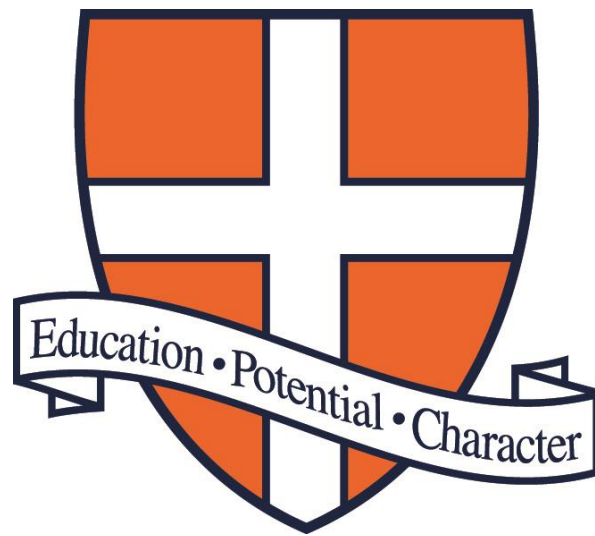
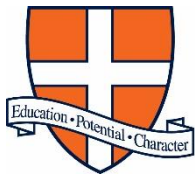


MS COURSE REGISTRATION GUIDE



The Brook Hill School
2020-2021



THE BROOK HILL SCHOOL

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Dear Students and Parents,

Greetings from the Brook!

This guide has been created to assist you in making informed decisions regarding course selections. It includes important information related to curriculum requirements, registration policies and procedures, and available courses. Discussions between parents and students are an essential part of course selection, and students are encouraged to use this guide as a resource to plan for the future.

If you have questions about course selection or the registration process, please feel free to contact the Academic Office or email me directly at ctucker@brookhill.org.

Sincerely,

Celia Tucker
Academic Counselor
The Brook Hill School

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3

I encourage you to make all course decisions through prayer and with your future goals in mind.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PLAN

	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
Humanities	Humanities 6	Humanities 7	Humanities 8
Mathematics	Math 6	Math 7	Pre-Algebra
			Algebra 1 (US credit)
Science	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
Bible	Bible 6	Bible 7	Bible 8
Foreign Language			Spanish 1 (US credit)
Fine Arts	Fine Arts Rotation (Art, Choir, Drama, and Orchestra)	MS Fine Arts (Art, Choir, Drama, or Orchestra)	
PE/Athletics	MS PE/Athletics		
Technology	Computer 1	Computer 2	Robotics or Coding
Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall

REGISTRATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION

RETURNING STUDENTS

The Admissions Office and Business Office will determine a returning student's eligibility to register for the next year. Once cleared through both offices, the Academic Office will create a class schedule. This class schedule will be available for viewing through RenWeb to allow students time to purchase books and complete summer reading. Course placement will continue to change until school begins because of leveling, staff changes, etc.

NEW STUDENTS

The Admissions Office and Business Office will determine a new student's eligibility to register for the next year. Once cleared through both offices, the Academic Office will receive the student's completed file (including final grades from previous school year and complete official transcript(s) documenting all high school work) and will contact the student/parents to schedule a registration appointment during one of the set New Student Registration Days. Please note that placement testing might be required; therefore, required testing must be complete prior to the registration appointment. If the student is required to take the English Proficiency Exam to determine placement in ELL or Humanities, the student will be required to register in August following the English testing.

New Student Registration Days

June 10, 2020

July 15, 2020

August 3-4, 2020

COURSE AVAILABILITY

The preliminary choice of courses during the registration process helps to establish the widest range of individual choice. It is, however, sometimes necessary to ask students to accept modifications to their original choice. This may be due to:

- An insufficient number of students selecting a course so that it is no longer viable;
- Encountering scheduling difficulties - one course conflicting with another.

We ask students to be flexible in their course selection choices. We always hope to meet the requests of students to help them in their planned course of study.

