron*
 Hailyn Counts
 Harper Counts
 Zach Czerlinsky*
 Peyton Daniel
 Lleyton Drennon*
 Joshua Gonzales
 Jack Henry Gonzalez
 Hannah Hanrahan
 Reese Hertel
 Tanner Hunka
 Rylee Johnson
 Emma Kent
 Will Kurtz*
 Abby Lee
 Jay Marwill
 Liam McGaughy
 Everett Merrell
 Claire Morris
 Nico Napper
 Grey Nyby
 Pasha Petty
 Abby Rackley
 Ally Robertson
 Jolie Shepard*
 Luke Sheth
 Dylan Sloan
 Jacob Valladares
 Luke Weed
 Caitlin Welsh
 Ian Wiggins

*New Inductee



Inducted NHS Advisor Kaleen Graessle (at the podium) officially welcomed the new NHS members chosen in the spring of last school year, as well as the fall of this one, during a ceremony in the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ auditorium in October.

Texas State Math League Results

Note: The following are BCS students who scored at least a four in one of the first three Texas State Math League competitions.

Student:	Score:	Contest Number:
Joshua Gonzales	6	3
Dylan Sloan	4	1, 2
Tucker Smith	4	1
Andrew Prudeanu	4	1, 2
Mark Sheth	4	1, 2
Jacob Klein-Bradham	4	1
Joshua Gonzales	4	1, 2

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Emma Kent

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2025.

Kent's talent, strength shine through

By Ella Kennedy

This person is seen on the stage as a star. She spends her time leading singing in chapel with Encore, performing in the One Act play and Musical, and dazzling others with her beautiful dance and style on the Brentwood Christian School Lady Bella drill team.

However, none of this is her life's focus. Her radiance in the spotlight pales in comparison to the love and faithfulness to God and to those she surrounds herself with.

The person in question is senior Emma Kent, in her eighth and final year at Brentwood, in the midst of making an impact on so many current and former students, faculty and staff.

"I can see the Lord working through Emma in so many ways," said junior Skyla Jimenez.

Kent has been on the Lady Bella drill team since seventh grade, and was a part of both state championship titles. She has been singing with the choir since fifth grade. Both of these prepared her to try out for the musical last year, and to earn the leading role of Dorothy in the school's production of "The Wizard of Oz."

Kent leads the Lady Bellas as a senior captain, pouring both discipline and joy into the team she has loved since middle school.

Her work in both disciplines helped earn her the TAPPS 5A Fine Arts Student of the Year award last spring.

"Emma is one of a kind and anyone who knows her is blessed," said Lisa Warner, director of the Lady Bellas. "She is strong in her faith and the Lady Bellas are fortunate to have her lead the team this year.

"She really is a gift and I can not say enough wonderful things about her."

Encore has also been a huge part of Kent's high school journey. She began singing in Encore her sophomore year, and through it, she found one of her favorite ways to worship. Despite admitting she doesn't always love the sound of her own voice, she loves the act of singing.

"I have been singing since I was very very little...I have been singing ever since I can remember," said Kent. "I don't think a day goes by in my life where I haven't been singing...I love it so much."

She has passion for music, and leads within choir immensely, including as soprano section leader her sophomore and junior year, followed by being named choir presi-

dent this year.

The theater is yet another place where Kent has shined. She was recently inducted into the International Thespian Society, and was elected the society's president.

"I believe Emma's leadership is huge wherever she is, and on top of that, her work ethic is amazing," said theater teacher, Corey Jennings. "She works so hard to get where she is in what she does."

She has participated in the high school One Act Play, Senior

Show, and the school musical, where her portrayal of Dorothy stands out as one of her favorite memories. Originally, Kent

didn't

want to be a part of the musical, not keen on the idea of joining as a junior without experience.

Now, it shines through as one of her favorite extracurriculars and memories of her time at BCS.

"I hope that as an upperclassman, I can inspire those younger than me, even if it is just stepping out of their

comfort zone," said Kent.

Looking ahead, Kent's future plans reflect her deep commitment to serving the Lord. She plans to attend Nelson University to major in multicultural and educational studies, hoping to one day work in ministry, specifically missions, and possibly become a teacher.

"My long-term goal is to tell people about Jesus and the hope that there is through Him," said Kent.

At the heart of everything Kent does are her relationships and values. She is passionate about Jesus, people, and family, crediting her parents-especially her father-as role models of strength, faith, and intentional love.

"She has a heart for God and she shows it wherever she is," said junior Lynden Worley. "She shows it with her words, her actions, and the attitude she displays every day."

Outside of school, she attends Glad Tidings church. She leads in worship and is a part of various church-related small groups. People see that same faith Kent portrays at church each day at school.

"Emma displays Christ through the way she treats people," said sophomore, teammate, and dear friend, Hollis Leeward. "Her life is a reflection of Christ's love, inspiring those around her to show the same kindness and compassion."

