

Bronte High School

UIL Handbook for Students and Parents

2016-2017



“Taking Flight”

Academic Coordinator: Maureen Youngblood

Dear UIL Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Bronte High School (BHS) UIL Program. BHS is continuing to build an academic program that will work to be successful on the local, regional and state level. As coaches, we strive hard to produce quality students that exemplify good etiquette and sportsmanship.

Our program includes every event included in what we call UIL Academics. There is an event for everyone in UIL Academics. Students are encouraged to explore as many events as they like, but may not be able to compete in all events they are interested in based on the conflict pattern (when events occur at the same time).

This handbook is intended to provide parents and students with a comprehensive overview of the rules, policies, and procedures of this team. UIL Academics is a unique activity that requires a delicate balance between teamwork and competition amongst our fellow teammates. My hope is that this book will provide parents and students with answers to some common questions that come up because of this unique situation. Please keep in mind, that as any other head coach would, the head event coach and then the Academic Coordinator will exercise final judgment on all issues. This handbook could never cover every situation. Feel free to contact me, Maureen Youngblood-UIL Academic Coordinator, with any questions or concerns that may come up during the year.

The BHS UIL Academic Team welcomes active parent involvement. Parents can become an integral part of the success of our team. Parents can be involved in planning events, packing team lunches, assisting in competitions, and countless other activities. Please contact me if you are interested in being involved in the parent support of our team.

The 2016-2017 season proves to be a wonderful year at Bronte High School. Our team motto for this year is "Taking Flight." An eagle can have wings up to 7 feet long and can fly as fast as 75 miles per hour. It takes a tremendous amount of strength and energy for the eagle to fly with such huge wings at such a fast pace. This program will not take flight without a lot of time and energy. However, working together as a team, we can learn to soar like eagles. Our goal for this year is to take flight and soar to amazing possibilities and success.

Please contact me any time with any questions or concerns. Here is to a new year of excellence at Bronte!!

Maureen Youngblood
Secondary Academic Coordinator
maureen.youngblood@bronteisd.net
School: 325.473.2521
Cell: 325.812.3517

WHY THIS HANDBOOK?

An Academics program is a multifaceted educational endeavor involving students, parents, and teachers in the task of fostering students' communication, thinking and academic skills in a variety of mediums. It involves a lot of different people and efforts.

This is an attempt to answer some of the inevitable questions that will arise from participating in BHS UIL Academics. My hope is that each student develops a productive, professional relationship with his/her coaches. Keeping that in mind, this handbook is an attempt to orient you to the world of competitive academics as it exists at Bronte High School. It also serves a dual purpose: first, to avoid problems before they arise; second, to provide a basic explanation of what the world of competitive academic looks like. Many of the rules will seem like common sense – and common sense is a great default position when you are in doubt. However, none of us has an identical view of what comprises “common sense”, so this handbook will serve to clarify as much as possible.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE BRONTE HIGH SCHOOL UIL ACADEMIC TEAM

ETHICS AND STANDARDS - Students on the BHS UIL Academic Team are to uphold the highest ethical standards whether in the classroom, on campus, in competition or even when outside of what is considered the normal school day. Unethical behavior by one person often reflects upon the entire group. An ethical reputation is difficult to earn and easy to lose. Good character and the ability to make appropriate choices, as well as understanding that there are consequences and repercussions for one's actions, are some of the most important things we teach. Both attitude and behavior should reflect good character. Members of the BHS Academic team are to conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, honorable, and mature manner at all times. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the team. Any problems that arise with team members or others should be taken directly to the individual coach or to Mrs. Youngblood, the BHS UIL Coordinator. When competing as a member of the Academic team you are representing not only yourself, but your school, your family and your coaches as well.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE - Hard work and self-discipline are essential to success on both an individual and team level. Talent is no substitute for dedication to a task and treating people with respect whether they are on your team or from another school. The only way to reach your potential is to continually strive to do your best. Academic competition requires individual motivation and attention to detail. Work hard and take advantage of the resources you have to achieve your goals. It is our expectation that you study with the team, study/practice with your team until your competition time, and then be supportive and helpful to other BHS Academic team members still competing once you are done. The vision—Pursuit of Excellence—should be a team goal, not just an individual one.

