

2024-2025 Team Member Handbook



MISSION

Brentwood Academy is a co-educational, independent, college preparatory school dedicated to nurturing and challenging each whole person – body, mind, and spirit – to the glory of God.

VISION

Brentwood Academy will provide exceptional academics in a Christ-centered environment.

Core Values

- ➤ INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGE and CONNECT students in a Christ-centered, purposeful, and encouraging environment that allows each individual to flourish as a valued team member.
- ➤ PROVIDE students with tangible and intangible soft skills that will enable to them to influence and transform future innovations and technological advancements in the world.
- ➤ ENGAGE students in a hands-on, college preparatory atmosphere that cultivates connections with real-world engineering that prepares them to adapt to our ever-changing world

Competitive Ideology

ALL IDEAS are WELCOMED!

RESPECT! RESPECT! Robotics attracts a highly diverse group of individuals that are active in athletic, arts, and academic disciplines. who bring a vast array of experiences and varied points-of-view which enhances team collaboration and dynamic, creative problem-solving.

STUDENT-CENTERED TEAMS!

While coaches are on hand to guide and teach, the purpose of robotics is for students to organize themselves, navigate through the Engineering Design Process and grow as teams. Working through struggles such as communication challenges, competing ideas, and academics/sports/life balance – is all part of the process. Encourage your students to advocate for themselves and talk to their team and coaches if an issue arises.

IT IS OKAY TO STRUGGLE!

Not every day is going to be a great day at robotics and some days your child may to want to quit. Keep encouraging them to be resilient and try again because grit is what builds character. It is much easier to learn tips and tricks from working with others in this microcosm environment before embarking into the real world.

MUST BE PRESENT TO SUCCEED!

Attendance is essential to being an effective team member. To be included in the robot decision-making process and a confident team contributor during tournament interviews, students need a thorough understanding of the current season game, robot design, construction, programming, and driver controls. Students are encouraged to attend as many build days as they are able and grow together as a team. Outside activities are understandable and encouraged and we are aware that different sports and extra-curricular activities have different time commitments throughout the year. Keep in mind that inconsistent attendance can, and does, limit student's growth and a team's competitive edge. **Students need to communicate any conflicts to their team and coaches**.

Meet the High School Coaches

2024-2025



Chris Allen

Director of Robotics/HS Head Coach

11 Years Experience

Coach

- +Judge
- +Event Partner



Abbie Gillock

HS Coach/HS Robotics Communications

9 Years Experience

Coach + Former Competitor

- +Judge Advisor
- +Event Partner
- +Referee



Linnea Wells

HS Coach/Robotics Billing/IRHS Sponsor

4 Years Experience

Coach

- +Parent
- +Volunteer



Hank Roberson

HS Coach/Summer Camps Instructor

10 Years Experience

Coach + Former Competitor

+Volunteer

Best Way To Contact Us: robotics@brentwoodacademy.com

Meet the Middle School Coaches

2024-2025



Kathryn Roberson

MS Head Coach/US Bible

10 Years Experience

Coach

+Parent

+Volunteer



Woody Clark

MS Coach

4 Years Experience

Coach

+Grandparent



Dixie Christian

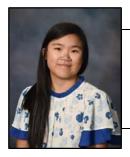
MS Coach

Math Teacher +Parent

Best Way To Contact Us: robotics@brentwoodacademy.com

Meet the Middle School Coaches

2024-2025



Jenny Wooten

MS Coach/MS Stem
Exploratory

7 Years Experience Coach + Former Competitor +volunteer



Caleb Pilafas
MS Coach

Engineering Student



Kian SchoemanMS Coach

2 Years Experience Former Competitor

Best Way To Contact Us: robotics@brentwoodacademy.com

Commitment Expectations

High School		
Activity	Expectation	
Commitment Level	HIGH	
Daily (Building, Programming, Testing)	Open Lab Hours: Mon-Thurs 6:30-8:30AM + 3:00-6:00PM Friday 6:30-8:00AM + 2:00-3:00PM (5-20 hours a week/student avg)	
VEX Competitions	6-10 tournaments (dependent on team)	
Season Length	June-April (Contingent on post-season eligibility)	