"When she's around, I am reminded of Him constantly," added senior classmate Amir Dadashazar.

When friends and teachers were asked to describe her in one word, the answers they came up with were: graceful, outgoing, devoted, caring, coachable, kindhearted, talented, and spiritual.

"She includes people who feel left out, encourages others, and handles hardships with God-given peace and strength," Leeward continued.

From leading worship, to hours spent rehearsing with the Bellas, to her leadership in choir and theater, Kent has poured her heart into every corner of the Brentwood community. Her time here has been marked not only by exceptional talent, but by a quiet humility and a sincere desire to point others toward Christ.

As she prepares for the next chapter of her life, Kent leaves behind a legacy defined by faith, kindness, and a steadfast commitment to using her gifts to serve God and the people around her.

"Emma is so full of light and joy wherever she goes," Jimenez said. "She constantly shines God's light and compassion to everyone, and it truly is a blessing to know her."



Impactful teacher, mentor appreciated

By Anu Oguntade

As the year picks up steam, and students get busy with sports, clubs, and academic responsibilities, it is so easy to forget about the heart of the classroom; the teachers. They help shape our minds and teach us skills that can be used for the rest of our lives. One exemplary example of this is middle school math teacher, Cynthia Davis.



Cynthia Davis

Christian University.

Davis was first introduced to Brentwood Christian School by her in-laws when she was invited by them to attend the Partnership Dinner. Brentwood Christian School left a strong impression on her and her husband, and it would later become a vital part of her

In her early years, Davis attended W a y n e s High School in Oklahoma. Preceding this, she received a bachelor degree in business administration from Abilene

life.

“I learned about what BCS was attempting to do in the lives of kids - to partner with parents to raise Christ-followers,” said Davis. “At that moment, my husband and I decided that our kids (we didn’t have at the time) would definitely go to Brentwood Christian School.”

She followed through with her inclination, as she sent her two sons to BCS, and they both graduated from the school.

Davis has been working at Brentwood for 30 years and has been teaching for 25. She started off as the Development Director. Since that time, she has taken on several new roles and has taught a multitude of subjects.

In her work as a teacher, Davis has built relationships with many students and cultivated a positive learning environment for them.

“Cynthia loves her students wholeheartedly,” said colleague and middle school teacher Carrie Hunter. “They are not just names in a gradebook to her. She cares for their souls as well as their learning.”

Around campus, Davis is known for her kind and gracious heart. She always has a smile on her face and leaves everyone feeling appreciated.

“Mrs. Davis has such a wonderful, caring heart,” said sophomore Margaret Banks. “She puts intention into every conversation and I really admire how she always puts her students

first.

“She never wants anyone to fall behind and is willing to help whenever you need it.”

Davis is not one to shy away from real world application in the classroom. One of her most memorable and impactful moments in the classroom is teaching sixth grade students how to calculate the total cost of a meal, including tax and tip, and all while using real menus.

“Mrs. Davis was amazing at making real-world connections, and she was one of the sweetest teachers ever,” said sophomore Katherine Morgan.

In her years teaching, Davis has always classified conversation as one of the most vital things in her classroom. She employs unique methods that communicate a profound level of care for every student. Anyone that had the opportunity to have Davis as a teacher all look back on those times fondly and remember her as someone who genuinely cared about their well-being while pushing them to reach their academic potential.

“Mrs. Davis put effort into making sure her students understood the concepts, and would help them no matter what,” said junior Liora Naidu. “She gave me confidence in my math skills and didn’t let me quit...I will always appreciate her kindness and knowledge.”

When Davis was asked about what she wants her students to take away beyond aca-

demics, she pointed back to Christ, as she often does through prayer at the start of class and reminders daily of God’s love.

“God is present in every aspect of their lives,” Davis said.

One of Davis’ other roles consists of serving as the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) advisor. This organization prioritizes scholarship, service, leadership, and citizenship.

Over a year ago, she was diagnosed with cancer. Despite this challenge, she has continued to work diligently, undergoing chemotherapy treatments while missing as little time as possible with her students.

“Teaching students to love God and explore mathematics is not just a passion for her, it’s her calling,” said middle school principal Leah Smith. “Her inspiring example of faith overcoming fear serves as a powerful lesson for us all.”

Davis is truly a special part of the BCS community. The passion she has for God, her students, and Brentwood’s mission is apparent every single day she steps foot on campus.

“Mrs. Davis has had an incredible impact on Brentwood Christian School,” said Hunter. “Her fingerprints are all over...she has made our school community better by her faith, strength, and care for others.”

ROTB’s new course leads to fun day

By Isabella Segura and Margaret Banks

After a successful transition and rebrand from the former title, “Jog-A-Fun,” last year, Running of the Bears returned on Nov. 12 with new prizes, a new course and renewed optimism.

The event raised over 100,000 dollars for the school and has long been one of the community events that parents and students alike look forward to each year.

