

April 30, 2019

Dear New BA Students and Parents,

Welcome to Brentwood Academy; I hope this information is helpful as you begin to plan your classes and extracurricular activities for the 2019-2020 school year. While both middle and upper school students have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of Fine Arts courses, the following is a list of activities that require an audition process; some auditions happen before the close of this school year (2019) and some will be during the first few weeks of the school year beginning in August of 2019. Please contact the director listed for each program if you need more specifics regarding any one of the listed auditions.

In addition, I am happy to answer any questions, so please do not be shy! If you have a passion for singing, acting, music, or dance, we might have an audition for you before you even arrive for your first day of class, and we look forward to welcoming you into that process by providing you with any additional information or encouragement needed.

Sincerely,

*Jenny Oldham*

Jenny Oldham  
Fine Arts Chair  
Jenny\_Oldham@brentwoodacademy.com

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Academy Juniors**

This extra-curricular vocal ensemble is auditioned from the middle school chorus elective classes. Selected students have an opportunity to learn more advanced repertoire, ranging from pop to sacred music styles. Students perform for a variety of school and community events. Rehearsal times are two days a week before the school day begins (7:00 AM – 7:30 AM on selected days TBA). Auditions are held in August before school begins. Contact Jenny Oldham at [jenny\\_oldham@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:jenny_oldham@brentwoodacademy.com).

### **MS Drama Production**

The Middle School drama production will be in the fall semester of 2020. Auditions will be announced in September. This show is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for both acting and technical support roles. In order to audition, students must complete a conflict form outlining any dates for which they will not be available. Contact Holly Shepherd at [holly\\_shepherd@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:holly_shepherd@brentwoodacademy.com)

### **MS Academy Dancers**

This group is an auditioned group of intermediate to advanced dancers in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Although participation in our dance classes is encouraged, girls will NOT be required to be in the BA dance classes in order to audition for Academy Dancers. They must, however, commit to the practice and performance schedule. The Middle School Academy dancers will dance at selected home (MS and HS) football games, pep rallies, home (MS and HS) basketball games, and the Spring Dance Show in May. MS Academy Dancers will be required to attend mandatory summer dance practices, and each girl will be responsible for the fees as well as dancewear costs to be determined (see tryout packet). Dancers of all levels are welcomed to audition. Tryouts are held May 14 & 16 from 3:00 PM -5:00 PM in the BA dance studio. Try-Out packets are available now! Contact Robyne Kennedy at [robayne\\_kennedy@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:robayne_kennedy@brentwoodacademy.com)

### **MS Speech (Forensics) – no audition required**

Speech (Forensics) is an extra-curricular activity that allows students to showcase their speaking and acting skills in a competitive arena. Categories include *Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Original Oratory, Prose and Poetry*. Contact Kasey Carmona at [kasey\\_carmona@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:kasey_carmona@brentwoodacademy.com).

### **MS Band**

Our beginning and Intermediate bands are graded/ credit classes in the curriculum during the school day. Students are instructed in instrumental technique, music literacy, and performance skills. Contact Matt Nygren at [matt\\_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:matt_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com)

### **MS Blues/Jazz Band**

Middle school students with at least one year of instrumental experience can join this extracurricular Blues/Jazz class. Students will get an overview of these two musical styles to include performance techniques and an introduction to improvisation. This is an excellent training ground for those who might be interested in auditioning for our upper school jazz and rock bands when the time comes. Unlike the Beginning and Intermediate Band classes, this group *does* accommodate students who play guitar, bass guitar, keyboards, and drum set. No audition is required, but Mr. Nygren will interview each student to make sure that they are ready for the challenge. The group meets Mondays at 7:00 AM and Fridays at 2:00 PM. Contact Matt Nygren at [matt\\_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:matt_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com)

## **UPPER SCHOOL**

### **US Fall Play**

Our upper school presents a straight show each fall. Auditions will be held in mid May with rehearsals beginning in late summer. Both actors as well as technical support will be sought. Contact Kasey Carmona at [kasey\\_carmona@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:kasey_carmona@brentwoodacademy.com)

## **US Spring Musical**

Our upper school musical is presented in April. Rehearsals will run throughout second semester. Auditions for this show will be held in December prior to Christmas break. In order to audition, students must complete a conflict form outlining any dates for which they will not be available. Contact Holly Shepherd at [holly\\_shepherd@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:holly_shepherd@brentwoodacademy.com)

## **US Academy Dancers**

Auditions are open to all rising 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade girls. There is an intense workout and practice commitment required of this group that will be fully outlined in information available through Mrs. Kennedy. Although participation in our dance classes is encouraged, girls will NOT be required to be in the BA dance classes in order to audition for Academy Dancers. However, all dancers must commit to the practice and performance schedule. The Upper School Academy dancers perform at home varsity football games, home basketball games, pep rallies, the TSSAA State Dance Competition in November, nationals in March in Orlando, Florida and the Spring dance show in May. Dancers will be expected to make the necessary time commitment after reviewing details outlined in the tryout packet. US Academy Dancers will be required to attend mandatory summer dance practices, and each girl will be responsible for the fees as well as dancewear costs to be determined. Tryouts are May 23 from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. Try-Out packets are available now. Contact Robyne Kennedy at [robayne\\_kennedy@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:robayne_kennedy@brentwoodacademy.com).

## **US Academy Singers**

The Academy Singers is a vocal ensemble that meets as a class for the entire school year with the goal of performing, as well as recording a professional quality CD. Students are expected to market and sell CDs of their recording as a part of the class. Audition criteria include sight-reading, part-singing, solo performance and stage presence.

There are **two** parts to the audition:

### **PART ONE:**

#### ***Sight-Reading***

Students will be asked to clap a short rhythm and to sight-read a short melody, using any neutral syllable (na,na,na) solfege (do re mi fa) or numbers (1, 2, 3). Please sign-up for a short, five-minute audition prior to the solo audition on May 15 with Mrs. Oldham. The sign-up sheet will be located on the fine arts table in the back stage lobby beginning May 1. Sight-reading auditions will be recorded for reference. Examples of sight-reading exercises may be found on the Academy Singer website under the **AUDITION** tab at <https://www.academysingers.com/audition.html> beginning May 1. If you are not a current BA student, please email Mrs. Oldham to arrange a time to sight-read at [jenny\\_oldham@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:jenny_oldham@brentwoodacademy.com).

### **PART TWO:**

#### ***Solo Performance and Stage Presence & Part-Singing***

Part two of the audition will be held in the chorus room on May 15 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Students are asked to prepare 30-seconds of a song in any style without

accompaniment or tracks. Song choice should allow for the student to demonstrate strength of range and vocal quality, and students should deliver the song with a confident and poised stage presence. It is always a good idea to select a song that has a discernable melody that does not heavily depend on an instrumental track since the solos will be sung a cappella.

In addition to the solo audition, students will be asked to sing a harmony part (*soprano, alto, tenor, baritone or bass*) of a short musical excerpt. Good intonation (pitch) is an important part of this criterion. No preparation is necessary, these parts will be taught as a part of the audition. Students are required to stay for the entire audition. For more information, please contact Jenny Oldham at [jenny\\_oldham@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:jenny_oldham@brentwoodacademy.com)

**US Speech (Forensics)** – *no audition required for junior varsity participation*

Speech (Forensics) is an extra-curricular activity that allows students to showcase their speaking and acting skills in a competitive arena. Categories include *Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Original Oratory, Prose and Poetry*. An audition may be required for varsity standing. Upper School students should contact Austin Groves: [austin\\_groves@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:austin_groves@brentwoodacademy.com).

**US Jazz Band**

Our Upper School Jazz ensemble meets as a class during the entire school year. Brass and woodwind students must also be in the concert band in order to participate in the Jazz Ensemble. Exceptions are made only for academic scheduling concerns. Guitarists, pianists and drummers who do not play a concert band instrument can participate in jazz band only. Our jazz ensemble is a traditional jazz band covering all of the major jazz styles (swing, latin, be-bop, fusion, etc.) with an emphasis on the theory and skills required for jazz improvisation. Auditions will be held May 15 for the following year. Contact Matt Nygren at [matt\\_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:matt_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com)

**US Contemporary Music Ensemble/Rock Band**

This versatile group plays current pop music, classic rock, and contemporary Christian music and serves instrumentalists who play drums, keyboards, bass, and guitar. This group also meets as a class for the entire year. Auditions will be held May 15 for the following year. Contact Matt Nygren at [matt\\_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:matt_nygren@brentwoodacademy.com) or Jeffrey Wills at [jeffrey\\_wills@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:jeffrey_wills@brentwoodacademy.com)