DROP/ADD COURSE POLICY

Ordinarily, students will not be permitted to add or drop courses after the start of the semester in which the course begins. Students are expected to be conscientious in their decision-making regarding course selection. Teachers, students, parents, and the Academic Counselor are all involved in the process. Therefore, once a program of study has been initiated, changes to selections can occur only if:

- A student has been incorrectly placed
- There is a medical reason for course change
- Credit has already been granted for the course in question
- A prerequisite for the course in question is missing

Schedule changes initiated by the administration, to balance class sizes, may occur at any time.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE DEPARTMENT

The school is committed to the Bible as God's revealed Word; therefore, the emphasis of our Bible curriculum is to teach our students to read and study the Bible for themselves. Our approach is inductive, raising the questions necessary to involve the learner in the text and make valid conclusions from the reading. Our desire is that the reading and study will lead each student into a deeper walk with Christ. The Bible classes are designed to help the students develop a Christian worldview and an understanding of how biblical principles apply to the situations they face today.

The Brook Hill Bible Department teaches three different approaches to Bible study: historical, literary, and theological. The middle school focuses on a historical approach. Middle school students learn the major people, places and events of the Bible. Grades 9 and 10 focus on a literary approach. During these grades students learn how to recognize and interpret literary devices in the Bible. Grades 11 and 12 explore a theological approach. During their final two years at Brook Hill, students develop hermeneutical skills, compare a Christian worldview with that of other major religious traditions, and study apologetics.

Bible 6

The Bible 6 class spends engages in the curriculum, *Winning the Race*, by Positive Action Bible Curriculum. In this course, students will interact with Scripture, focusing on the core values echoed through the larger narrative of the Biblical story. *Winning the Race* not only focuses on the storyline, but also tries to connect the different parts of the story. Bible 6 will help students begin to see how the truth of the Old Testament is fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus. Once the students grasp the themes of the Bible's larger narrative, they will be challenged to apply those truths to their own lives.

Bible 7

Bible 7 will provide an overview of the Old Testament. The course focuses on geography, language, characters, and literary style of the Old Testament while focusing on the character of God. During the first semester students will read from creation through the United Kingdom of Israel in order to grasp the character of the LORD God and the nature of being God's people. While in the second semester students will read from the divided kingdom through the prophets in to order to understand God's actions to seek and save His people because of His great love.

Bible 8

Bible 8 will introduce students to the story and literature of the New Testament. The course will emphasize the geography, language, characters, and literary styles of the New Testament while focusing on the character of God. During the first semester students will read through the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles in order to grasp the true essence of God's message of salvation and His kingdom. While in the second semester students will read through Paul's letters, the General Epistles and the book of Revelation in to order to understand God's great plan for believers to be the body of Christ in the world.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The role of the Fine Arts Department is to develop the talents, ideas, skill, and creativity of each Brook Hill student through the study of the visual and performing arts, as well as to enrich their lives. Through this process the student gains an appreciation for beauty and a cultivation of the skills necessary for self-expression and communication.

The study of the Fine Arts nurtures a perception of the beauty of God's creation and through it, the beauty of God, the Creator. The student begins to discover, as Dr. Francis Schaeffer summarizes, that "the Christian is one whose imagination should soar beyond the stars."

Fine Arts Rotation

The introductory fine arts curriculum allows sixth grade students to experience equal units of instruction throughout the fall semester in all of the fine arts disciplines: orchestra, choral music, visual art, and the dramatic arts. Students will choose one fine art to focus on the spring semester.

MS Art

This course provides a general basis for studio art and art history by defining and practicing basic artistic elements and exploring pivotal artwork throughout history. Projects include drawing and paintings basics, acrylic painting, clay sculpture, collage work and more.

MS Choir

This course is a progressive study of choral literature and techniques through a variety of styles and genres of music. Students will progress from unison singing through multiple part sight-singing and performance music. Basic musical notation will be reviewed and reinforced throughout the year. Sight-singing will be taught using the solfege (Do-Re-Mi) system. Students will be given opportunities to perform both individually and corporately.