“I love seeing the community uplift and join in on the fun,” said Brentwood Christian School President Jay Burcham.

The Running of the Bears brings students together by uplifting one another on the run, cheering for their teams in Buff Puff, the boys volleyball grade-level competition, and having fun at the ninja course.

New facets of the build-up this year included a

weekly raffle, where students who had received donations were added to a drawing. Director of Development Jennifer Smeltzer, who coordinates ROTB, drew a random name, and the student chosen received either coffee, lunch or a Chick-Fil-A gift card.

In the elementary, stickers, Croc charms, buttons and socks energized the youngest students on campus to get involved. Kindergarten, as a class, was over 100 percent of their goal.

While a student event, another new entry this year was the faculty relay. Two teams quickly emerged: Director of Admissions Kimberly McLain, Pre-K teacher Kelli Platt, account manager Amina Makamba, elementary PE coach Mary Cruthers, choir teacher Yeng-Ching Chu, and executive assistant to elementary principal Nancy Sutton formed one team.

“I loved running the race with my team,” Sut-

ton said. “I got to meet and encourage others on the course instead of just being on the sidelines.”

The other team consisted of coaches: Connor White, Katie Smith, Cheyanne Lovelady, Ellie Ward, Sandy Arguijo and athletic business manager Stephanie Martinez. The group was able to defeat its BCS counterpart.

Other parts of the day were more familiar, including all community chapel, and high school Buff Puff. There were no upsets to be had this year, as the sophomores dominated the freshman and the seniors took care of the juniors to be crowned 2025 Buff Puff champions.

As a whole, ROTB is not only about having fun, but it is also a major fundraiser for the school, bringing in money for teachers’ salaries, tuition costs, operating costs, and supporting the school’s mission of bringing students to love God.



Ready to Run The BCS elementary classes were fired up to run this year at Running of the Bears.

Students who did not meet their goals still have until mid-February to raise 250 dollars to earn the “Bear Free Day” in the spring.

“Running of the Bears has grown into more than just a run,” Smeltzer said. “It’s become an outstanding and fun community event.”

Off Campus Lunch: Cluck, cluck

By Levi Olewin

If my last off campus choices of burgers didn't tickle your fancy, you're in luck, because this quarter, I went to three different chicken places. I again will rank them, very loosely, based on taste, customer service, and speed.

Very sadly, in last place is Tumble 22. I loved the food: it was hot, crispy, and bursting with flavor and spice. On top of that, the people were so kind and took great care of us. However, there is no way you could get to Tumble 22 and back in one lunch period. If I went there and did everything in my power to be back to school by the start of class, I would still be nearly 15 minutes late. So, despite my love for them and their food, I have to rate them 4/10.

Next on my list, and in second place, is Bussin' Buns.

Located just down the street at the corner of Lamar Boulevard. and Braker Lane, there is no concern for being late to eighth period. Despite this great start, the cus-

tomers service was lacking. They were a little slow, and didn't seem to care for me as a customer that much.

Still, their taste saves them. I was honestly expecting something a little better because of how much some people hype it up; nevertheless, it was quite tasty. Sadly, they are very expensive which will dock them a few points, with the final score being 6.57983/10.

Finally, in first place is Chick-Fil-A. It honestly wasn't my favorite place on this list, but they are close, quick, have good customer service, are reasonably priced, and their food is very consistent.

There are two of them close to school, both on different access points of Parmer Lane at about eight minutes away from BCS. I went on a group schedule day and still got back to school with six or seven minutes to spare. The final score for Chick-Fil-A is 8/10.

Again these are my opinions and they are right. If you disagree, too bad. Come back next quarter for three bowl/burrito places, and fourth quarter for the secret finale.

"Tumble 22...more like Tardy 22." - Mr. Mayfield



4/10

"Bussin' Buns is like the best thing in my life." - Jose Azua (Sr.)

6.5/10



"Chick-Fil-A has the greatest chicken sandwiches of all time." - Thomas Calder (Sr.)