Middle School	
Activity	Expectation
Commitment Level	MEDIUM
Daily (Building, Programming, Testing)	Open Lab Hours: Mon-Thurs 3:30-5:00PM (4-8 hours a week/student avg)
VEX Competitions	4-6 tournaments (dependent on team)
Season Length	August-April (Contingent on post-season eligibility)

All lab hours are subject to change

General Summer Outline

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- □ April- Interest + Season Recap forms, New Game
- ☐ August-MS Kickoff, MS Teams, Summer Lab days
- ☐ August- Team Student Registration Fees (\$300), VEX Participation Consent Form

Upper School Team Cost

Annual student fee covers	Cost covered by BA budget	Optional cost covered by parents
Team uniform	Robotics equipment,	Signature Event Travel - \$350/per
• 2x Short-sleeve t-shirt(As	Registration Fees	student
needed with uniform	• \$75-\$350 event	Covers a portion of the following:
changes)	registration fee per	• Travel/airfare
 Season Sweatshirt 	team • \$200 Team	Ground transport Uses (2.2 pichts)
In state /Posional Traval	7200 ICalli	Hotel (2-3 nights)
In-state/Regional TravelTournament Day Lunch	RegistrationTravel Expenses (bus	VEX World Championship*-
Student Hotel Rooms	driver & gas)	\$1,250/per student (April)
Stadent Hotel Nooms	arriver & gasy	Covers a portion of the following:
	VEX World Robotics	Travel/airfare
	Championship fees	 Ground transportation
	• Est. \$2,000	Student Team t-shirt
	registration fee per	 Hotel (3-4 nights)
	team	
	 Team Dinner 	
	 Gear Transportation 	
	Other Expenses	
	 Team building opportunities 	
	• End of the year	
	celebrations	
	COCCOTACIONS	

Middle School Team Cost

Annual student fee covers	Cost covered by BA budget	Optional cost covered by parents
 Short-sleeve t-shirt (As needed with uniform changes) In-state/Regional Travel Tournament Day Lunch 	Robotics equipment, Registration Fees • \$75-\$350 event registration fee per team • \$200 Team Registration • Travel Expenses (bus driver & gas) VEX World Robotics Championship fees • Est. \$2,000 registration fee per team • Team Dinner • Gear Transportation Other Expenses • Team building opportunities • End of the year celebrations	 VEX World Championship*- \$1,250/per student (April) Covers a portion of the following: Travel/airfare Ground transportation Student Team t-shirt Hotel (3-4 nights)

Member Expectations

Iron Eagles First - Team Letter Second- Individual Third

Put the success of the program before team success, and team success before individual desires. Maintain a positive attitude, engage in constructive dialogue, and collaborate with other students before changing any aspects of the robot.



☐ Follow the Brentwood Academy Honor Code and REC Code of Conduct to the highest moral standard.	<u> </u>
☐ Display good sportsmanship, stay on task, and positively support my team ar other teams in the lab and at tournaments.	ıd
☐ Attend all mandatory student/team meeting(s).	
☐ Attend all registered in-state and/or out-of-state tournaments (unless a confl has been communicated).	ict
☐ Signature Events are optional and not guaranteed . Teams will be selected baupon designated criteria.	sed
☐ Contribute in an active, positive, and meaningful way to all aspects of the competition, including building the robot, participating in the engineering deprocess, programming, and all other tasks that directly or indirectly affect performance.	sign
☐ Always demonstrate self-control! Including, but not limited to, no horseplay, keeping hands-to-self, and no electronic distractions (such as games) when ir robotics lab space —or— attending tournaments.	ı the
☐ Maintain a clean workspace DAILY (including team table, surrounding floor, a any shared community spaces).	ınd
☐ Work all mandatory tournament set-ups / Sunday clean-ups.	

Program Rules

THESE RULES APPLY TO ANY SPACE – PERMANENT/TEMPORARY – BEING USED TO BUILD, PROGRAM, AND /OR PRACTICE.