GRADES AND ATTITUDES- Your schoolwork outside of UIL Academics is extremely important. UIL Academic team members should strive to maintain high grades, good relationships with other faculty members and administrators in addition to demonstrating a good attitude in other classes. You are responsible for any work missed when you attend a competition. It is best to be proactive and make arrangements with your teachers in advance. Your schoolwork comes before UIL Academics. Students should not use UIL Academics as a reason to take advantage of their teachers. The UIL program attracts the top students in the school and has a good reputation. Let's keep it that way!

SQUAD UNITY- Squad unity is an essential part of the Bronte UIL Academic team. In order to function as a member of the team, you must accept and work with other members. We also respect the property of the coach and other members of the team. Materials (supplies, research, etc.) should not be used without the express permission of their owner. Arrogance, selfishness, ingratitude and other boorish behaviors will not be tolerated and coaches will intervene if required. Such intervention will negatively impact your ability to travel with the team. Positive and constructive communication is essential. Comments that are potentially offensive to others are to be avoided. Varsity members should be willing to share their expertise with the younger squad members and will frequently be expected to be assertive in pursuing mentorship roles in keeping

younger students excited about the activity. School spirit is also an important component in developing our own sense of family and in garnering respect from others in our school.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE- UIL Academic competitions are designed to be educational experiences. Students who are interested in winning at all costs should find another activity. We will win because we are prepared, work hard and learn from our mistakes. Students should continue to work on improving their own skills no matter what their record is. We view competitions as a business trip. During the average day, you need to keep your cell phone use to a minimum and focus on the business at hand. This includes texting to those not competing at that particular competition. Parents are respectfully asked to refrain from random calls during the day. All students will be given necessary time to deal with family emergencies.

EVENTS - All UIL Academic events are worthwhile. We want our teams to have a reputation for being successful in every event we participate in. All UIL events are equally valuable to our teams. Young participants represent the future of our teams and should be encouraged at all times. There is a list of events offered at Bronte for JH and HS UIL competitions at the end of this handbook. This list is ever changing. If there is an event not listed that you are interested in pursuing, please see Mrs. Youngblood.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP - The purpose of BHS UIL Academics is to promote education. Development of life skills is part of the process. Winning is desirable; however, losing (while we do not want to make a habit of it) can be beneficial, also, as we pursue individual growth. Students should learn from mistakes made in each competition. Good sportsmanship is to be demonstrated at all times. If a student is unable to be a good sport, that student's status on the team will be reevaluated. As coaches, we have the knowledge and ability to "have your back" if need be, but rudeness directed toward contest directors, judges and competitors alike will not be tolerated. Disparaging comments about other UIL events will not be tolerated and will negatively impact your travel

COMMITMENTS – This is a team activity and your commitment to the team is very important. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own practice schedule. Each coach will establish their own weekly practice schedule. Successful team members will make it a habit of being at practice as often as possible. Students who are seeking district spots will sign up to show their commitment by attending practice and competitions regularly and studying/practicing on their own as well.

Students who drop competition after the drop deadline may have to pay the registration fee and any drop fee, judge fee, or grading fee required for that student having been registered for the competition. The student will not be allowed to travel again until the debt is paid. If the debt is left unpaid, the student will not be eligible for a district spot and the debt will be turned over to the office at the end of the year as an outstanding fee. Students with outstanding fees may not be able to register the next year and WILL NOT be allowed to graduate with outstanding fines or fees.

Students who do not maintain these requirements will receive a warning after the first offense, probation after the second offense, and removal from the team for one year after the third offense. Probation will be defined as a loss of privilege to attend one competition.

DRESS CODE - According to a Princeton study, average humans decide the trustworthiness of an individual within a tenth of a second! That does not give us much time to help formulate that decision in the minds of judges. Appearance and apparel help to convey a trustworthy and professional reflection of everyone, so it is important for each individual to look professional at every competition. For non-performing events, students are to be dressed neatly, such as, school appropriate jeans or slacks (no holes) and the team t-shirt or polo. Performing students are to dress professionally as directed by their coach and /or the BHS UIL Coordinator.