MS Drama

The Middle School Drama course will focus on developing communication skills, the internal creative process, character development, and an overall appreciation for the dramatic art form. Students will participate in improvisational exercises and will select, rehearse, and perform numerous age-appropriate oral interpretive works before their peers. Giving and receiving peer critique will be an important activity in the class. Advanced students will have the opportunity to prepare for the ACSI Middle School speech meet. Middle School students will also have the opportunity to be cast in and perform a classroom play and then to help with the staging of the spring musical. The course includes a mandatory observation component that may be satisfied by attending pre-approved theatrical productions.

By participating as part of a cast or crew in an actual classroom production, students will develop qualities such as teamwork, cooperation and dependability. Students develop self-confidence from frequent participation in front of their peers, and improved coordination and vocal flexibility are also goals of this course.

MS Orchestra

This course is for students who have studied a string instrument for one year or more and is designed to equip students with the necessary instrument technique and music reading skills in preparation for advanced orchestra. Students will have opportunities to participate in solo and ensemble performances and competitions throughout the year. **Enrollment is subject to instructor approval.**

Drum Line

The *Spirit of the Guard* Drum Line is a beloved component of the school and has proven to be essential to school spirit while performing at games and pep rallies. The Brook Hill Drum Line is open to grades six through twelve and is limited by the number of instruments in the line as well as by skill level of interested students. This course requires that the student go through tryouts and be selected and assigned to an instrument position by the drum corps instructors. The class meets two times per week for practices that last one hour and fifteen minutes each in addition to any performances that are scheduled for that week including football games, basketball games, parades, pep rallies, TAPPS musical competitions and other public performances. Some performances necessitate travel.

Students are expected to attend all practices and performances as well as practice on their own in addition to group practices. Students in this course will need to have the physical ability to walk long distances for extended periods of time while carrying and playing instruments that could weigh up to 50 pounds. There will be times when students will be exposed to uncomfortable conditions (such as cold weather during football games and Christmas parades).

Students in this course will need the ability to work well with a larger group and take instruction and execute those instructions at a moment's notice. To be a member of this esteemed group of young men and women is an honor that is not to be taken lightly. With the public exposure that this group enjoys, all members will need to be willing to conduct themselves in a manner that is worthy of Brook Hill in all settings. **Enrollment is subject to instructor approval.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

God is a communicator. In fact, He calls Himself the Word. The study of a foreign language and culture helps the student understand more of the diversity of God's creation. In addition, the academic and cognitive benefits to learning a new language are overwhelming strong.

Our courses focus on acquiring the Spanish language in a natural process similar to the way we have acquired our native language by listening to other people speak it not by studying it. In lieu of a textbook, our courses utilize authentic materials and novels designed for language learners. Students can expect almost all of the class time in our courses to be spent in the target language. In the beginning courses, the focus will be on listening and reading instead of speaking and writing. As these skills become more natural, the focus will shift toward more speaking and writing.

Spanish 8 (Upper School Spanish 1)

This introductory course focuses on the student's acquisition of Spanish high frequency structures. These structures are used in class discussions, stories and cultural studies. The students will be expected to recognize them when they read or hear them and, in time, be able to produce them in speech and writing. This course includes the reading of three Spanish novels designed for language learners. Successful completion of this course earns the student one credit toward the upper school foreign language graduation requirement.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

It is the philosophy of the Brook Hill Humanities Department to teach an integrated curriculum of history and English. We do this because we believe that students gain a better understanding of the world around them when they view literature through the eyes of history and history through the eyes of literature.

In short, Humanities is the intensive study of the great writings, people, events, works and ideas that have formed and reformed civilization as we know it. It is not two courses taught by one teacher. Rather, it is one course in which a teacher teaches the normative works of our culture within their historical settings. This helps the student understand how the works and the people who wrote them were influenced by their times. It also reveals the universal nature of the great works, which are classics, precisely because they somehow speak to all people at all times. Through such historical/literary integration, students are grounded in a view of the world that enhances and illuminates their more specialized studies of math, science, art, and foreign languages. The Middle School courses cover the history, writings, people, events, etc. of the ancient world (grade 6), Texas (grade 7), and the United States (grade 8), while the Upper School courses cover the western world (grades 9 and 10) and the United States (grade 11). Each of these courses includes a history text, which gives the historical flow of the periods under study.

