

**Brentwood Academy**  
**Fine Arts Department Middle School Course Descriptions**

*In middle school, students experience fine arts each year in exploratory classes, elective classes, and as extra-curricular opportunities.*

*6th Grade Art Exploratory*

Art 6 is a course designed for sixth grade students to explore and experience creative expression, critical evaluation, greater self-awareness and appreciation for the inherent value of visual art. This course develops student's sculpting, drawing, designing skills, as well as introduces printmaking, collage and digital media. Lessons in art history are incorporated into each project within the curriculum. Each 6th grade student has a rotation in art and has opportunities for work to be exhibited both within the school and local art shows.

*6th/7th Grade Chorus (no audition required)*

This yearlong beginning-level performance class focuses on a variety of styles in choral literature ranging from pop to gospel to classical. Attention is given to the development of proper vocal tone, breath control, posture, blending, diction, dynamics, sight-reading and ear training. Students are introduced to basic music theory, (lines and spaces, note values, musical terms, etc.) and will learn to sing in multiple parts. Students perform a concert at the end of each semester.

*7th Grade Drama Elective*

In this semester-long elective, students study the fundamentals of acting. Once students have an understanding of these theatrical basics, students are cast in a show to be performed at the end of the semester. This course relies heavily on the imaginations of the students, encouraging creativity and individuality.

*7th Grade Art Elective*

Art 7 is a semester-long course that incorporates world geography, culture and customs and examines the role of art throughout the world. Students work in traditional mark-making medium, like pencil, printmaking, photography and paint in both two and three-dimensional formats. They also work with new techniques and mediums as wax resist, batik and Pysanky, (Ukrainian Egg Decoration), plaster frescos and tin repousse, (creating texture and dimension on foil). Students have opportunities for work to be exhibited both within the school and local art competitions.

*8th Grade Art Exploratory*

Art 8 takes a closer look at the elements of art, and students produce projects that focus on these elements. Students continue their creative expression, technical development, critical evaluation, and build upon and refine drawing, painting, and designing skills. Students will work on projects in both 2 and 3 dimensional formats and create a digital project using Augmented Reality and Art History. Each 8th grade student has a rotation in art and has opportunities for work to be exhibited both within the school and local art competition.

*8th Grade Performing Arts Exploratory*

Performing Arts 8 invites students to develop their stage presence, imagination, and self-confidence through improvisation, storytelling and group work. Students write, develop and perform their own scenes as well as work on individual performances. Students can expect to improve their creativity, collaboration and confidence.

### *8th Grade Art Elective*

Art 8 is a yearlong studio class that affords students a deeper investigation into foundational drawing and painting while strengthening creative vision and technical skills. Projects will provide exploration of mark-making media, photography and ceramics as well as reinforcing concepts learned in previous middle school art classes. Art 8 Elective will encourage students to design imaginative visual expressions while developing their artistic voice, critical thinking and problem solving skills through a wide array of two and three-dimensional media. Students have opportunities for work to be exhibited both within the school and local art competitions.

### *8th Grade Chorus (no audition required)*

This year long performance class focuses on a variety of styles in choral literature from pop to gospel to classical. Students learn to work as an ensemble to accomplish the goal of achieving a good choral sound and will learn to sing in multiple parts. Students continue to review and expand their knowledge of music theory and the many facets of the choral experience including proper tone, breath control, posture, blending, diction, dynamics, and ear training. Individually, students can expect to improve their vocal and music reading skills. Students perform a concert at the end of each semester.

### *Academy Juniors*

This extra-curricular vocal ensemble is auditioned from the middle school choruses. 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. Auditions are held in the first month of school.

### *Beginning Concert Band*

Beginning Band offers middle school students with no prior school band experience an opportunity to begin the process of learning a concert band instrument. The students are divided between four specialized music instructors for woodwinds, upper brass, low brass, and percussion, and the four sections are combined when they are ready for a full band experience. Students learn to read music and develop instrumental skills in preparation for musical performances at the end of each semester. All sixth through eighth graders are eligible, and BA supplies all instruments and materials free of charge. Band instructors assist each student with placement and instrument selection before the first day of school.

### *Intermediate Concert Band*

Intermediate Band consists of middle school students who have at least one year of formal school band experience on a concert band instrument. The students are divided between four specialized music instructors for woodwinds, upper brass, low brass and percussion and combined when ready for a full band experience. Students build on the skills gained in Beginning Band in preparation for concert performances at the end of each semester. All 2nd to 4th year band students in grade six through eight are eligible.

### *MS Dance*

MS Dance is a dance class that receives PE credit. The class meets after school from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM. The MS Dance program offers quality training in all aspects of dance. Whether the student is a serious or beginner dancer, they are able to study and develop technique in jazz, ballet, tap, lyrical and hip-hop genres. Specific dancewear items must be purchased to wear to class.

### *MS Academy Dancers*

All rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders are eligible to audition for this select group. Those chosen are exempt from a traditional P.E. due to the weekly practice schedule. MS Academy Dancers will be required to attend mandatory summer practices, and each girl will be responsible for the fees as well as dancewear costs to be determined.

Dancers of all levels are welcome to audition.

*Middle School Forensics Team (Extra-curricular)*

Students have the opportunity to attend competitive speech tournaments. There are many opportunities to develop speaking and acting skills in a variety of individual, duo, and group events, including humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, duo acting, poetry, prose, extemporaneous speaking, and more.

*Middle School Play (Extra-curricular)*

The middle school drama production is in the first semester. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 may audition for roles and/or apply for and technical support positions.

### *Academy Juniors*

This extra-curricular vocal ensemble is auditioned from the middle school choruses. 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. Auditions are held in the first month of school.

### *Beginning Concert Band*

Beginning Band offers middle school students with no musical experience an opportunity to begin the process of learning a concert band instrument. The students are divided between four specialized music instructors for woodwinds, upper brass, low brass and percussion and combined when ready for a full band experience. Students learn to read music and develop skills that can be applied to areas such as musical performance, composition, and general musical literacy. All sixth through eighth graders are eligible and performances are included in the course. Band instructors assist each student with placement and instrument selection before the first day of school.

### *Intermediate Concert Band*

Intermediate Band consists of middle school students who have at least one year of formal school band experience on a concert band instrument. The students are divided between four specialized music instructors for woodwinds, upper brass, low brass and percussion and combined when ready for a full band experience. Students learn skills that can be applied to areas such as musical performance, composition, and general musical literacy. All sixth through eighth graders are eligible and performances are included in the course.

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### *Academy Dancers*

All rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible to audition for this select group. Those chosen are exempt from a traditional P.E. due to the weekly practice schedule. MS Academy Dancers will be required to attend mandatory summer practices, and each girl will be responsible for the fees as well as dancewear costs to be determined. Dancers of all levels are welcome to audition. The tryout clinics will be held on May 19-20 from 3:00-5:00 PM.

### *Middle School Forensics Team (Extra-curricular)*

Students have the opportunity to attend competitive speech tournaments. There are many opportunities to develop speaking and acting skills in a variety of individual, duo, and group events, including humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, duo acting, poetry, prose, extemporaneous speaking, and more.

### *Middle School Play (Extra-curricular)*

The middle school drama production is in January, and auditions are held in late October. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may audition for roles and/or apply for and technical support positions.