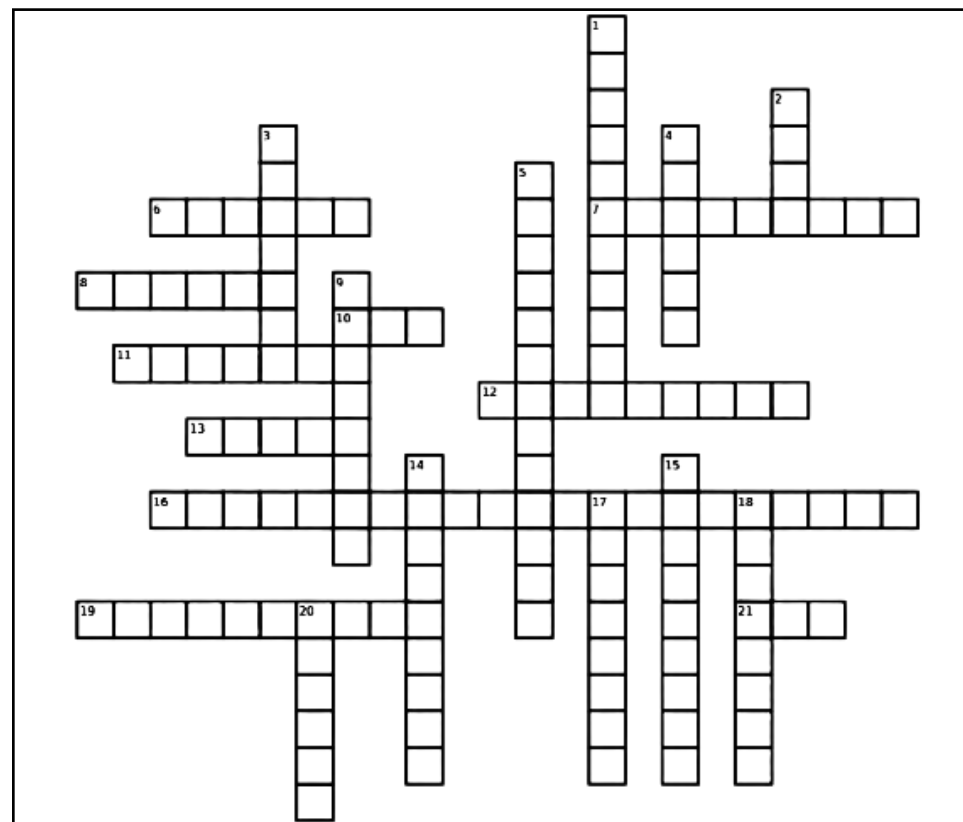
8/10

Crossword

By Alex Schehl and Levi Olewin

1. What the sky is filled with on new years eve.
2. Old vine, "Merry _____"
3. Special countdown
4. Under the tree
5. Holiday bird
6. Very jolly man
7. Hidden in a german tree
8. French girl named "Christmas", rhymes with "oh well"
9. Quick baked dish, common varieties include; green bean, sweet potato, and corn
10. Popular alternative for turkey on Thanksgiving
11. Red sea creature, at original Thanksgiving feast
12. Douglas, fraser, balsam OR christmas tree species
13. Santa's real name
14. Most disliked sauce at thanksgiving
15. Silver on sleighs
16. Typically put inside the turkey
17. 25 days
18. Staple fall desert
19. Alternate to bread rolls
20. Unsolicited singing
21. Led the way to Jesus (tree topper)

Holidays



Football ready to rebuild

By Amir Dadashazar

This season, the Brentwood Christian School football team battled through injuries and obstacles, ending the season with a 4-6 record. With double-digit seniors in the program this year, the door closed to a sport and hobby that many have played since elementary school as the season concluded on Nov. 7 against Brook Hill.

For most, it was the relationships that will carry the most weight moving forward.

“My favorite part about football was bonding with my teammates,” said senior Gabe Washington.

One of the highlights of the season was a victory over district rival Bishop Dunne on Oct. 23, where the Bears pulled off a 41-6 victory.

Senior quarterback Brayden Jennings had three touchdowns, Washington had one, and senior running back Esteban Gutierrez had two. Gutierrez and Washington both made interceptions on defense during the contest.

They carried that momentum into Homecoming the following week.

Against long-time rival Hyde Park, BCS took a 14-7 lead in the first quarter after Jennings hit senior Caleb Catron for a long touchdown. The Bears pulled ahead

again late in the third, 24-21, on a Jennings to Washington dime, but Hyde Park pulled away late in a 35-30 win.

District play was tough overall for BCS, as the team had to find players to step up after injuries to senior Zach Czerlinsky, Jay Marwill, and Thomas Calder, among others.

“The challenges and struggles they had to overcome, from injuries to bad calls on the field...our team worked hard and did not give up as the season went on,” said head coach Kyle Maxfield.

Brentwood was awarded 11 spots on the all-district team, including Washington (second team offense and defense), senior Luke Weed (second team offense, honorable mention defense), senior kicker/punter Liam McGaughy (honorable mention) and Jennings (second team).

The team will lose one of the largest senior classes in recent memory at BCS, and will look to juniors Sam Moore, AJ Koncaba, and Levi Baron, among others, to fill the void.

Not unlike the battle with injuries this year, Maxfield will look to his underclassmen to be ready to hit the field next season and compete.

“Our biggest challenge this season was injuries, but the way the team responded to this was good,” Maxfield said. “I would say, ‘next man up’ and they responded well and stepped up.”



Heads Up Senior Zachary Czerlinsky (6) was lost to injury after the Manor New Tech game, but he and the Bears football team finished the season strong, including a win over Bishop Dunne in Dallas. Czerlinsky was one of over 10 senior football players, who will all be sorely missed.

XC pride well deserved

continued from page 1

the TAPPS tiebreaker procedure.

