



Brightington Academy

Brightington Academy (BA) is a private, for-profit, grades 1-12 academic institution. Founded in 1965, BA was named for the founder and first headmaster, William Farnsworth Brightington. Brightington began with the simple mission of providing the highest quality education in preparation for advanced education and life. The Academy is committed to developing young minds and bodies, creating distinguished and productive members of society. At over 25 acres, Brightington's beautiful campus is nestled in the foothills of the Yoknapatawpha Mountain Range in Chikasha, Georgia, a community of 130,000. The Academy is located only a short drive from metropolitan Atlanta, but enjoys the advantages of a rural campus, with the advanced curriculum, facilities and technology sponsored by its affluent stakeholders.

As a private K-12 BA is an independently funded educational institution that provides primary and secondary education for students from 1st through 12th grade. Unlike public schools, private schools are not governed by local, state, or federal government regulations but instead operate under their own guidelines, often shaped by a specific educational philosophy, religious affiliation, or specialized curriculum. Facilities and extracurricular offerings include advanced resources such as science labs, arts programs, and athletic facilities.

BA offers a rigorous curriculum, with several Advanced Placement (AP) classes and unique programs tailored to specific fields like STEM, the arts, or languages. BA is a college preparation institution and maintains high academic standards. BA's admissions process involves applications, interviews, and assessments, ensuring alignment between the school's values and the student's needs. BAs programs appeal to families seeking tailored education, specialized programs, or alignment with personal values.

BA has an average annual enrollment of 300-350 students, with an average class size of 15 and a faculty of 30. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Strategic Plan & Vision for Brightington Academy

During Fall 2023, the Brightington Board of Trustees mandated a comprehensive strategic planning process to chart the course of the school from AY 2025 to AY 2030. The board appointed a steering committee, which began its work in August 2024. The steering committee and the Board of Trustees recognize that a strategic plan is a guide for direction subject to modification as conditions may warrant.

The resulting guidance represents the input of hundreds of members of the Brightington community and is offered not as policy directive to the administration, but as recommendations for the headmaster. As such, the recommendations do not establish priorities; however it will be necessary to establish priorities among those goals selected for implementation.

A Vision for Brightington:

The Strategic Plan through the Year 2030 establishes as goals for the Academy to:

- Establish its position as one of the top college-prep school in the Southeast;
- Increase opportunities for student intellectual and spiritual development;
- Increase the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students;

- Effectively manage expenses, while maintaining state-of-the-art educational facilities and remaining competitive in faculty salaries;
- Emphasize the development of character, ethics and values at each grade level;
- Increase alumni giving to fund further capital development including the creation of a high-technology computer lab wing;

Academics

Brightington Academy has four academic department providing strong curriculum development and academic rigor across the basics. Each department is headed by a tenured Ph.D. in a related field and contains high quality faculty dedicated to the promotion of their respective disciplines.

Departments

Each department offers several specialized courses designed to place the student in good standing for college-level performance.

Administration

The academy is led by Dr. Willamina Brightington-Smythe, Ph.D., Headmistress and granddaughter of the academy's founder. She is assisted by the vice-headmaster, Dr. Anferny Obunta, Ph.D., with whom is shared an executive assistant. There is also an office manager, Ms. Linda Blake, who oversees internal processes, and traditional business functions (accounting, payroll, purchasing, etc.)

Arts & Sciences

Chair: Dr. Mary Worth

The Arts & Sciences Department offers courses in traditional arts (Humanities, Fine Arts, Drama and Music) as well as the sciences (Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry and Earth Science). They also provide advanced placement courses allowing students to earn college credits in each of these areas, including AP-Biology and AP-Chemistry.

English & Foreign Languages

Chair: Dr. Laura Kingsley

The English and Foreign Languages Department offers courses in traditional English, Literature, Spanish and French. They also provide advanced placement courses allowing students to earn college credits in each of these areas, including AP-English, AP-Literature, and AP-French and Spanish.

Mathematics & Information Technology

Chair: Dr. Isaac Axiom

The Mathematics & Information Technology Department offers courses in traditional Mathematics and Computer-based education, including Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, and Computer Science. They also provide advanced placement courses allowing students to earn college credits in each of these areas, including AP-Calculus 1, AP-Calculus 2, and AP-Computer Science.