Not only does such a course of learning help students integrate knowledge, it also enables them to refine their reading/writing and speaking/listening skills under the careful attention and evaluation of their teachers. In short, a major emphasis of these courses is to help the students grow in the strategic skills of communication – reading, writing, speaking and listening – which will enable them to move into any arena of life as confident, articulate, truthful, and persuasive individuals.

Humanities 6

This course includes the continual development of the following skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is an integration of English grammar and writing skills along with the study of geography and history of ancient civilizations. Students will read from a variety of literary works. The writing component progresses from sentence structure to the well-developed short essay. A formal sequential study of grammar is included in the course beginning with a foundation of the parts of speech. In addition to academic curriculum, this course also emphasizes personal organization, group dynamics, test-taking strategies, and critical thinking. Latin Words and Roots are studied to prepare and strengthen student's vocabulary, reading comprehension and test taking skills.

Humanities 7: Texas History and World Geography

This course will lead students through the history of Texas, from before its days as a part of Mexico to the present. In addition, students will be given a survey of world geography, paying particular attention to learning vital map skills and better understanding the State of Texas. The literature of the course includes novels and biographies about Texas and important people from her past, as well as various short stories and poems from the vast body of American literature. Formal grammar studies and vocabulary development will continue to be strengthened through Latin Roots instruction. Writing will focus on development in conciseness and coherence.

Humanities 8: American History

This course surveys the historical events leading to the Civil War and continues through the issues facing our nation today while connecting the literature of our nation to its historical context. The study of language includes vocabulary, parts of speech, mechanics, sentence structures, and the process of writing. Critical thinking skills will be developed through analysis of literary works and through writing responses – both formal and informal. Utilization of research, persuasion, and comparison/contrast techniques will further develop the effective writing skills necessary for high school and beyond. Students will be encouraged to write both creatively and analytically to further enhance understanding of the history/literature connection. The concept of God’s sovereignty will be emphasized as we evaluate our place in the “cycle of a nation,” the legacy we received and the legacy that is being passed on to future generations.

Humanities for English Language Learners

Foreign language speakers needing additional assistance before entering academic credit classes will receive direct instruction in formal English grammar and composition, literature and communications. This course will also cover a history component allowing the student to earn credit for both subjects. Students may only take ELL Humanities in grades 8, 9 and 10.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mathematics is more than the study of numbers, patterns and shapes. Collectively, it is a language which God uses to describe the physical universe to mankind. It is a creative, dynamic system which man can use to model and understand his environment. It reveals glimpses of the nature of God (His orderliness, trustworthiness, omniscience and omnipotence), while developing important character qualities such as patience, perseverance, resourcefulness, alertness and creativity.

Through its study, students cultivate problem-solving skills, analytical thinking, attention to details and logic. It encourages the development of sound reasoning techniques and rewards consistent work habits. The Brook Hill School's mathematics program is designed to stimulate a student's intellectual curiosity and give him/her an exposure to the technology of today's mathematics.

Math 6

The math curriculum for this level is designed to promote the development of the students' understanding of practical mathematical concepts and procedures in a way that fosters their ability to solve problems, to reason, and to communicate in mathematical terminology.

Math 7

The Math 7 curriculum is designed to give the student the skills and foundation necessary for success in Pre-Algebra along with solidifying the concepts of arithmetic. The student will reinforce arithmetic skills while learning the more abstract concepts associated with algebraic thinking. The elements covered will include all arithmetic operations, integer operations, fraction, decimal, and percent operations, multi-step problem solving, solving for unknowns, real number operations, and an introduction to linear equations & equalities, trigonometry, functions, and polynomials.