The team has not only grown in their strength, but they have also grown their bonds with each other.

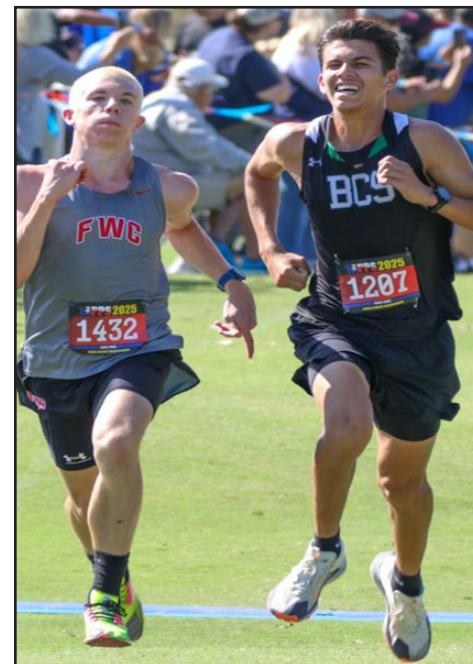
“We are so goofy around each other, which always makes running so much fun,” said Berger.

“We all try to encourage each other to grow in not just our running but our faith as well,” added Hailyn Counts.

Never taking more than a few days off, the team always strived for excellence. This hard work paid off for both Hailyn and Harper Counts, as they are now committed to Harding University. The school had a signing ceremony for both on Dec. 3.

The team will miss Napper and the Counts sisters next year, but are eager for new leaders and runners to emerge as the journey begins again next August.

Next season, TAPPS has placed the BCS cross country team in a district with Hyde Park, Regents, McKinney Christian, Tyler Grace, Brook Hill School, and Brighter Horizons Academy.



Finishing Strong Senior Nico Napper (right) sprints towards the finish line at the state meet, fighting for every step with the end only a few seconds away.

Swim dives into season

By Lleyton Drennon

The Brentwood Christian School swim team has big goals for this season. Both the girls and boys have the ability and the motivation to go far, and their hopes are to place in the top five in the TAPPS state meet.

Last year, the program graduated a talented class in regards to swimmers. The boys team earned third place in state. This year, the younger athletes have stepped up to the plate. Coach Jason Montier still has immense confidence in the team’s abilities.

Their first meet was Battle for the Crown in San Antonio, where sophomore Ali Nelson-Cook placed second place in the 500 yard freestyle and 11th in the 50 free. Sophomore Chayce Lee got third in the 100 free as well as ninth in the 50 free.

Though the team was missing key swimmers from sickness and injuries Nov. 21 at the TISCA meet, Nelson-Cook made it to finals in the 200 free despite having a sprained ankle. Lee had a very good meet

as well, making it to finals in the 200 individual medley (IM) and 100 breaststroke, setting school records in both events.

The team also competed at the Non-TISCA meet Dec. 13 at Cedar Ridge in Round Rock.

With the three meets the swim team has had so far, they have shown their potential, and that they are ready to go out and compete at the rest of the meets, including the state meet on Feb. 10 in San Antonio.

The gains might be small on paper, but Montier sees big gains long-term.

“The swim team has great team chemistry and is very encouraging to each other,” said Montier. “They might work all year for hundredths of a second.”

With the most pivotal meets of the season on the horizon, BCS swimmers will continue to put in early mornings and weekend competition to chase their goals.

The fruits of their labor are fun personally and for their coach.

“When they break through to a new best time, the look on their face is worth all the early mornings,” Montier said.

Soccer teams seize new season, ready for more

By Levi Sneed and Tobi Olasode

GIRLS:

The Brentwood Christian School girls soccer team kicked off their season with excitement, new players, and a big focus on teamwork and faith. With about half the team being

new this year, the Lady Bears are working hard to build chemistry and improve together.

Returning members such as juniors Ava Cavada, Alyssa Pennies, and Kali Whitmire, along with the only senior and captain, Ally Robertson, are working together to lead the team.

“My plans for the team this year are to compete in both non-district and district play, while focusing on improving each day and playing together,” said head coach Emma Hinson. “More than anything, I hope this season teaches the girls how to glorify God through sport and to truly enjoy competing alongside one another.”

The team has had its share of ups and downs already, but a high point came on Dec. 11, when they beat Veritas Academy, 4-0, at home. Freshman Erin Lee had a pair of goals, as did Cavada, who is loving the atmosphere this season.