RESPECT ALL COACHES AND TEAMMATES! Each and every member of the team deserves to be treated kindly. Make sure	A coach or designated adult must always be present when working in any robotics lab space.
your words and actions always glorify God. NO FOOD or DRINK ALLOWED IN THE	☐ Team members are expected to volunteer at Brentwood Academy hosted tournaments.
ROBOTICS LAB!NO EXCEPTIONS! Before you leave each day, CLEAN your	Students must be good stewards of robot parts and pieces.
table, THROW AWAY trash, and TIDY UP common areas.	 No bending or cutting materials without permission from the coaches.
☐ HOARDERS ARE NOT WELCOMED! If you are not using it, RETURN ALL unused parts/pieces to the proper drawers/places.	Take expert care of motors and wires.DO NOT open new parts without permission from coaches.
☐ IDLE MINDS NEED SOMETHING TO DO! If you find yourself with nothing to do, ask for a job or PLEASE go home!	☐ Take excellent care of team computers. Each team is assigned a computer that is to be used solely for robotics activities. Do not
☐ SHOE POLICY! NO SHOES ever on the field!! CLOSED-TOE SHOES must be worn in the robotics lab / build area.	download/install unauthorized software on the team computers. NO GAMING permitted!
☐ THE CUTTING ROOM IS A PRIVILEGE! The cutting room is available for the use of high school students only. EYE and EAR PROTECTION must be worn at ALL times!	Power Boxes, Backpacks, Tournament Tools, and Tournament Parts are to be used ONLY for tournaments and are not available for daily use.
☐ WE HAVE DESIGNATED PLACES TO BUILD! DO NOT BUILD on the competition fields! All building should take place at your team	You represent BA at all times! All school rules apply to team members while working on campus and off-campus.
table and/or pit areas	Additional rules that affect the safety, success, and welfare of the team and/or its members may be added at anytime.



Robotics Lab Rules

- ✓ Practice Lab Safety at <u>ALL TIMES</u>
- ✓ Keep Lab Spaces Clean at <u>ALL TIMES</u>
- ✓ Adhere to Cutting Room Safety <u>EVERY TIME</u>
- ✓ No Building on the Fields
- ✓ Wear Closed Toe Shoes ALL TIMES not on the field
- ✓ Robots Should NEVER Be Powered On Table Surfaces
 - Please refer to the Robotics Lab Safety Acceptance for appropriate consequences of violating Safety Rules and Procedures

Iron Eagle Social Media, Photos & Team Logo Usage

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- My presence on social media (Discord, VEX Forum, Instagram, Snap Chat, Facebook, etc.)
 reflects not only Brentwood Academy, but also the entire Iron Eagles Robotics program, and is
 compliant with Brentwood Academy's social media policy as well as the REC Foundation Code of
 Conduct.
- Only positive comments that serve to encourage and support others may be posted. No bullying allowed!
- At any time, my words should never harm, hurt, or disparage a fellow BA student or robotics team member, or someone from another program.

DISCORD POLICY

- Students are encouraged to interact in Discord communities; while in those communities, students must follow ALL Social Media Policies.
- Coaches MUST be present in Discord communities in which Iron Eagle Students are present.

PHOTO POLICY

- DO NOT take photos of other robots WITHOUT permission from the team (this includes other BA robots).
- DO NOT post photographs of ANY robot. Please consult a coach for guidance on what to post or not.

TEAM LOGO USAGE

 Use of the IRON EAGLES logo must be pre-approved by Mr. Chris Allen or Ms. Abbie Gillock and MUST follow all Brentwood Academy logo usage guidelines, including, but not limited to, color, size, and composition.

Academic Policy

- As educators, we value the role that academics play in the lives of our students. For our students to be successful we have instituted a Robotics Academic Policy:
 - 72 hours before a robotics team event (competition, scrimmage, team activity, etc.), all students grades will be checked.
 - Any student who has a grade below 70 percent in any class will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming activity.
 - At the 72-hour threshold, the student and parent(s) will receive an email noting when a student is ineligible to participate in the upcoming activity.
 - Grades will not be rechecked again before the event.
- ➤ If the event has an associated cost (airfare, hotel, etc.) that the family has already agreed to pay, the family of the student will still be responsible for those costs, if they cannot be recouped by BA.

Thank you for your support in encouraging these bright minds!

