

2023-
2024



The Brook Hill School
Christ-Centered. College Prep.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION GUIDE

LIVE PURE
SPEAK TRUE
RIGHT WRONG
SERVE OTHERS
FOLLOW THE KING

Dear Students and Parents,

This guide has been created to assist you in making informed decisions regarding course selections. The guide 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 at 903-894-5000 or email us directly at abouwer@brookhill.org or jsturdivant@brookhill.org.

Sincerely,

Ashley Bouwer and Jaime Sturdivant
Academic College Counselors
The Brook Hill School



**COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO, AND YOUR PLANS WILL
SUCCEED.**

PROVERBS 16:3

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Middle School Course Plan	4
Registration Policies & Procedures	4
Course Descriptions	
Bible	7
Fine Arts	8
Humanities	10
Mathematics	12
Physical Education	14
Science	15
Technology	16
World Language	17

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PLAN

Required	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Humanities	Humanities 6	Humanities 7	Humanities 8
Mathematics	Math 6	Pre-Algebra	Essentials of Algebra Algebra 1 (US Credit)
Science	Science 6	Science 7	Physical Science
Bible	Bible 6	Bible 7	Bible 8
Fine Arts	Fine Arts Rotation	Optional Electives Choose Two:	
Athletics	MS Athletics		
	6 th Grade Transition Course		
		Art Choir Computer Applications Coding Dance Drama MS Athletics Orchestra Robotics *Spanish 8 (US Credit) 8 th Grade Only	

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, allowing 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 the previous school year and complete official transcript) 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 completed before the course selection 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.

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 the following:

- 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 students' requests 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 and parents are expected to be conscientious in their course selection decisions. 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 anytime.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE DEPARTMENT

The school is committed to the Bible as God's revealed Word; therefore, our Bible curriculum emphasizes teaching 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 understand how biblical principles apply to today's situations.

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 and begin to develop hermeneutical skills for interpreting and applying the Bible into their own lives. Grades 11 and 12 explore a theological approach. During their final two years at Brook Hill, students will recognize basic theological truths, compare a Christian worldview with that of other major religious traditions, and study apologetics."

Bible 6

Bible 6 will walk students through the first half of the Old Testament. The course focuses on the geography, language, characters, and literary style of the Old Testament while also focusing on the character of God. During this first year of Middle School Bible, students will read about the Creation of the Universe all the way through to the reigns of King David and Solomon. Special emphasis is given to the truth that God created human beings to flourish as they recognize who God is and how God designed for them to live their lives as His chosen people. Every day students will be challenged to learn how best to practically live out their love for God in real-life scenarios while growing in their ability to read and interpret God's word.

Bible 7

Bible 7 will provide the second part of our journey through the Old Testament. The course focuses on the geography, language, characters, and literary style of the Old Testament while also focusing on the character of God. During this second year of Middle School Bible, students will read about the fall of the kingdom of Israel and the return from Exile. Special emphasis is given to the writing of prophets to help students understand God's promises to seek and save His people because of His great love. Every day students will be challenged to learn how best to practically live out their love for God in real-life scenarios while growing in their ability to read and interpret God's word.

Bible 8

Bible 8 will introduce students to the story and literature of the New Testament. The course focuses on the geography, language, characters, and literary style of the New Testament while also focusing on the character of God. During the first semester, students will read through the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles 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 to understand God's great plan for believers to be the body of Christ in the world. Every day students will be challenged to learn how best to practically live out their love for God in real-life scenarios while growing in their ability to read and interpret God's word.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The role of the Fine Arts Department is to develop the talents, ideas, skills, 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 the 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. As Dr. Francis Schaeffer summarizes, the student discovers that "the Christian is one whose imagination should soar beyond the stars."

6th Grade Fine Arts Rotation

The introductory fine arts curriculum allows sixth-grade students to experience equal units of instruction in all the fine arts disciplines. Learning about all the options, exploring their own individual strengths and areas of interest, and getting acquainted with every fine arts teacher puts the student in the best position to elect one particular fine art class to pursue during their Middle School careers.