“I would describe the team dynamic as very encouraging and uplifting,” Cavada said. “Everyone’s

Varsity Lady Bears Soccer

#2 Erin Lee - Freshman
 #3 Ally Robertson - Senior
 #5 Sophia Velazco - Sophomore
 #7 Ava Cavada - Junior
 #8 Kali Whitmire - Junior
 #9 Lily Garza - Freshman
 #10 Addie Mcgaughy - Sophomore
 #11 Dandarah Xolani - Sophomore

#12 Ava Pugh - Freshman
 #13 Penelope Booth - Sophomore
 #15 Melody Hargreaves - Freshman
 #16 Ellie Walters - Junior
 #18 Chloe Krudwig - Sophomore
 #20 Trinity Martinez - Freshman
 #22 Alyssa Pennies - Junior



Dribbling Junior Ava Cavada (7) dribbles down the field during the first girls game of the season, Nov. 14 at St. Dominic Savio.

quick to cheer each other up and encourage each other, even when mistakes are made.”

“The team is so fun and loving to be around...everyone is so quick to motivate others and laugh,” Robertson added. “I can’t wait to see how this season goes, and how we all grow.”

Outside of soccer, the team has demonstrated their commitment to being a team and working together by working at Operation Christmas Child, hosted at Grace Covenant Church, where they joined other BCS students and teams to pack over 1,800 Christmas boxes for children in need.

The Lady Bears are excited to see how the season unfolds as they grow together, compete with heart, and represent Brentwood Christian School both on and off the field.

BOYS:

The Brentwood Christian Varsity boys soccer team has started off their season with a multitude of non-district games that have given the diverse group of boys insight into

playing and teamwork.

With a team of predominantly freshman and seniors, the team has flourished due to leadership and learning.

Head coach Cash Miller said: “The old will help the young along...that kind of leadership is going to be good for the underclassmen.

“It shows them how stuff is done and helps prepare them for the next few years.”

As their non-district season comes to an end, they have gained practice in their many tournaments they have played this season, and learned from both wins and losses.

Senior midfielder Jacob Valladares has emerged as a key leader this season.

“Do your best, and God will take care of the rest,” Valladares explained.

With talent, leadership, and unity, the boys soccer team looks forward to a competitive season. Guided by Cash’s experience and Valladares’ dedication, the program is positioned for growth, strong performances, and a bright future both on and off the field.

The boys play Brook Hill next on Jan. 9.

Volleyball team sad to say bye

By Anu Oguntade and Ella Kennedy

The Brentwood Christian School volleyball team showed resilience, hard work, and fight all the way until the end of their season.

With a difficult schedule and various forms of adversity, the program ultimately used this season as an opportunity to heighten their skills. Despite finishing 1-6 in district play, the growth the team saw led to a bond between players and coaches that they are looking forward to improving upon next season.

“Even though we didn’t win the district, we grew so much as a team and we achieved so much in the little things,” said sophomore Chloe Krudwig. “We learned from our mistakes and we overcame the obstacle of not having hope at the start of the season.”

After breaking in new coaches (head coach Cheyanne Lovelady and assistant coach Ellie Ward), the program feels confident in the future after embracing its trials and inexperienced players.

“At the beginning of the year, we were still figuring out our identity,” said Lovelady. “As the season went on, the players became more confident in their roles and learned to trust each other.”

This year, the volleyball program will be saying goodbye to three seniors, Addison Everline, Jolie Shepard, and Claire Morris.

The Lady Bears received two TAPPS 2-5A accolades, with Everline receiving second team all district and Shepard receiving honorable mention. Both were key leaders and captains.

“The seniors showed me what it’s like to be a leader and made me love the game more,” said freshman Reese Smith. “Both our captains showed us how to have a good attitude and how to be a team player.”

All in all, the team left a legacy for a program to be grown. Next year, the Lady Bears hope to continue to grow in their confidence as players and be able to compete at a higher level. They hope to be a strong competitor within district play with a returning group of players which will include current juniors Alyssa Pennies and Renee Groomes.

Varsity Bears Soccer

#25 Zion Reyna - Freshman
 #10 Tucker Smith - Junior
 #12 Teagan McBride - Sophomore
 #22 Rylee Johnson - Senior
 #15 Pasha Petty - Senior
 #5 Noah Kerr - Freshman
 #3 Njenga Kinuthia - Sophomore
 #9 Lleyton Drennon - Senior
 #16 Liam Mcgaughy - Senior
 #14 Levi Villanueva - Freshman
 #11 Levi Sneed - Sophomore

#13 Kale Anderson - Senior
 #30 Jonathan Morrow - Freshman
 #17 Jenson Nehrig - Senior
 #7 Jacob Valladares - Senior
 #6 Jacob Stooksberry - Freshman
 #0 Henrik Dawson - Junior
 #23 Gabriel Hargreaves - Freshman
 #8 Dylan Sloan - Senior
 #2 Dylan Saenz - Freshman
 #29 Brayden Jennings - Senior
 #26 Brady Nehrig - Freshman
 #21 Amir Dadashazar - Senior

Basketball teams flourishing early

By Ava Johnson and Isabella Segura

GIRLS:

The Brentwood Christian Lady Bears Basketball team is finding its groove as it dives straight into the season.

This year is a significant step forward for the program, with the return of a junior varsity Lady Bears team, which provides more athletes with opportunities to develop and contribute before stepping into varsity.

