

Briarwood Elementary

Prairie Village, Kansas



Today

When you walk in the doors of Briarwood Elementary, you will see students solving complex problems using a variety of tools. There may be items strewn on tables and even the floor as students are eagerly working to meet learning targets set by teachers with high expectations. Don't let the noise fool you, the sound of learning can be loud but these students are engaged and determined. As we move through the day you will hardly notice the technology all around you because it is seamlessly incorporated at every turn. An Apple TV in every hall displays virtual bulletin boards created by sixth graders. Teachers are displaying video clips or talking to remote learners, and students are screen casting group presentations. Because we are emerged in the technology, we hardly notice it.



VIRTUAL TEACHING & LEARNING

During the pandemic year, Briarwood had nine fully virtual classrooms and 17 fully in person. Virtual teachers utilized Canvas and WebEx daily. These strategies continue to be utilized today.



APPLE TEACHERS

70% of K-6 teachers at Briarwood are recognized as Apple Teachers, and have received their Apple Teacher Certificates.



MEET THE STAFF

Briarwood teachers include classroom, P.E., Art, Music, innovation specialist, reading specialist, one librarian, social worker, speech pathologist, and two special education. We also have over a dozen classified staff members.



Demographics

619 students

67 faculty members

Public

K-6



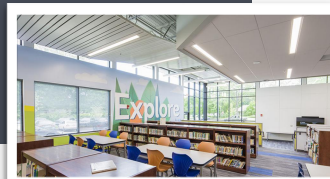
Apple products and services

1:1 iPad for students

MacBook Air and iPad for teachers

Apple TV in each classroom

Apple Professional Services





Vision

Our building vision aligns with the Shawnee Mission School District [strategic plan](#) that was adopted in 2020. From the building leadership team, to every staff member, distributed leadership ensures that every child is a part of an inclusive culture, engaged community, and challenging opportunities. With the many changes this year has brought, the teachers at Briarwood have adapted to fully remote learning, hybrid learning, and in-person learning. Teachers utilize the online learning platform Canvas, to create virtual classrooms. Pages, Keynote, and iMovie are frequently leveraged in the remote classrooms. For example, fourth grade used Keynote to create State presentations. Teachers are more connected than ever and the students will continue to benefit.



Learning

Students at Briarwood are put in the driver's seat of their learning. One example of this type of engagement is our school STEAM Club

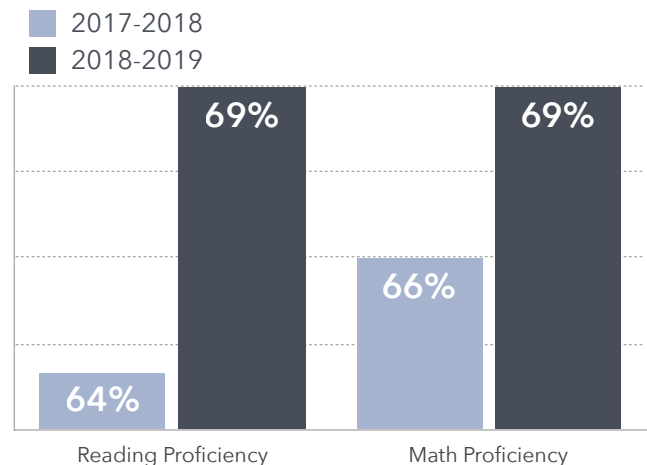
that has over 250 members. Students work in small mixed age groups with teachers and community volunteers from various grade levels to solve complex problems using robotics, drones, and other MakerSpace tools. With teachers serving as coaches and mentors who facilitate learning, students are empowered to engineer their own topics of interest. One example of this is a second grade class who felt compelled to learn more about food waste because they observed large quantities of waste at lunch. The class researched the impacts that food waste has on the environment, interviewed experts, designed a school-wide challenge, and created a campaign to educate the community. The Zero Food-Waste Challenge inspired many students and families to create new food buying habits and overall had a huge impact on the amount of food that was being wasted each day at Briarwood.



Distinguished School

Success

At Briarwood, we are constantly reflecting on our practice and student achievement. The PLC process is a part of our culture and imbedded into our instructional design. Using the four guiding questions, teachers, specialists, and administrators are always asking how we can address student needs. We are constantly asking: what do we want students to learn? How will we know that they have learned? What will we do if they are not learning it? Lastly, what will we do once they have learned it? At Briarwood, we believe in teaching the whole child so we have made social and emotional learning a priority. Each classroom implements Second Step curriculum daily, utilizes a calm corner with restorative justice language, and our two social workers provide support through groups and individual skill



building. We recently adopted the Panorama survey system to help us track and monitor our growth in the area of social and emotional learning. It shows that over 80% of 3rd - 6th graders feel safe and comfortable with their classroom teacher.

➔ What's next

At Briarwood we are looking to the future with excitement and expectations set high. We know that our students are full of potential and promise. Each year we move towards the goal of personalized student learning and we see this come to fruition through student-led-learning. This means students are setting goals, asking questions, and driving their areas of inquiry through the use of technology. With the implementation of Apple apps such as Pages, Keynote, and iMovie, we are seeing glimpses of what is to come and we recognize this is just the beginning!

Links

- [Briarwood Morning Announcements](#)
- [Local News Segment about Remote Learning](#)
- [Briarwood Students](#)
- [Photos courtesy J.E. Dunn Construction](#)