Essentials of Algebra (Math 8)

This course in Pre-Algebra is designed to give the student the skills necessary to be successful in Algebra 1. The elements taught will include all operations with rational numbers, solving equations and inequalities, problem solving, measurement, geometry, probability and statistics, graphing and polynomials.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is an important subject because it is the foundation for all upper-level mathematics at both high school and college levels. It is our goal to help the students acquire the skills that they will need to be successful in these courses and to become excellent problem solvers.

The curriculum will include the study of integers and rational numbers, equations, inequalities, graphs and linear equations, systems of equations, absolute value, exponents and polynomials, polynomials and factoring, the Pythagorean Theorem and radicals, relations and functions, and quadratic equations. **Students will be placed into Algebra 1 from Math 7 based on a combination of criteria including the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Assessment. Successful completion of this course earns the student one credit toward the upper school mathematics graduation requirement. A student whose average is a C or below in Algebra 1 during grade eight may be required to repeat this course in grade nine.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Physical Education is the study of the total person: physical, mental, emotional, and social as well as spiritual. Through its study, the student has an increased awareness of how the body functions and develops. They learn how to deal with stress through competition. Exposure to sports and lifetime activities enables the students to better select those activities which will later enhance their lives.

In II Corinthians 6:16, Paul writes that we are the “temple of the Living God.” It is the responsibility of all people to cherish and maintain their temple. The study of physical education clarifies the needs of our physical bodies and how we can best develop, understand, and care for this physical vessel which is God’s temple.

Physical Education / Athletics

The Physical Education department offers both team sports and individual activities. The objective is to equip students with a number of skills they can carry over into a lifetime of fitness.

MS Athletics:

Fall -

- Football (Boys)
- Volleyball (Girls)
- Cross Country
- Cheerleading (Girls)

Winter-

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cheerleading (Girls)

Spring-

- Baseball (Boys)
- Softball (Girls)
- Track
- Cheerleading (Girls)

Students will participate in a physical education program during off-season and when not participating in competition athletics.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

All science faculty adhere to and instruct in congruence with a biblical world view illuminating the creative majesty of God. As one studies science, he/she becomes more aware of the magnificence of the creator and the creation. Science is the study of the natural world and the things that affect it. The Brook Hill Science Department stresses critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem solving. Implementing a hands on approach in science labs encourages cooperative learning leading to a firm foundation in the skills of observation, analysis and drawing conclusions.

Middle School Science includes courses designed to lay a solid foundation in the natural sciences. Following are the different areas which are emphasized each year:

Science 6: Earth and Space Science

This course focuses on astronomy and geology and analyzes the nature and properties of energy and non-living matter.

Science 7: Life Science

The study of science includes more than the absorption of information. Process skills and critical thinking skills are emphasized in Life Science. Students will be given many opportunities to develop these skills through a combination of laboratory experiments, class lectures and field explorations.

Science 8: Physical Science

Physical Science is a course designed to instruct eighth grade students in the study of chemistry and physics. It will lay a solid foundation in these areas so learning can be built on and extended in each area at the high school level. The course is designed to not only build scientific vocabulary and concepts, but to encourage and develop problem-solving skills. The approach to this class will include a great deal of “hands on” activity by the students through class demonstrations, laboratory exercises, and student progress.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

To prepare for success in the 21st century, it is vital that students develop foundational computer knowledge and skills. The Brook Hill middle school computer curriculum focuses on keyboarding skills, the effective use of common computer programs, and how to use technology in a safe and appropriate manner.

Computer 1: Keyboarding & Cyber Literacy

Computer 1 is designed to engage students through physical interaction with technology. The primary focus of the course is to teach proper keyboarding technique which will assist students as they communicate in more and more technological world. Through practice, drills, and keyboarding activities students will build muscle memory resulting in faster typing. Students will be introduced to the basic operations of several computer programs that will help them through their sixth grade year.