In all, the program has 16 players, the highest number in over a decade.

Former assistant coach Ethan Grant has taken over as head coach, with Jon Weilemann and Ellie Ward (JV coach) as assistant coaches. The girls started the season with victories over Round Rock Christian and New Braunfels Christian. In the win over NBCA, junior captain Ella Kennedy led the way with 16 points. Junior Ella Crouch had 13 points, and junior captain Anu Oguntade had 10 rebounds.

The Lady Bears also hosted their annual tournament at BCS from Dec. 4-6, where over 10 schools from Dallas, Houston and San Antonio traveled to Austin. As it worked out, the Lady Bears had to play district rival Hyde Park, and despite the loss, were pleased with growth before a more pivotal matchup on Jan. 27.

Sophomore Arianna Ranielli shut down Grace Bagan of the Lady Panthers, a talented and future college player. Bagan was averaging close to 24 points per game, and the Lady Bears only let her score seven points.

“As a returning member, I want to help them the best I can throughout the season,” said Rainelli.

By placing emphasis on trust as the fuel in their season, the Lady Bears are sure to be

successful. The team has had a few struggles with injuries, tough losses, and adjusting to changes in the program, but they are battling through it with determination and their mindset on teamwork.

The JV team has had a strong start to the season as well, with a 7-2 record, fueled by a talented mix of freshmen, including Reese Smith, Hadley Baxter and Alena Sneed.

Early success by JV displays the depth of the young talent within the program, and gives reason for optimism about the future of Lady Bears basketball. With continued effort, teamwork, and support from the coaches, the program is looking forward to where it ends up by season’s end.

More importantly, its mission to keep Christ at the center of everything will continue to be a focus.

“Like Coach Grant always says, we are a family and keep God first,” said sophomore Faith Bollinger. “I see this team as my family, so I will defend and help them.”

BOYS:

As the new basketball season tips off, the boys’ varsity team is entering with fresh energy.

The players believe this year’s group brings a strong mix of leadership, athleticism, and team chemistry. The group is still trying to find its rhythm, but players say the potential is already clear to them.

“We got a lot of new people, so we’re still trying to find our dynamic, but I think leaders are stepping up,” said junior Cam Cunningham, who is entering the season with high hopes for both himself and the team.

Cunningham believes growth will define this season—not only individually but as a group.

Head Coach Dustin Karrer is also opti-

Bears Basketball

2025

2026

<i>Varsity:</i>	<i>JV:</i>
#20 Kenton Auberger - Junior	#20 Kenton Auberger - Junior
#21 Graham Auberger - Junior	#21 Graham Auberger - Junior
#3 Evan Berger - Junior	#25 Zane Emerson - Freshman
#1 Caleb Catron - Senior	#24 Henry Gibson - Sophomore
#12 Cameron Cunningham - Junior	#3 Troy Kennedy - Freshman
#15 Zach Czerlinsky - Senior	#0 Chigozie Okorafor - Freshman
#13 Hacen Dandachli - Senior	#23 Okay Okorafor - Junior
#25 Zane Emerson - Freshman	#10 Ife Oguntade - Freshman
#24 Henry Gibson - Sophomore	#11 Tobi Olasode - Sophomore
#14 Nathanael Hernandez - Senior	#4 Fischer Shelton-Lamb - Freshman
#22 Nico Napper - Senior	#13 Parker White - Freshman
#0 Chigozie Okorafor - Freshman	#2 Brian Wu - Junior
#4 Aiden Ott - Junior	
#11 Joven Singh - Junior	
#5 Luke Weed - Senior	

mistic about what his players can accomplish. With the pre-season completed, he says the focus now turns toward steady improvement and accountability.

“Commitment to our daily process of getting better and holding each other accountable,” said Karrer of his goals for 2025-26. “If we stay process oriented, the results will take care of themselves.”

The team has already faced the battles of three tournaments, including recently at Houston Christian, where they went 2-2 with a pair of solid wins over Frisco Legacy Christian and International Leadership of Texas.

Karrer described this year’s roster as a uniquely coachable and humble group.

“We have a group that is really fun to be around,” he said. “They work hard, are willing to be coached, and super humble.”

“I am proud of the culture of this community, but it’s always fun to add new guys to the equation.”

A major part of the team’s identity will come from its returning veterans. Karrer mentioned senior Caleb Catron and junior Evan Berger, two players who have seen minutes during the team’s last two trips to the state tournament, as major factors. Depth will also be on the rise as injured players return to the lineup, including se-



Done, what's next? The Lady Bears posed for the camera after their first win of the season, a 51-12 victory over Waco Reicher on Nov. 4.

nior Zach Czerlinsky, still nursing an injury from football season, but expected to be ready to go by January.

As for the mindset moving forward, Karrer keeps the message simple:

“[We need] to trust our process,” he said. “Respond to adversity the right way. Have each other’s back and get one percent better every day.”