History & Social Studies

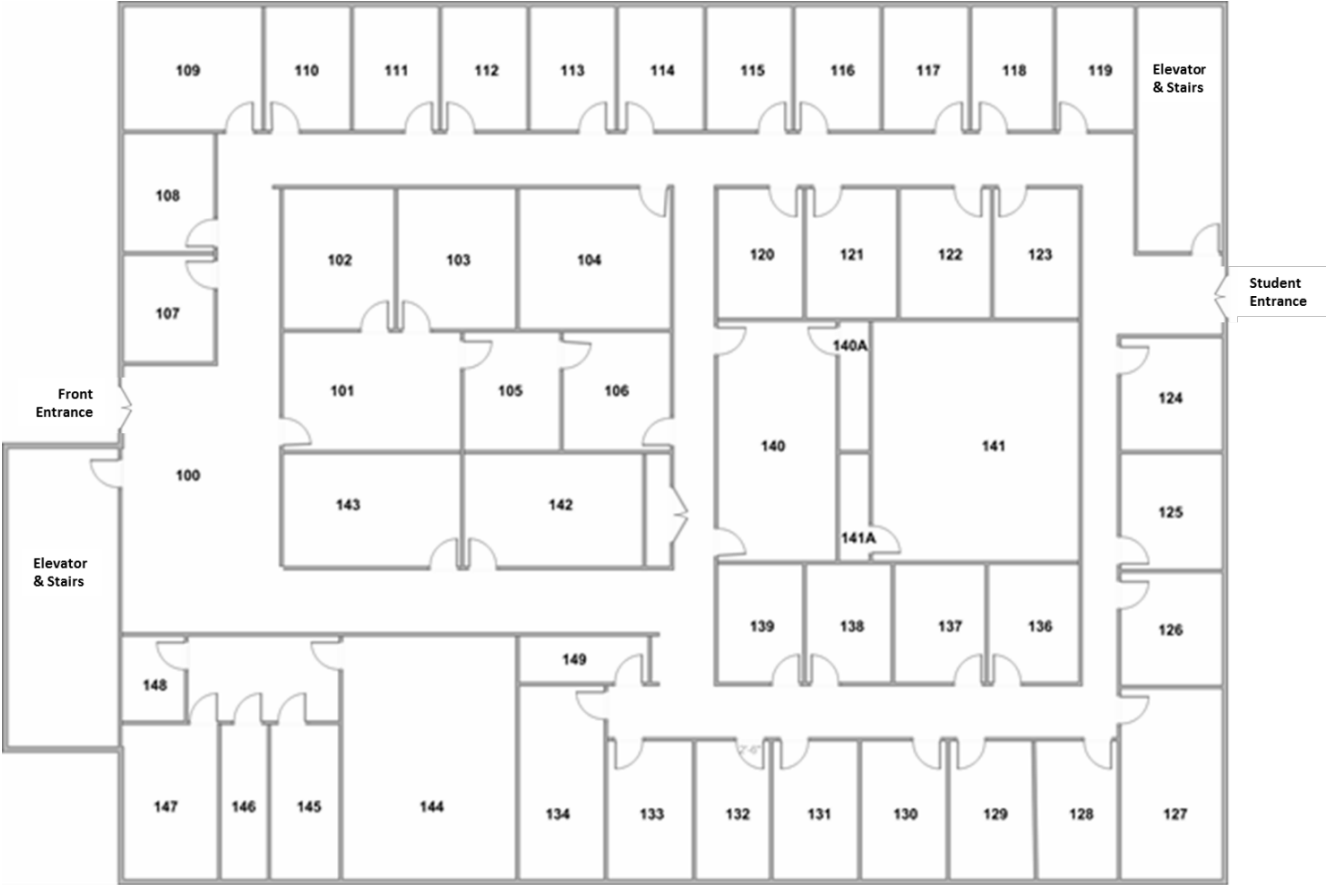
Chair: Dr. William Jackson

The History and Social Studies Department offers courses in traditional History (Ancient History, Modern World History, European History, American History, Georgia History and US Government. They also provide advanced placement courses allowing students to earn college credits in each of these areas, including AP-Modern World History, AP-European History, and AP-American History and AP-US Government.