REC Code of Conduct

- The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation considers the positive, respectful, and ethical conduct of all students, teachers, mentors, parents, and other event attendees an important and essential component of all REC Foundation-sanctioned events.
- We expect the following behavior and ethical standards at all REC Foundation-sanctioned events:
 - Act with integrity, honesty, and reliability
 - Behave in a respectful and professional manner with all event participants and attendees
 - Exhibit maturity and professionalism when dealing with difficult and stressful situations
 - Respect individual differences
 - Respect the facility and equipment provided at an event
 - Follow all rules as listed in the current game manual(s)
 - Operate as student-centered teams according to the Student Centered Policy
 - · Prioritize safety in their actions and design
 - Demonstrate good sportsmanship, which includes supporting your alliance partners
- These expectations apply to, but not limited to: Team Members, Mentors, Parents, any adult associated with a team, Event Partners, and Volunteers. This Code may also apply to behavior outside of REC Foundation-sanctioned events where inappropriate actions are related to an event or participating individuals.
- Judges will consider team conduct and ethics when determining awards.
- Repeated or egregious violations of the expectations in this Code may result in consequences up to the disqualification of the team or organization from the current event and/or future events, and potentially removal from the program after review by the REC Foundation.

Behavior/Discipline

All Brentwood Academy Honor Code and handbook rules apply at all times

Teamwork and learning to work together is an integral part of the robotics program and essential to the judging process at tournaments. Getting along can be challenging for everyone at times. Redirection and refocusing of the student's attention is a natural and expected part of the coaches' job. Our recommendation is to allow team dynamics to work themselves out. Students learn a lot more life skills from challenging teams than from teams that are in peaceful accordance all the time. However, when a student's behavior becomes distracting to the team and others and mediation efforts are not successful, parents will be informed and engaged.

In compliance with the Brentwood Academy Robotics Honor Code, parents MAY NOT AT ANY TIME work on a student's robot, write programming code for the student, or participate in the preparation or completion of the engineering design notebook

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL	
Violation 1	Verbal warning, communication to parents, and loss of lab access for at least 24 hours.
Violation 2	Detention Hour, communication to parents, and loss lab access and tournament participation for at least 3 days.
Violation 3	3 Detention Hours, actions will be reported to the School Director and to parents, and lab access will be revoked for the remainder of the quarter, and tournament participation will be under review.
Violation 4	Appropriate disciplinary actions will be determined, which may result in removal from the Iron Eagles robotics program and supplementary programs.

Tournament Policy

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION IS NOT GURANTEED.

Academic standings, active team participation, disciplinary concerns, and coaches' input will factor into the decision.

Skills:

Teams are REQUIRED to run 3 driver, and 3 programming skills runs at ALL events

Dress Code:

Team uniform is expected to be worn to all tournaments, which includes (no exceptions):

- Current season team issued t-shirt
- Current season team issued jacket/pullover
- Khaki pants OR Jeans (NO HOLES or RIPS!)
- BA Uniform Skirts are permitted for the girls WITH EITHER BLACK, GREY, or NAVY LEGGINGS.
- Closed toe shoes are mandatory

(Any/All accessories must be APPROVED by Coaches AND BA Marketing)

RULES:

- Mixed gender seating is NOT ALLOWED on buses!
- NO Public Displays of Affection is ever permitted during a robotics event (including hosted, local, and travel tournaments)
- ✓ When traveling, NO GIRLS in GUYS rooms and NO GUYS in GIRLS rooms. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Students are required to have earbuds! All music and videos must be parent-approved and not contain inappropriate content at the risk of losing your device for the duration of the tournament.
- Students must remain in assigned hotel room after room checks!

Tournament Day Etiquette and Protocols

- GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP! All students and parents are required to represent BA to the highest standard to other teams, volunteers, and spectators.
- > NO PARENTS IN THE PITS at any tournament at any time!
- Student cell phones should ONLY be used when necessary for scouting. Gaming at tournaments is never permitted.
- CLEAN UP!! At the end of the day, leave your pit area cleaner than you find it. Do not leave the tournament until your area is clean and your mode of transportation has been approved by a coach.

CONSEQUENCE. In the event, that a student does not comply with our tournament travel policies, students may receive detention hours/Saturday school and/or suspension from future tournaments. Severe noncompliance, like leaving a hotel room after hours, may result in dismissal from the program.

Tournament Expectations

VEX Robotics is a student-centered organization.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR is watched closely by officials and judges. It is critical that students treat others with kindness and respect, including teammates, students from other schools, officials, referees, and judges, as this actions do impact their eligibility for awards.