The team will have two games over Christmas break, the first on Dec. 22 against John Paul II - Schertz and the second on Dec. 30 against Hill Country, before starting district play Jan. 3 against Tyler Grace as part of alumni night.

Lady Bears Basketball

2025



2026

Varsity:

- #1 Hadley Baxter - Freshman
- #2 Lanna Worley - Freshman
- #3 Lowary Smith - Freshman
- #4 Faith Bollinger - Sophomore
- #10 Ella Kennedy - Junior
- #11 Reese Smith - Freshman
- #12 Alena Sneed - Freshman
- #13 Anu Oguntade - Junior
- #15 Arianna Rainelli - Sophomore
- #21 Ella Crouch - Junior
- #23 Rachel Walker - Senior
- #31 Kat Morgan - Sophomore

JV:

- #1 Lowary Smith - Freshman
- #2 Lanna Worley - Freshman
- #3 Hadley Baxter - Freshman
- #11 Reese Smith - Freshman
- #12 Alena Sneed - Freshman
- #22 Kenlee Rubin - Freshman
- #25 Evangeline Phillips - Freshman
- #42 Natalia Baney - Sophomore
- #44 Myla Nganga Mbugua - Freshman

Lady Bellas, Cheer in midst of competition prep, results

By Ava Cavada

As the competition season approaches, excitement is building as both the Lady Bellas drill team and the Brentwood Christian School cheer team work hard in preparation. Months of dedication have brought them to this point, and both teams say they are eager to take the floor with confidence and school spirit.

The Lady Bellas began preparing for competition season as early as June, setting the tone with technique camps, conditioning, and choreography workshops. Team members spent much time improving their technique, strength, and stamina while building the unity necessary for sharp, synchronized performances.

According to director Lisa Warner, the best is yet to come. .

"I have such a great group of girls that want it, that want to win," Lisa Warner said. "Between Miss Taylor (Warner) and I, we expect a lot, and if we set the bar high, the girls will step up and achieve that goal."

One major focus for the Bellas has been consistently improving their technical skills. The coaching staff and mother-daughter duo of Lisa and Taylor Warner have added ballet-inspired classes, strength warmups, and flexibility sessions into every practice. They also brought in guest choreographers to introduce new styles and push the dancers outside their comfort zones.

The result is a heavily prepared team ready for anything judges might throw at them.

Meanwhile, the BCS cheer team has been

equally hard at work. Their preparation included mastering new stunts, improving tumbling passes, and ensuring that every cheer is delivered with power and precision.

Early in the year, the cheerleaders attended a specialized stunt camp, where they learned new builds and worked on timing, safety, and confidence. They have also been performing at football and basketball games, using those events as opportunities to sharpen their routines in front of a crowd.

This year, the cheer team planned to compete at the TAPPS state competition with a routine that featured more advanced pyramids, synchronized tumbling, and crowd-engaging chants designed to showcase both skill and school spirit.

For many cheerleaders, competition season is the highlight of the year. It's a chance to show the results of countless hours of practice and bonding as a team under pressure.

State took place on Monday, Dec. 8, and the results were positive for cheer, with BCS being one of only two programs with no deductions from the judges. They received an excellent rating, and junior Liora Naidu and Margaret Banks were named to the all-state team.

"It was really fun," Banks said. "I feel like it definitely brought us closer as a team, because we really had to rely on and encourage each other."

Both cheer and the Bellas say their goal is not just to win, but to represent BCS with school spirit, athleticism, and most importantly, with Christ-like hearts. Whether it's the sharp routines by the Lady Bellas or the high-flying stunts of the cheer team, the community can expect amazing performances all season long.

The Bellas are gearing up for their TAPPS state event, Jan. 17 in Waco, followed by an Ascension dance competition in February.

With competition season fast approaching, the message from both teams is clear: they're ready.



Forming Up The Lady Bellas perform during half time of the Bears football game, showing off their pink poms for breast cancer awareness month. They are led by captains Emma Kent (second to the left), and Skyla Jimenez (third from right).

Fall Festival draws crowd



Face Paint With the multitude of creative and exciting activities that took place at Fall Fest, students from kindergarten to 12th grade were enjoying the time to connect with others and learn more about what it means to be joined as a school community.

Senior Says

The Bear Facts asked the Class of 2026 a series of questions covering life, school, and everything in between...

Here are some of our favorite responses:

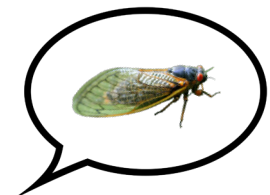


What's the best thing about being a senior?

"Telling freshmen what to do."
- Amir Dadashazar

If you had an unlimited amount of money for one hour, what would you buy?

"A Starbucks gift card with enough for a whole years worth."
- Jolie Shepard



What's the worst insect and why?

"Cicadas, they're so annoying and never stop yelling."
- Lukas Fenske