

Brookewood SCHOOL

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



COURSE OFFERINGS

LOWER SCHOOL



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BROOKWOOD LOWER SCHOOL

GRADES 1-5

STANDARDS BASED GRADING SYSTEM (SBG) FOR LOWER SCHOOL

The following scale is used for the Lower School:

Exceeds Expectations (E)	Meets Expectations (M)
Approaching Expectations (A)	Below Expectations (B)

REPORT CARDS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Brookwood School issues report cards quarterly. Parents will receive access codes to the online grading program in order to track their daughter's progress.

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

Brookwood 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 ONE

Length/Credits: 2 Semesters/1 credit

1st grade Saxon math focuses on skip counting by ones, twos, fives and tens, identifying ordinal position to tenths, mastering all basic addition and subtraction facts, and measuring using inches, feet, and centimeters. This curriculum also teaches students how to add coins, draw polygons, and observe information from real graphs, pictographs, and bar graphs.

GRADE TWO

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

2nd grade Saxon covers a larger range of critical concepts, such as working with larger numbers, geometric shapes, Venn diagrams, graphs, basic arithmetic calculations, and simple fractions.

GRADE THREE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

3rd grade Saxon uses simulations and games to help students understand and practice new concepts with content integrated from other core subjects such as social studies. Students learn skip-counting, comparing and ordering numbers, identify ordinal positions, identify and complete patterns, add/subtract multi-digit numbers, basic division, add positive and negative numbers, fraction concepts, understand and calculate measurements, compare and measure mass, identify function rules, graphing concepts, and concepts of geometry.

GRADE FOUR

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

Each of the 120 daily lessons includes warm-up activities, teaching of the new concept, and practice of new and previous material. Saxon 5/4 includes place value, regrouping, adding, subtracting, multiplication, division, fractions, factors, etc.

GRADE FIVE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/ 1 credit

In Saxon 6/5, the student will work on place value, multiplication up to 3 digits, decimals, mixed numbers, fractions, quadrilaterals, averages, geometry and so on.

SCIENCE

At Brookewood, science is a hands-on subject. Girls will be encouraged to catch insects, frogs, turtles, snakes, and other small animals (little brothers and sisters excluded). We expect them to be able to identify over 50 birds, over 30 trees, and other wildlife. Rocks, fossils, and artifacts will be observed and collected. Peterson, Stokes, and the Golden Field Guides will be the students' guides, Handbook of Nature Study, is the teacher's guide.

FIRST AND SECOND GRADES NATURAL HISTORY A

2 Year Rotation of Topics

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit per year

Year 1: Classification of Animals (vertebrates vs. invertebrates; 5 categories of vertebrates); Habitats, Food Chain; intro to tree and plant identification. Students complete observations in nature in proximity to the school. Students will observe plant species and insect species and discuss in the classroom.

Year 2: Tree and plant identification; animal life observation, butterfly and insect study. Students complete observations in nature in proximity to the school. Students will observe plant species and insect species and discuss in the classroom.

THIRD GRADE NATURAL HISTORY B

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The study of the physical world allows students too take their observational skills into the great outdoors. As field investigators 3rd Graders will observe and document an array of local insects, trees, flowers and birds. Texts: *Golden Guide: Trees, Golden Guide: Insects, Golden Guide: Flowers, Golden Guide: Birds*

FOURTH GRADE NATURAL HISTORY C

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

This fourth grade curriculum teaches students important science concepts about what they can see, observe, and understand in the world around them. This curriculum focuses upon basic science concepts, and presents God as the creator, sustainer, and upholder. Students will explore primary units on insects, plants, birds, matter, energy, geology, oceanography, astronomy as they learn how to make an insect zoo, how to recognize the plants they see every day, how to attract birds to their own back yards, how to use field guides, how to interpret cloud formations, and how to identify rocks. They'll also learn to appreciate the miracle of plant germination, the causes of weather, the God-given provisions for life on earth, the design of the starry heavens, the ecology of the ocean depths, and more.

FIFTH GRADE INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Students will study the planets, climate and weather, anatomy and physiology, and the building blocks of chemistry.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH GRADE 1

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

First grade English consists of the following courses: Reading/Phonics, Writing, Poetry, and Spelling/Grammar/and Vocabulary.

For Reading and Phonics, first graders will read texts *Little Angels Reader A & B* and *Right into Reading Book 1*. Students will read from these books and answer the accompanying workbook questions. The teacher will also read several books aloud to the students such as *Helen Keller, Flat Stanley, Pippi Longstocking*

For Spelling/ Grammar/and Vocabulary, students will learn spelling rules, practice phonics, and new vocabulary words. *Building Spelling Skills* by Evan Moor will be used.