PARENT BEHAVIOR is also watched! Parents should not use tournaments as a time to have conferences with coaches or express grievances. Poor parent behavior at the tournament can have adverse effects on not only your child's team but the entire BA program (which may result in their elimination from judged awards). Parents are invited to cheer on our teams at tournaments — and volunteer positions are always available — but at no time are parents allowed to intervene with the competition. Conversations in the stands should always be encouraging and positive to all teams!

FLEXIBILITY IS KEY! Best laid plans do fail. Through no fault of the Brentwood Academy coaching staff, tournament dates may be added and/or changed, venues change, and tournaments may not run as expected or may run late. While this is out of our control, we will communicate tournament updates as soon as we are aware of them. Depending on how well a team performs throughout the season and/or if they are still trying to get State qualified, we may have to add tournaments to their schedule to support them in meeting their goals.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS. Typically, middle school teams will only attend local or regional in-state tournaments (though special consideration may be made for teams to travel to away tournaments at the coaches' discretion.) NO PHONES during tournaments or after room checks. Parents should communicate with the coaches if they need to contact students

Signature Events

Signature Events provide opportunities for students to compete against high-level teams from across the country/world to gain qualification to the VEX World's Championship.

Co-Curricular Forms

When your team is to be out for AN ENTIRE SCHOOL DAY (or MULTIPLE DAYS) students must take the BA Co-Curricular Absence Form to their teachers to get anything they will miss and turn into the front office three days PRIOR to the first day of the scheduled absence

Participation is NOT GURANTEED. Teams will be selected based on various criteria, including, but not limited to:

- Collective time spent in the robotics lab/build days
- ➤ World's Skills Standings
- Academic standings, active team participation, disciplinary concerns, and coaches' input

Replacement Signature Events are NOT Guaranteed to teams unable to attend their scheduled events

Dress Code

- > Dress code will be communicated prior to Signature Events
- > Students are expected to adhere to dress code during the ENTIRE Tournament
- > Students should dress to represent BA at ALL TIMES during travel

Student Volunteer Requirements + Pop-Up Events

Brentwood Academy Pop-Up Events

- Small 24-team tournaments
- Hosted in the BA dining hall
- Set up and ran by students FOR students
- Great opportunity to compete locally

Volunteer Requirements

IRHS and US+MS competitors that are registered for the Pop-Up event will participate in setting up the tournaments on campus

Everyone volunteering AND competing will tear down and clean up tournament spaces

Each member(US+MS) is required to volunteer at 2 tournaments assigned by the coaching staff unless otherwise communicated

Many hands make for light work

Parent Expectations

As an IRON EAGLES Robotics Parent, I understand and agree to...

- Attend all mandatory parent meeting(s)
- Volunteer at Brentwood Academy hosted tournaments and events
- Trust the coaches and their decisions

Good Sportsmanship Encouraged!

Come out and cheer on ALL the teams! These kids have worked very hard, and you will see some robots fail and some succeed, but that is part of the learning process. The robots will continue to evolve and change the whole season.

No Parents Allowed in Pits!

VEX Rules state that only students are allowed to work on their robots. Generally, no BA parents should ever be in the team Pit Areas at any tournament at any time. Call/text a coach if you need to get something to your child.

Judges are Watching You Too!

Not only do the judges watch the conduct of our teams, but they also watch the parents. Please curb any contrary thoughts or discussions to another place and time. Teams have been disqualified because of disagreeable parents

Team Communications

GroupMe:

This year we will be using GroupMe to communicate announcements, tournament day info, and photos to teams and parents

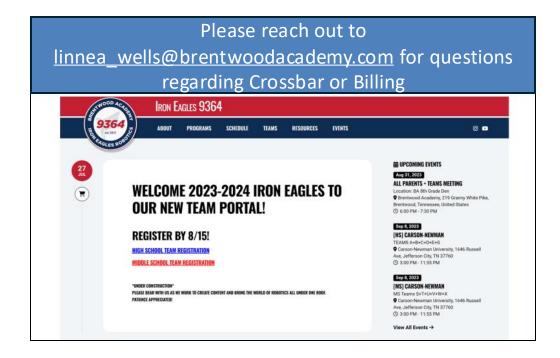
TIP: Let us know you have read/acknowledged the information when you click like!