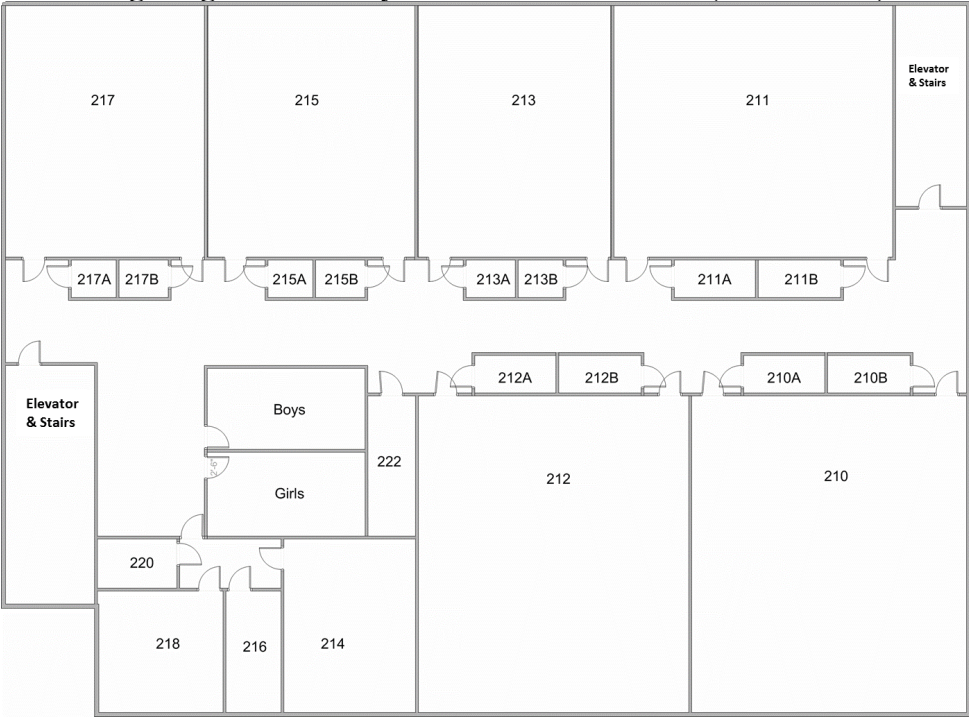
Facilities

Brightington Academy constructed its state-of-the-art building in 2005. It consists of a three-story structure, with faculty offices, small classrooms, and academy administration on the first floor, and classrooms and IT on the second and third floors. The classroom floors each include two large 75-seat auditoriums, and four smaller 45-seat classrooms. IT operates out of the tech rooms in the bottom left corner of the attached plans.

Brightington Academy 1st Floor Plan: small classes, faculty offices and administration
Administration - Rooms 101 to 106



Brightington Academy 2nd & 3rd Floor Plans: (Classrooms)



Note: the third floor is identical to the second except for the room numbers (3xx instead of 2xx).

Technology

Currently each of the faculty offices in the Brightington Academy building has their own personal computers with networked printers in the department office. The headmaster, vice-headmaster, and department chairs each have a personal laser printer. The academy's smaller classrooms are equipped with computers and a printer. Each classroom also has an instructor's computer connected to overhead data projectors. All classroom and faculty systems are networked to the Internet through a fast Ethernet connection through a local ISP. The institution has a policy to replace all computer equipment every three years on a rotation schedule (budget permitting).

BA has a small IT staff on-site responsible for managing its data and technologies. This staff, led by the IT manager: Ms. Xu Shin (Susan) Xiao, include one database administrator, two infrastructure administrators (server hardware, software and networking), and one IT helpdesk technician. The academy has a small server room managed by the IT team with a full-height (42U) floor-standing rack with a 9000VA UPS, 6 rackmount servers (see below), and a 16-port network switch, plus storage for additional network switches, ISP routers, spare drives and so on. Each floor of the building has a networking rack with switches and cabling for that floor, and a 1500VA UPS for that rack.

There is Wi-Fi Internet access for faculty and staff only. Students are not allowed to use their mobile devices while on campus, during school hours – except in an emergency. All classroom internet access is through classroom computer technology. Only the CMS system can be accessed from off-campus, or over Wi-Fi, to support online learning and other remote requirements (e.g. COVID stay-at-home requirements).

All applications and the OSBU-DB are backed up weekly offsite.

The following are provided and managed by the ISP, and thus are not germane to any organizational assessments:

- Wi-Fi network and its access control list
- Internet firewall and its ruleset
- Off-site backup software and backups
- External access to the CMS over the internet

Access Plan

All internal users and external users access information assets (databases) through applications on the server from a desktop or laptop, or from a work-from-home computer, over the internal network – wired. These information assets are backed up on-site to an external storage device and managed by the security and governance team.

The table on the following page describes BA's applications and data stored and used on-site in the academy's servers:

Application	Data	Location	Brief Description
1) Academia K-12	Student Record data (SR-DB)	Server 1	Student personal information, academic records, behavioral and disciplinary records, special needs and extracurricular activities information.
2) Guardian	Parent and Guardian data (PG-DB)	Server 1	Parent and Guardian Data, including contact information, relationship to student(s), financial records, including tuition payments, billing details, and financial aid applications.
3) MedicID	Student Health and Medical Records (SHMR-DB)	Server 1	Student immunization records, allergies, medical conditions, on-site first aid clinic records, and emergency contact information.
4) Learning Support Unlimited	Instructional Content and Lesson Plans (ICLP-DB)	Server 2	A custom developed curriculum for 1-12 grades, courses, and special activities. Include lesson plans, learning objectives, resource requirements, and a formal continuous improvement program.
5) Scheduler	Course and Classroom Scheduling data (CCS-DB)	Server 2	Academic classroom, student, and instructor schedules and assignments.
6) Strategy	Admin Management and Planning Data (AMP-DB)	Server 2	Planning and administrative information for the academy.
7) Employees	Faculty/Staff Data (FS-DB)	Server 3	Faculty and staff personal information, employment records, payroll and benefits data.
8) Financial and Human Resources	Finance and HR data (FHR-DB)	Server 3	Financial application data associated with the billing and receipt of payments and with purchase orders and issuance of payments, between the academy and its vendors and customers. Includes payroll data.
9) Course Management System	Course Management System data (CMS-DB)	Server 4	The custom-developed Moodle learning support/course management system for in-class and online educational support. This system only retains current term student schedule and grade information, as other systems handle overall progression and performance.
10) ManageIT	IT data (IT-DB)	Server 5	Inventory, configuration, and change management data for all academy technology.
11) MS Office	Faculty Office Data (Office-DB)	Server 5	Local shared drive for storage of employee work products, correspondence, etc.
12) BackUPs	On-site backup data (OSBU-DB)	Server 6	The location of the daily backups of all databases. The last five backups are retained, before being overwritten.