Computer 2: Keyboarding & Cyber Literacy

Computer 2 is designed to engage students, encourage an interest in technology, and provide knowledge and exposure to computer programs. The experiences gained in Computer 2 will lay a firm foundation that students can use to be successful both in and out of school. Through a continuing practice of keyboarding and using computer skills for practical purposes, students will retain and grow in their speed and accuracy. Computer 2 will push students to think critically as they explore new programs on a deeper level. Students will discover that computer programs have multiple uses and each problem has multiple solutions. This course will emphasize the importance of good digital citizenship and practical, safe, and healthy uses for technology in the Christian life.

MS Coding

Middle School Coding will take students through the first steps into Computer Programming. In this course, students will explore three different code languages that are becoming more and more foundational to our modern world. JavaScript will teach students how to make animations, games, and logic, HTML will introduce students to website design, and SQL will be a shallow dive into understanding and controlling big data. MS Coding is open to 7th and 8th grade students.

MS Robotics

This course is designed to develop science, technology, engineering, and math skills through a robotics competition designed and administrated by the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization. In the process of preparing for the competition, students learn basic robot design, construction, and programming through a comprehensive curriculum provided by FIRST.

APPENDIX

MATH COURSE PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Although there is a natural transition from Lower School to Middle School, the transition from general math (focusing on basic skills and computation) to upper level math (abstract concepts of algebra and beyond) does not actually begin until 7th grade. All Brook Hill students entering Math 7 should have mastery of foundational mathematical skills.

PREDICTING SUCCESS in ESSENTIALS OF ALGEBRA and ALGEBRA 1

Many factors can influence success in Essentials of Algebra and Algebra 1:

1. *Aptitude*- Ability to handle new learning situations that are similar to those faced in learning algebra;
2. *Achievement*- Knowledge necessary for learning algebra and skill in applying this knowledge;
3. *Motivation and Interest*- School and career plans, study habits, study skills, and attitudes toward mathematics.

ALGEBRA 1- 8th GRADE

Beginning in 8th grade, Brook Hill offers an advanced mathematics program, an enriched course of study, to students who have demonstrated exceptional mathematical ability and achievement. A student in this mathematics program moves directly from Math 7 in 7th grade to high school level Algebra 1 in 8th grade, thus providing room in the student's schedule to complete a calculus course as a senior in high school. (See below.) According to the National Council of the Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), "There is little or no reason to accelerate a student into Algebra 1 (in junior high) unless the student intends to continue mathematics study through a fifth year of secondary study in an academically appropriate course such as calculus" and demonstrates the mathematical ability to do so.

Placement in the 8th grade Algebra I course is made by the math department chair, Dean of Academics and the Academic Counselor. A student may not take Algebra 1 as an 8th grader without a passing grade in an approved Math 7 course because the skills learned from this course are essential for the proper mathematical development of the student. Furthermore, approximately one-third of the math portion of the ACT is pre-algebra, and successful completion of a pre-algebra course will enhance student performance on this college entrance exam.

GRADE 8 MATH (Essentials of Algebra) PLACEMENT

To be placed in Algebra 1, a student must meet three of the following four criteria:

1. A student must have a minimum score of 85 in Math 7.
2. A student must receive a recommendation from their Math 7 teacher.

A student who does not meet the Algebra 1 criteria will be placed into Essentials of Algebra (Math 8).

GRADE 9 MATH PLACEMENT (from Algebra 1)

To be placed into Geometry, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. A student must have a minimum score of 85 in a complete Algebra 1 course.
2. A student must have a positive recommendation from their Algebra 1 teacher.

Students who do not meet the criteria for Geometry will be placed into Algebra 1.

These criteria were established in the best interest of the student to enhance his or her mathematical development and to ensure success in the mathematics program at Brook Hill throughout middle and upper school.

MATH COURSE SEQUENCE

	K-6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MATH	Math 6	Math 7	Essentials of Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	College Algebra All Year
							Business Math/ Statistics DC
							College Algebra/ Trigonometry DC
	Math 6			Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	College Algebra All Year
							Business Math/ Statistics DC
							College Algebra/ Trigonometry DC
						College Algebra/ Trigonometry DC	AP/DC Calculus AB