Art 7

This foundational course establishes studio habits of mind, heart, and creative practices within the studio environment (the art room) and the student's artistic practices. Studio habits are rooted in intentional and thoughtful engagement in the creative environment and artistic practices. Students will begin learning the basic elements of visual art: shape, line, space, form, texture, value, and color, while creating a range of projects. Students will learn about drawing skills such as perspective, value, and proportion and begin working on creative expression and using narrative in their work. Various materials and creative processes will be available for students to explore; examples include graphite, paint, printmaking, collage, colored pencil, marker, pastels, wire, and clay. Weekly discussions will teach students about contemporary and historical art periods and artists.

Art 8

This advanced foundational course continues to develop and instill studio habits of mind, heart, and creative practices within the studio environment (the art room) and the student's artistic practices. Students will advance their knowledge of the elements of visual art: shape, line, space, form, texture, value, and color, and will begin learning the principles of design: unity, balance, emphasis, movement, contrast, and pattern. Students will continue to advance their drawing skills in areas such as perspective, value, facial features, and proportion. They will increase their understanding and use of creative expression and narrative in their work. Various materials and creative processes will be available for students to explore; examples include graphite, paint, printmaking, collage, colored pencil, marker, pastels, wire, and clay. Weekly discussions will teach students about contemporary and historical art periods and artists.

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 class will help students develop their communication skills and self-confidence as we focus on effectively using the “tools of the actor,” – the voice, facial expression, body posture and gestures. Students will tap into their inner creative natures and imaginations as they learn to create interesting and age-appropriate characters. Class activities include improvisational exercises, oral interpretation of poetry and prose, duet acting scenes and the production of a one act play. Giving and receiving peer critiques is an important learning activity in the class. Advanced students will be able to compete in the annual PSIA speech meet. As students participate as part of a cast or production crew, they will learn about teamwork, cooperation and being dependable.

Intermediate MS Orchestra

This course is for students who are beginners or have studied a string instrument in 6th-grade rotation or at the Lower School. (Students who have studied significantly can skip directly to the Advanced MS Orchestra with the instructor’s permission.) It is designed to equip students with the necessary instrument technique and music reading skills to move into the Advanced Middle School Orchestra or Upper School Orchestra if they are 8th graders. Students will have opportunities to participate in solo and ensemble performances, competitions, and concerts throughout the year.

Advanced 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 the Upper School orchestra. (A Middle School student who has studied strings privately or in the Lower School can move directly into this course with the instructor’s permission.) Students will have opportunities to participate in solo and ensemble performances, competitions, and concerts throughout the year. **Enrollment is subject to instructor approval.**

Drum Line

The *Spirit of the Guard* Drum Line is a beloved school component 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 and the 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. Some performances necessitate travel.

Students are expected to attend all practices and performances and practice independently in addition to group practices. Students in this course will need to be physically able to walk long distances for extended periods while carrying and playing instruments that could weigh up to 50 pounds. Sometimes, 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, take instructions, and execute those instructions at a moment’s notice. Being a member of this esteemed group of young men and women is an honor that should not be taken lightly. With the public exposure this group enjoys, all members will need to be willing to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of Brook Hill in all settings. **Enrollment is subject to instructor approval.**

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 the academic curriculum, this course also emphasizes personal organization, group dynamics, test-taking strategies, and critical thinking.

Humanities 7: Texas History and World Geography

This course will lead students through the history of Texas, from the prehistoric formation of geographic landforms and settlement of early Amerindians to its days as a part of Mexico to the republic. 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 from the vast body of American literature. Formal grammar studies and vocabulary development will continue to be strengthened through systematic instruction. Writing will focus on formatting essays, development in conciseness and coherence, and other writing skills for effective communication.

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.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mathematics is more than the study of numbers, patterns, and shapes. Collectively, it is a language that God uses to describe the physical universe to mankind. It is a creative, dynamic system that 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.

Students cultivate problem-solving skills, analytical thinking, attention to detail, and logic through their study. 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 exposure to the technology of today's mathematics.

Math 6

The math curriculum for this level is designed to promote the development of the student's understanding of practical mathematical concepts and procedures in a way that fosters their ability to solve problems, reason, and communicate in mathematical terminology. The elements covered will include all arithmetic operations, integer operations, fractions, decimals, and percent operations.

Pre-Algebra

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

Essentials of Algebra

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. We aim to help the students acquire the skills they will need to succeed in these courses and 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, quadratic equations.

ALGEBRA 1 PLACEMENT

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

1. A student must have a minimum score of 85 in Pre-Algebra.
2. A student must receive a recommendation from their Pre-Algebra teacher.
3. A student must pass the Algebra 1 readiness exam.

Students not meeting the Algebra 1 criteria will be placed into *Essentials of Algebra*.

Completing this course earns the student one credit toward the upper school mathematics graduation requirement.

A student with a C or below average in Algebra 1 during grade eight may be advised to repeat this course in grade nine.

	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MATH COURSE SEQUENCE	Math 6	Math 7	Essentials of Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Algebra 3
							Business Math/Statistics DC
							College Algebra/Trigonometry DC
			Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Business Math/Statistics DC	Business Math/Statistics DC
						College Algebra/Trigonometry DC	College Algebra/Trigonometry DC
						AP Precalculus	AP/DC Calculus AB
							AP Calculus BC

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Physical Education is the study of the total person: physical, mental, emotional, and social, as well as spiritual. Through this study, the student has 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 select better 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 several skills they can carry over into a lifetime of fitness. Strength and conditioning will be the primary focus of our program. Students will participate in the Bigger, Faster, Stronger program during the off-season and when not participating in competitive athletics.

MS Athletics:

Fall -

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

Winter-

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cheerleading (Girls)

Spring-

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

PE ELECTIVE

Dance 101: 7th & 8th Grade

This course is designed as an introduction to dance techniques. Students will be taught different dance styles, such as ballet, tap, jazz, and other fun group-style dances. Students will develop knowledge and execution of technical dance skills.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

All science faculty adhere to and instruct in congruence with a biblical worldview 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 that are emphasized each year:

Science 6: Earth and Space Science

This course focuses on the study of energy, geology, meteorology, and astronomy. 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.

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 build scientific vocabulary and concepts and 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 ELECTIVES

Computer Applications: 7th & 8th Grade

Computer Applications is designed to provide students with an understanding of computer applications that are essential for academic and professional success. Students will learn to use Microsoft Office, a powerful suite of productivity tools used in nearly all industries. Additionally, this course will cover basic keyboarding skills that are necessary for efficient computer use.

Computer Coding: 7th & 8th Grade

This course is designed to introduce computer coding for middle school students. Students will learn the fundamentals of coding, including basic programming concepts and logic. They will learn to write code in various programming languages, such as Scratch, Python, or Java. This course will encourage students to think creatively and to problem-solve using technology. Students will work on various coding projects throughout the course to develop their skills and encourage teamwork. By the end of this course, students will have a solid foundation in computer coding that will serve them well in future academic and professional pursuits.

MS Robotics: 7th & 8th Grade

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

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

God is a communicator. In fact, He calls Himself the Word. Studying a world language and culture helps the student understand more of the diversity of God's creation. World language is the study of another people's language and culture. Through study, the student obtains proficiency in speaking a new language conversationally and begins understanding a different culture. In today's world, knowledge of another language is a great asset in obtaining a job in many highly competitive fields. Each world language class will integrate various lab activities and internet activities into the curriculum to improve speaking, listening, and reading skills and to aid in acquiring structure, vocabulary, and culture.

Spanish 8 (Upper School Spanish 1)

First-year Spanish language study is an in-depth introduction to the Spanish language, culture, and history of the Spanish-speaking world. Learning in the target language is aimed at acquisition in the following areas: oral proficiency, listening comprehension, reading comprehension, writing formally and informally, and historical and cultural awareness.