For Writing, students will learn how to sequence words within a sentence and to write sentences within a story sequence.

For Poetry, students will read, memorize, and recite a new poem every two weeks. Poems/Nursery Rhymes will be taken from texts such as *Linguistic Development Through Poetry Memorization A Mastery Learning Approach* and *The Core Knowledge Series: What Your First Grader Needs to Know*

ENGLISH GRADE 2

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Second grade English consists of the following courses: Reading/Phonics, Writing/Penmanship, Poetry, and Spelling/Grammar/and Vocabulary.

For Reading and Phonics, second graders will read texts *Little Angels Reader C & D* and *Right into Reading Book 2*. Students will read from these books and answer the accompanying workbook questions.

For Spelling/ Grammar/and Vocabulary, students will learn spelling rules, practice phonics, and new vocabulary words with the *Vocabulary from Classical Roots Grade 2*.

For Writing, students will work on creating larger story structures while continuing to perfect sentence structure.

For Poetry, students will read, memorize and recite a new poem every two weeks. Poems/Nursery Rhymes will be taken from texts such as *Linguistic Development Through Poetry Memorization A Mastery Learning Approach* and *The Core Knowledge Series: What Your First Grader Needs to Know*

ENGLISH GRADE 3

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Third grade English consists of the following courses: Reading/Phonics, Writing/Penmanship, Poetry, and Spelling/Grammar/and Vocabulary.

For Reading and Phonics, students will read out loud as a class; each child takes turns reading and listening to her classmates. There will also be opportunities for individual reading, listening to stories read out loud, and reading at home. Texts include *Beezus and Ramona*, *The Hundred Dresses*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Shiloh*, *Matilda*

For Spelling/ Grammar/and Vocabulary, students focus on the fundamentals of language including: the rules of spelling, parts of speech, and integration of new words into a student's expanding vocabulary. Texts used in class are *Even-Moor Building Spelling Skills Grade 3*; *Wordly Wise Book 3*; *Easy*

For Writing, each student will be able to write complete sentences logically ordered in a paragraph, by the end of the year. Texts used are *The Four Square Method of Writing*, *Logic Countdown*, *Analogies for Beginners*

For Poetry, students will memorize and recite a new poem each week (or two weeks for long poems), students strengthen their memory, develop poise and comfort speaking in front of groups, and reinforce phonetic /syllabic skills.

ENGLISH GRADE 4

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Fourth grade English consists of Reading and Phonics, Writing, and Poetry.

For Reading and Phonics, students will read out loud as a class; each child takes turns reading and listening to her classmates. There will also be opportunities for individual reading, listening to stories read out loud, and reading at home. Texts include *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *The Horse and his Boy*, *The Magician's Nephew*, *Prince Caspian*, and *Misty of Chincoteague*

For Writing, students will practice writing from dictation. They will also practice writing grammatically correct sentences and learning more complex sentence structures. Students will study the texts *Hake Grammar and Writing 4* and *Vocabulary from Classical Roots Grade 4* to enhance their writing skills.

For Poetry, students will memorize and recite a new poem each week (or two weeks for long poems), students strengthen their memory, develop poise and comfort speaking in front of groups, and reinforce phonetic /syllabic skills.

ENGLISH GRADE 5

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Fifth grade English consists of the following courses: Reading, Grammar/Writing, Poetry, and Spelling/Vocabulary, and Poetry.

For Reading, students will read out loud as a class; each child takes turns reading and listening to her classmates. There will also be opportunities for individual reading, listening to stories read out loud, and reading at home. Texts include *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Caddie Woodlawn*, *The Magician's Elephant*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *Danny the Champion of the World*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Young Fredle*, *Number the Stars*, and *Tom Sawyer*.

For Grammar and Writing, students will expand their understanding of English grammar (using incremental implementation and continuous practice), including the parts of speech, spelling rules, punctuation, and sentence types. By the end of 5th grade, students should be able to write a five-paragraph essay. The text used in class is *Hake Grammar and Writing 5*.

For Spelling and Vocabulary, the class will integrate spelling and vocabulary into a two week lesson cycle using *Vocabulary from Classical Roots Grade 5*. The first week will test the students on the spelling of the word list. The second week will test the students on the meaning and understanding of the word list.