BRONTE UIL COMPETITIONS- In the future, Bronte is looking to host UIL Academic Invitational competitions in the Fall and Spring Semesters. It is important that Bronte UIL Academics develops and maintains a strong reputation for running effective competitions. BHS students are expected to attend our competitions not only as competitors, but to help contribute either food to the hospitality room or time to help work at the competitions when not competing. The UIL Coordinator will offer signups for both. Students may choose to donate food and work after their event competition is completed. Students should maintain respect for other competitors and coaches at all times.

Students with a legitimate excuse must have their parents meet with Mrs. Youngblood at least 1 week prior to the date of any BHS sponsored competition.

DROP FEES-Competitions set deadlines for registering and for dropping out of the event. **If students drop after these deadlines, Bronte High School may be assessed a fee. If a fee is assessed, the student will be responsible for paying the team back for this fee.** The team should not suffer financially because one student did not fulfill their obligation. Fees usually range from \$15-\$100, depending on the event and if judges were involved.

COMMUNICATION - We understand how valuable it is to communicate with parents, especially when your students spend so much of their time on the road at UIL competitions. Please feel free to contact me on my cell, especially when we are at competitions. My cell is 325.812.3517.

I also use **Remind** as a form of communication. I have had overwhelming success using this form of communication, especially with parents. You should sign up using the information supplied to you in the Back to School Packet. I regularly update using **Remind** at competitions. I also post results at the end of every competition. This is a great way to keep track of what the students are doing and when to expect us to be home.

SCHEDULE - Your student will be given a tentative schedule of competitions both on our own campus and those at other schools in the coming weeks. This competition schedule is ALWAYS subject to change. However, competitions are rarely cancelled. We are more likely to change the

location rather than not attend a competition at all. We will also be implementing a schedule of virtual meets throughout the year. These are meets that are held on our home campus at a time to be determined by the coach or myself when the virtual meets are scheduled. We have found these to be very accommodating for our students who are involved in other activities, such as sports, and cannot accompany the rest of the team for off campus competitions.

The most important thing to know about the schedule is that EVERY off-campus competition is different. We can give you an estimated time of when we will be home if you request one, but it will most likely be inaccurate. Competitions frequently run late. I will keep you updated through the **Remind** communication. I will allow your student to text you once we get on the road back to school.

My desire is for BHS UIL Academics to continue to grow and improve upon its already impressive reputation in the District of competitiveness and upstanding team. To do this, we must all agree to work together to make this happen.

Here is to another great year of UIL Academic excellence at Bronte!

Maureen S. Youngblood
UIL Coordinator
maureen.youngblood@bronteisd.net
School: 325.473.2521
Cell: 325.812.3517

Josh Barton
Bronte Principal
josh.barton@bronteisd.net
School: 325.473.2521

JH EVENTS

ART SMART
CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS
CHESS PUZZLE
DICTIONARY SKILLS
EDITORIAL WRITING
IMPROMPTU SPEAKING
LISTENING
MAPS, GRAPHS, CHARTS
MATHEMATICS
MODERN ORATORY
NUMBER SENSE
ORAL READING
READY WRITING
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

HS EVENTS

ACCOUNTING
CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS
CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS
COPY EDITING
EDITORIAL WRITING
HEADLINE WRITING
INFORMATIVE SPEAKING
LITERARY CRITICISM
MATHEMATICS
NUMBER SENSE
PERSUASIVE SPEAKING
POETRY INTERPRETATION
PROSE INTERPRETATION
READY WRITING
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

ONE ACT PLAY

** JH participants may be limited in the number of events they can enter this year. We have a new hosting school and depending on where the District competition is held will determine if a conflict pattern will be enforced.

We (student and parent) have read the UIL Academic team handbook in its entirety.
We agree to strive to uphold the requirements provided.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

This form must be returned, signed by both the parent/guardian and the student,
before the student may attend any competitions.