

Dear Briarwood Upper School Parents,

I hope this summer has been a time of rest and renewal for your family! As we look ahead to August and the start of a new school year, we want to share several important updates and reminders.

Our theme verse for the year is 1 Thessalonians 5:21: *“But test everything; hold fast what is good.”* In a culture full of noise and distraction, we want to equip our students to be discerning, holding fast to what is true and good. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe He is the ultimate good, and we hold fast to Him.

## Important Updates

### Staffing News:

Please join us in praying as we continue the search for the next Head of the Upper School. We trust God to lead us to the right person in His timing.

- Mrs. Sara Wilson has been appointed Athletic Director under the leadership of Coach David Nilsson.
- Mr. Matt Durkin has been named Assistant High School Principal (Grades 9–10).

### Academic Forms, Summer Assignments, Supply Lists, Calendars:

Academic forms, calendars, and supply lists can be found here: [Briarwood Forms](#)

### Student Schedules:

Upper School schedules will be available on FACTS starting August 7. Junior High students are invited to campus on Monday, August 11, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM to decorate their lockers.

### First Day of School:

School begins Tuesday, August 12. All students should report to their 1st-period class by the 8:00 AM bell. Regular dress code is required. We will run a 1st–4th period schedule that day.

## Back-to-School Events

- Junior High Back-to-School Bash – *August 15*. Details to follow from Mr. Kerley.
- Freshman Retreat – *August 25, Alabama 4-H Center*. Details to follow from Mr. Durkin.
- Senior Retreat – *August 8–10, Ocoee, TN*. Final reminders will be sent by Mr. Collie.

### Back-to-School Nights:

Join us for a brief gathering in the Barbara B. Barker Auditorium, followed by class preview sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to hear the hearts of your students’ teachers along with their classroom expectations.

- JH Back-to-School Night – August 18, 6:30 PM
- HS Back-to-School Night – August 19, 6:30 PM

### Parent Forum:

Please join us on Tuesday, September 9, 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM, BBBA. [Link](#) for Q&A

## **Parent Action Items**

### **FACTS Family Portal**

Please log in to the FACTS Family Portal to review and update your student's medical information and any changes to your contact info (address, email, phone). This ensures our records are accurate and up to date. All information is securely stored—no need to call the school directly.

### **Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF)**

The Upper School PTF is excited to serve again this year! Getting involved is simple, and many roles are low-commitment. Keep an eye out for an email with opportunities to join a committee. For more information, contact:

- Krystie Shirah (HS) | 205-503-3967
- Sarah Shepherd (JH) | 205-643-1515
- [bcsupperschoolptf@gmail.com](mailto:bcsupperschoolptf@gmail.com)
- Instagram: @Briarwood\_PTF

### **Monthly Student Drug Testing**

As part of our proactive commitment to student health and safety, Briarwood will conduct monthly drug testing for students in grades 7–12. A random selection of students will be tested each month, and parents will be notified if their child is selected and tested.

We count it a great privilege to partner with you in educating and discipling your children. We are praying for a joyful and fruitful year ahead.

For His glory alone.

Gus Martin

**Superintendent**