For Poetry, students will memorize and recite a new poem each week (or 2 weeks for long poems); students strengthen their memory, develop poise and comfort speaking in front of groups, and reinforce phonetic/syllabic skills. The text used will be *Linguistic Development Through Poetry Memorization*.

HISTORY

GRADE ONE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Topics covered are: Mesopotamia, Greek myths and intro to ancient Greek culture, Ancient Egypt, intro to World Geography. Students will explore the transition from early Nomads to farmers as well as the first civilizations such as Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Africa, India, Rome, and Greece. They will be introduced to various legends and myths from these civilizations as well. Students will also have the chance to use their creativity with hands on art/craft projects throughout each semester. The text used will be *The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child: Volume 1: Ancient Times* by Susan Wise Bauer.

Students will acquire a basic understanding of map skills such as a map key, map symbols, directions, and compass rose. They will learn about landforms of bodies and waters, continents, and oceans. They will study maps of the civilizations they are learning about in history as well.

GRADE TWO

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Students will continue the second half of *The Story of the World, vol.1* by Susan Wise Bauer. Students will acquire a basic understanding of map skills such as a map key, map symbols, directions, and compass rose. They will learn about landforms of bodies and waters, continents, and oceans. They will study maps of the civilizations they are learning about in history as well.

GRADE THREE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Third grade history focuses on medieval and classical history, learning about empires and the rise of religious groups from Bauer's textbook *The Story of the World, vol.2*. Topics covered include: The fall of the Roman empire, the British empire, the byzantine empire, the Indian empire, the rise of Islam, the rise of Christianity and more.

GRADE FOUR

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Fourth grade history covers Early Modern Times focusing on events in the years 1600 to 1850. In the course, students also study geography. The class will use *The Story of the World, vol.3* as the course textbook.

GRADE FIVE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

No education is complete without history, especially if one wants to understand the unique contribution of Judeo-Christian culture to Western Civilization. In the fifth grade, students will explore the Modern Age, which is a time period roughly from the middle of the 19th century to the present. The class will use the fourth volume of Bauer's *The Story of the World*.

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.

FIRST GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

First grade religion will focus on the story of creation, stories from the Old Testament, and Christ's life. The lives of the saints will also be integrated in the curriculum. Students will also learn about the seven sacraments particularly confession and communion, in preparation for these rites. Students will learn and practice essential Catholic prayers, and they will also learn about the parts of the Mass. Texts used for this course will be *Jesus Our Life* from the Faith and Life series, *The New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism*

SECOND GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Students will learn about the seven sacraments particularly confession and communion, in preparation for these rites. Students will learn and practice essential Catholic prayers, and they will also learn about the parts of the Mass. Texts used for this class will be *Grade 2: Jesus Our Life* from the Faith and Life Series, Ignatius Press. We will supplement study of this text with lives of the saints and Biblical stories.

THIRD GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The glory of God's creation, especially expressed through human endeavor, is integrated into all of our subjects. For more formalized religious instruction, students will explicitly study the life of Christ, biblical history, the structure of the Church, and the lives of the saints. The text used in class is *Our Life with Jesus* (Faith and Life Series).

FOURTH GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Students will study *Jesus, our Guide* which incorporates the four principal components of catechesis: the Creed, the Commandments, the Sacraments and Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture. The first half of the course will cover events before Jesus's life, particularly focusing on Old Testament history. The second half will cover Jesus's life and death.

FIFTH GRADE

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

For more formalized religious instruction, we explicitly study the life of Christ, biblical history, the structure of the Church, and the lives of the saints. The text used in this course is *Credo, I Believe (Faith and Life Series)*, *Virtue in Practice: Faith*.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

ITALIAN A/B/C

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

The goal of the Italian class for grades 1-3 is to have an exposure to the Italian culture (language, music, food, literature); to master basic conversation in Italian, on different topics; and to read and understand the written material used during the course.

ITALIAN D & E

Length/credits: 2 semesters/1 credit

Italian V is preparation for Middle School Italian, which delves more deeply into Italian parts of speech. Goals for the class are as follows: Students will be able to understand a conversation or an instruction given by Italian speakers (teacher, peers, and songs). Students will be able to read and understand the written material used during the course. Students will also memorize words (nouns, adjectives, verbs and allocutions) commonly used in a conversation. Students will be able to exchange greetings and personal information (name, age, date of birth, place of birth, address, phone number, feelings, etc.) There are weekly grammar reviews, conversations, and stories read aloud. Tests will be given according to the teacher.

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

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.