

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 Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The longer I have been a parent, the more it seems the time we have with our children grows shorter, and the list of things we could worry about grows longer. However, God's word here reminds us that our confidence is never found in our own strengths or planning, but in the faithful God who graciously sustains His people. God commands us not to worry, and He invites us to entrust every joy, challenge, and uncertainty to Him in prayer.

It is our privilege to partner with your family in cultivating not only academic excellence but hearts and minds that are being formed by the truth of God's Word. We look forward with gratitude and anticipation to all that the Lord will accomplish in the lives of our students!

Important Updates

Staffing News:

We are excited to announce the following administrative hires.

- Josh McBeath, Director of STEM & Innovation and Upper School Assistant Principal
- John Patterson, Chief of Advancement
- Charlie Ann Shephard, Director of Development

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 10, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM to decorate their lockers. High School students may walk their class schedules on Monday, August 10, between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM.

First Day of School:

School begins Tuesday, August 11. All students should report to their 1st-period class by the 8:00 AM bell. Regular dress code is required. We will run a 1-8 schedule with an assembly that day.

Back-to-School Events

- Junior High Back-to-School Bash – *August 14*. Details to follow from Mr. Kerley.
- Freshman Retreat – *August 24, Alabama 4-H Center*. Details to follow from Mr. Durkin.
- Senior Retreat – *August 7-9, 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 17, 6:30 PM

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

Parent Forum:

Please join us on Thursday, September 10, 7:00 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:

- Gina Harris (HS) | 205-515-1226
- Carlin Everts (JH) | 205-639-4293
- 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.

Dr. Josh Farrell

Head of the Upper School