MS Iron Eagle Parents



HS Iron Eagle Parents



Resources + Terms To Know

VEX Via >>

This app gives you real-time tournament scores and competitor stats. "Favorite" our 9364 teams and follow their tournament progress both near and afar.

Available for FREE in your app store.

RobotEvents.com >>

Community website that provides event details (like

location, schedule, and livestream links).

You can also check-out the Worlds Skills list.

www.robotevents.com

VEX Forum >>

Want to know more? Check out the VEX forum that talks about all things robots – current season game, new robot designs, tips and tricks, gameplay strategy, robot-reveal videos, and so much more.

www.vexforum.com/c/vrc-discussion

Current Game>> The best resource is

KNOWLEDGE and learning about the game.

<u>Competition Overview - Competition - V5 - VEX Robotics</u>

International Robotics Honor Society

The IRHS serves as our student leadership team that helps to foster a sense of community and accountability within the program.

Students attend monthly meetings, engage in volunteer opportunities within the robotics community, and serve as mentors and upstanding leaders to further and uphold the legacy of the Iron Eagles Robotics program within the walls of Brentwood Academy and throughout the world.

Eligibility:

- Current senior, junior or 2nd semester sophomore
- · GPA 3.5 or higher
- 1 year participation in robotics
- Other factors considered are STEM education, robotics participation, community service, leadership, and character

Application Requirements include (but not limited to):

- Transcript
- Teacher recommendations (2-4)
- Leadership Personal Statement
- Resume
- Community Service
- Activities
- Dean's Office verification
- Guidance counselor Recommendation
- Membership fee \$25.00

Applications open in January for each year and closes in March

The Brentwood Academy Chapter of the International Robotics Honor Society was founded in 2020.

Chapter sponsor: Ms. Linnea Wells (Linnea_Wells@brentwoodacademy.com)

Iron Eagles History

Brentwood Academy (BA) Iron Eagles Robotics is celebrating its 11th competition season. Founded in 2013, by the accidental "fabulous five" physics students and teacher – Wendy Stallings - the 7th-12th grade program has gone on to bring home numerous awards and have qualified for nine consecutive VEX World Robotics Championships.

- Since its launch, over 300 students in grades 6th-12th have competed on a Brentwood Academy (BA) Iron Eagles Robotics Team, 1/3 of the students have been girls. This year's program boasts a total of 56 students and 10 coaches.
- The Iron Eagles Robotics program is the most decorated in the State of Tennessee and has successfully brought home over 350 trophies, including 66 Tennessee State Championship awards, and 15 VEX World Championship awards.
- The Iron Eagles are 9-time Tennessee State High School Tournament Champions and 10-time VEX Robotics World Championship Qualifiers.
- In 2021, the Iron Eagles' annual Halloween tournament was granted Signature Event status as one of only eight competitions in the world. This year 64 teams from 20 U.S. States will compete at the "HAUNTED: A VEX Robotics Signature Event".
- Crowning the achievements of this award-winning program is the coveted 2019 VEX World's Championship Middle School Excellence Award. This award is the highest honor presented to the top robotics program in the world that exemplifies excellence in all areas of the competition. The Iron Eagles have also won the 2015 VEX Worlds Design Award, 2015 VEX Worlds Engineering Division Champion Award, 2018 VEX Worlds Innovate Award (for both Middle School and High School), the 2021 VEX Worlds Build Award, the 2022 VEX Worlds Innovate Award, the 2022 VEX Worlds Inspire Award, the 2023 VEX Worlds Innovate Award, the 2023 VEX Worlds Create Award, and the 2023 VEX Worlds Division Finalist.
- Over the years, many robotics students have landed in some of the top engineering schools in the country, including MIT, Purdue, Dartmouth, Vanderbilt, Washington University, RICE, University of Alabama - Huntsville, Florida Institute of Technology, Auburn University, SCAD, Tennessee Tech, and the United States Naval Academy.

Acknowledgement

Please detach this page to sign and return to the Robotics Director, Mr. Chris Allen(HS) or Head Coach Ms. Kathryn Roberson(MS)

NO LATER THAN Friday, August 23rd 2024.



Student Signature:	Date:
Parent Signature:	Date: