

Brookwood SCHOOL

**AN INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
IN KENSINGTON, MARYLAND**



COURSE CATALOG

MIDDLE SCHOOL



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Handbook for Lower & Middle Schools	3-5
Mathematics	6
Science	7
English	8
History	9
Religion	10
Foreign Languages	11
Electives	12

BROOKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8

GRADING SCALE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
A+= 97-100	B+= 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A = 93-96	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70- 72	D- = 60-62
			F= below 60

P = Passing, S = Satisfactory, U = Unsatisfactory, I = Incomplete

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):

A+ (4.33)	B+ (3.33)	C+ (2.33)	D+ (1.33)
A (4.00)	B (3.00)	C (2.00)	D (1.00)
A- (3.67)	B- (2.67)	C- (1.67)	D (0.67)
			F (0.00)

DEFINITION OF CREDIT

One credit is given for the completion of each high school course (four marking periods) with a grade of D- or above. Students can earn ½ credit for any course taken for two or more marking periods with a grade of D- or above.

HANDBOOK

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students in middle and upper school who receive two grades below C- for course work at the end of the first, second, or third marking periods will be placed on academic probation. A meeting may be held with parents to work out concrete means of improvement over the remainder of the year. (Mandatory Study Hall is frequently among the means used to improve student performance.) Students who do not show appreciable improvement or a serious effort to improve may be asked to leave the school.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Brookewood School requires summer school (or repetition of the course) for middle and upper school students whose year-end average in a sequential or required course for the year is below a C-. Students may take courses in any summer school program approved by the head of school.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty allows for true academic success and for the authentic development of one's abilities. When dishonest, students commit an injustice against others and harm themselves by replacing genuine academic effort with fraud.

The following examples constitute offenses against academic honesty:

- * Cheating on a quiz or test
- * Copying another student's homework
- * Allowing another student to copy one's work
- * Plagiarism or the unacknowledged borrowing of the work of another author
- * Using unauthorized aids

An offense against academic honesty warrants a loss of credit and parental notification. Because academic honesty is vital to the mission of the school, repeated offenses may result in failing grades for the marking period, suspension, or expulsion.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is expected and required of all students at Brookewood School. Detention may be assigned for unexcused absences or lateness.

ABSENCE

In case of absence from school for illness or another serious reason, a parent or guardian should contact the school office. Students who are absent from school are expected to make up the work they missed as soon as they reasonably can. Participation in athletics or other activities does not excuse a student from her academic responsibilities. Absence from school precludes a student's participation in athletic and extracurricular activities that day. Parents are asked to recognize the priority of studies in making decisions about absences. Days in attendance are recorded on school transcripts.

LATENESS

School starts at 8:30 a.m. Students arriving after this time will be marked tardy. A student who arrives at school after homeroom must report directly to the school office to sign in to school in order to be admitted to class and recorded as present for the day. Frequent lateness may result in lunchtime or after-school detention.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If parents wish to take their daughter out of school for several days for personal reasons, it is advisable to discuss the matter with the appropriate teacher and administrator ahead of time in order to make up any work that will be missed.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Every effort should be made to schedule appointments with doctors, dentists, etc., outside of school hours. If it is necessary for a student to leave school during the day, a note, dated and signed by a parent or guardian stating the reason, must be presented to the school office before first period begins.

A student may be excused from class for a sports event or for a specific purpose at school with the prior permission of the teacher. Ascertaining and completing any work covered during the missed class time is the responsibility of the student. If a student is part of a carpool, it is her parents' responsibility to notify the office of any changes related to early dismissal.

Course Offerings

MATHEMATICS

Brookewood has adopted the Saxon Mathematics series for our math program with the exception of Calculus. The classes consist of short lectures followed by students working on sample problems. The books are rigorous and there is little “fluff.” The learning is incremental with continual review. There is frequent cumulative testing. There is also an emphasis on correcting mistakes, a key area where much learning can take place. The classes will be supplemented with math puzzles, mental math, and topics from the history of math. Saxon books are especially suited for students to advance above grade level and we will do our best to accommodate such cases.

GRADE SIX

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

Math 7/6 covers compound interest; functions and coordinate graphing; integers; exponential expressions; divisibility concepts; prime factorization; ratios and more.

ALGEBRA 1/2

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

This is a pre-algebra course. Lesson topics include place value, greatest common factors, least common multiples, multiplication and division of fractions, unit multipliers, distance equations, ratios, proportions, addition of signed numbers, area, volume and surface area of right solids, the distributive property, graphing lines and inequalities, and the pythagorean theorem.

ALGEBRA 1

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

Algebra I provides a comprehensive teaching of the fundamental aspects of problem solving. Major topics include: evaluation of expressions involving signed numbers and the absolute value of numbers; exponents and roots; properties of real numbers; solving linear and simultaneous equations; polynomials and rational expressions; word problems; the Pythagorean theorem; algebraic proofs, functions, and functional notation; scientific notation; solution of quadratic equations; multiplication and division of polynomials; domain and range; unit conversions; computation of perimeter, area, surface area, and volume; statistics and probability.

SCIENCE

At Brookewood, science is a hands-on subject will learn through play and discovery. Girls will be encouraged to experience the world through their senses and experience plant life, birds, insects and other small animals firsthand inside and out of the classroom.

SIXTH GRADE EARTH SCIENCE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Students will learn how to distinguish between what is science and non-science and describe ways in which scientists go about solving problems. Students will utilize the scientific methods to investigate questions, conduct experiments, and formulate solutions to problems. The course will use the textbook *Science Explorer: Earth Science* by Joseph Exline. Grades will be comprised of tests, quizzes, laboratory experiments, participation, and journaling.

SEVENTH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Topics covered in Life Science include the nature of science; evolution; cells and heredity; the human body; diversity of living things; and ecology. The course will use the textbook *Science Explorer: Life Science* by Elizabeth Coolidge-Stolz. Students will be expected to bring and fill out a science journal throughout the year.

EIGHTH GRADE PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Topics covered in Physical Science include the nature of science; motion, forces, and energy; chemical building blocks; sound and light; chemistry in action; electricity and magnetism. The course will use the textbook *Physical Science* by Michael Padilla published by Pearson Education.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH GRADE 6

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

In the sixth-grade, students will examine texts in which young characters leave their childish thinking and courageously take on mature thinking in the face of danger. By the end of the academic year, sixth grade students should be able to write complete, sensible paragraphs, follow the structure of a literary text or a simple argument, give a short presentation in front of a group, identify basic poetic devices like rhyme scheme, metaphor, simile, and allusion in a poem. Texts read will include: *Little Worlds, A House of Tailors, The Witch of Blackbird Pond, A Christmas Carol, Writing Magic, Aeneid for Boys and Girls, The Merchant of Venice.*

ENGLISH GRADE 7

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Students in seventh grade will build upon previous writing knowledge to a more advanced skill—expository essay writing and creative writing of a series of short stories. The focus will be on storytelling, story-making, and examining the threads of narratives in their own lives. Objectives include: writing a series of related narratives which demonstrates an understanding of good storytelling, writing a full-length expository essay organized around a thesis, following the structure of a literary text or a simple argument, giving a longer presentation in front of a group, Identifying more advanced poetic devices like alliteration, assonance, and consonance. Texts read will include: *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, The Adventures of Odysseus, Tales from Shakespeare, The Hobbit, and A Wrinkle in Time.*

ENGLISH GRADE 8

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The focus will be on American literature from the Civil War and later. We will examine the themes of freedom, the just society, and the just soul to name a few. Students should ask questions and seek their own answers. Objectives include writing a good, unified expository essay or narrative, confidently following the structure of a literary text or argument, leading a short class discussion on a pre-assigned topic, beginning to read simple unrhyming poetry, writing and analyzing well-organized speeches. Texts read will include: *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, Carry On, Mr. Bowditch, Across Five Aprils, The Red Pony, To Kill a Mockingbird, Midsummer Night's Dream, various speeches from Lincoln, MLK, and current and past presidents.*

HISTORY

GRADE SIX

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

This class gives students an introduction to US History through a series of lessons which delve into particular historical events. The course is designed to foster an interest in history, and to offer students experience with primary source materials. Fifty notable events are selected for study.

GRADE SEVEN

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The year begins with an introduction to physical geography with an overview of regions of the world. Students spend most of the year learning the location and capital of every country. They also learn several facts about each country. The final weeks of the year are spent learning about Maryland geography, including counties, county seats, and topography of the state.

GRADE EIGHT

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Eighth graders study Ancient European History in much greater depth than previously studied in the 1st and 2nd grades. Topics covered are: pre-civilization, Mycenaen Greece, the Trojan War, the rise of Classical Greece, the rise of Rome, the rise of Islam. Students will research and write a historical analysis essay at the culmination of each semester.

RELIGION

Cardinal Hickey said, "Our schools are our most effective way of providing sustained religious instruction." We have adopted the Ignatius Press series for our religion program in grades three through eight. Its authentic teaching and beautiful artwork present wonderfully the richness of the Catholic faith. In all things, but especially through our religion program, we hope to form girls into young women who will make a more human, vital society.

The goal is to give the girls an intellectual vision of the world as made by God and kept in existence by Him, and the central importance of the redemption by Jesus Christ on the cross and its renewal in an unbloody manner in the sacrifice of the Mass. Students are taught the basic prayers, the various articles of the Apostle's Creed, major stories from the Old and New Testaments, and lives of the selected saints.

SIXTH GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The theme for sixth grade religion is Living and Following Christ. The course begins with a discussion of the nature of God, and then proceeds to a study of the Ten Commandments. In the second section, students look at the meaning and importance of the Mass (Eucharist). This leads to a study of the Last Things (Heaven, Purgatory and Hell). Throughout the year the class will discuss the various liturgical season of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter).

SEVENTH GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The theme for this year's course is Living a Life of Grace. The course begins with a study of the meaning of Revelation, of how God reveals Himself to us in three complimentary, not contradictory ways. From Revelation we move on to a study of the Incarnation, of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. Next, we speak of how God shares His life with us, with special consideration of the role of the Sacraments.

EIGHTH GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The theme for the eighth grade course is Life in the Church. The course opens with a study of the meaning of the Church and its role in the life of Christians. Students will study several successful Christians (saints) and look for ways to imitate them. Students will pay special attention to the meaning of vocations. From this point, the course will move to a discussion of the Church in the world. Topics investigated include: moral virtues, social ethics, law and conscience, and virtue as a source of true happiness. This section leads to the summary discussions of prayer, sacramental life and final judgement.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

ITALIAN GRADE 6

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/0.5 credit

In this course students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Italian and a basic understanding of Italian culture. The approach to the foreign language will have a strong focus on grammar: it will allow the student to develop a deeper understanding of the grammar of her primary language, which constitutes a strong foundation for a successful mastering of English and development of composition skills.

ITALIAN GRADE 7

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/0.5 credit

In this course students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Italian and a basic understanding of Italian culture. Students should be able to: use sufficient vocabulary to express themselves on topics such as family, hobbies and interests, school, travel, and everyday life; maintain simple face-to-face conversations on topics that are familiar or of a personal interest, or pertinent to everyday life; understand the main point of a clear standard speech on familiar matters in school, leisure, etc. including short narratives; develop awareness of the most significant differences between the customs, usages, attitudes, values and beliefs prevalent in the Italian culture and those in the American culture; learn about Italian catholic traditions and saints; learn about Italian Geography.

ITALIAN GRADE 8

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/0.5 credit

The goal of Italian 8th grade is to maintain and reinforce the level of Italian achieved in 6th and 7th grade. Greater space is given to readings and comprehension of a variety of written texts. The introduction of a textbook allows to review the grammar and the language structures learned in 6th grade with different approach and greater development. Greater emphasis is given to developing knowledge of Italian geography and culture.

LATIN I

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/0.5 credit

Latin I examines the language, culture, and history of the Romans, emphasizing comprehension of the Latin language by reading it and thus gaining insight into the social and political history of the Romans, especially during the first century AD. Latin I focuses on learning the basics of Latin grammar; III, III-io, and IV conjugations; third declension and relative pronouns; syntax, and vocabulary. Additionally, basic prefixes, suffixes, and roots of vocabulary words and word families will be studied.

ELECTIVES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/0.5 credit

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn a variety of sports and sport related movements as well as health and fitness concepts. Health topics relate to nutrition, fitness health and wellness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive social interaction during fitness and sport activities.

ART

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/ 0.5 credit

Provides an opportunity for students to develop their classical drawing and painting talents through disciplined study. Emphasis is placed on experience with design principles, drawing techniques, and painting skills leading to the development of abilities that are necessary for art in the upper school.

MUSIC

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/0.5 credit

Music at Brookewood is a non-selective choral performance class in which students prepare a variety of music from ancient polyphonic chant to music for Mass settings to show-tunes for the school musical gala.