



# Sidney Lanier Middle School

2600 Woodhead • Houston, TX 77098 • Tel. 713.942.1900 • Fax 713.942.1907

## Welcome to UIL Academics!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first season of UIL Academics at Lanier Middle School! We are so excited that your child is interested in competing this year. Lanier will participate in four Saturday academic tournaments against other HISD middle schools this season, and we would love for your child to be part of them. In this packet, you can find the policies and expectations, practice schedule, event descriptions, tournament schedule, and tournament dates for this year.

You will notice that there are a lot of events in which your child can compete. This not to overwhelm you or your child! Your child will **not** be competing in every single event. Please refer to the tournament schedule so that your family can begin to decide which events your child **could** compete in. Your child might compete in multiple events OR as few events as one. The workload and time commitment will vary on an individual basis.

Once your child selects his or her events, the next step is **practice**. All UIL Academics team members will be expected to attend practice as determined by the event coach. Just like improving in a sport, practice is necessary to prepare students to succeed in the tournaments. At the close of each tournament, an award ceremony will be held where individual and team awards will be given. We want Lanier to shine!

As with any extracurricular program, especially a new one, we will need lots of help. We will be looking for parents to serve as chaperones and event judges during the Saturday academic tournaments. We would also love to provide breakfast and lunch for the students on tournament days but cannot do so without your assistance. Please consider donating to our activity fund so that we may purchase tournament supplies and meals for our students.

If you are unable to volunteer on Saturdays, you will still need to provide transportation for your child to and from the Saturday academic tournaments. You will also need to provide transportation to or from practice, depending on when the event coach has scheduled practice. If you have any questions about the overall program, please contact Ms. Brame via email at [vbrame@houstonisd.org](mailto:vbrame@houstonisd.org).

We look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Sincerely,

Victoria Brame

UIL Academics Campus Coordinator

7M Texas History Teacher



## Policies and Expectations for Participating in UIL Academics

- 🐾 Respect everyone and everything – this includes your teammates, your coaches, yourself, supplies, and the space around you.
- 🐾 Attend practice and prepare for your tournament events inside and outside of school – being on a team is a commitment.
- 🐾 No pass, no play – your classes are still your number one priority.
- 🐾 Arrive at practice and tournaments on time, and do not leave early unless you have received permission from a coach – full attendance is important.
- 🐾 Be on your best behavior in practice and at tournaments – remember, you are representing Lanier.
- 🐾 Adhere to all instructions given by your coaches – at Lanier, we play by the rules.

## Tentative Practice Schedule – Check with your coach week to week!

Coach	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Brame</b> Room 239	X	X	X	3:35 – 4:15 PM	X
<b>Garrett</b> Room 122	X	3:35 – 4:15 PM	X	X	X
<b>Gilmer</b> Room 140	X	X	X	3:35 – 4:15 PM	X
<b>L. Hernandez</b> Band Room	X	X	7:15 – 7:45 AM	X	X
<b>M. Hernandez</b> Drama Room	3:45 – 4:45 PM	X	X	X	X
<b>Klein</b> Room 126	X	3:35 – 4:15 PM	X	X	X
<b>Maja</b> Room 242	X	X	3:35 – 4:15 PM	X	X
<b>Wang</b> Room 219	X	X	X	3:35 – 4:15 PM	X

### Emails:

Brame – [vbrame@houstonisd.org](mailto:vbrame@houstonisd.org)

Garrett – [vgarret1@houstonisd.org](mailto:vgarret1@houstonisd.org)

Gilmer – [mgilmer@houstonisd.org](mailto:mgilmer@houstonisd.org)

L. Hernandez – [lherna27@houstonisd.org](mailto:lherna27@houstonisd.org)

M. Hernandez – [mherna54@houstonisd.org](mailto:mherna54@houstonisd.org)

Klein – [sklein1@houstonisd.org](mailto:sklein1@houstonisd.org)

Maja – [mdimitri@houstonisd.org](mailto:mdimitri@houstonisd.org)

Wang – [swang@houstonisd.org](mailto:swang@houstonisd.org)

## Event Descriptions

- 🐾 **Calculator Applications:** Students will take a test containing 80 problems in 30 minutes. The contest consists of problems which may include calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, and powers. Calculators are permitted.
- 🐾 **Dictionary Skills:** Each test consists of 40 objective questions. Contestants use dictionaries in the competition.
- 🐾 **Duet Improvisation:** Teams will select three situations/words/photos/funny sayings/etc. from an envelope and will develop a scene based on one of the three items randomly chosen. An introduction should be presented, explaining the forthcoming scene. Three minutes are allowed for preparation. Five minutes are allowed for presentation.
- 🐾 **Editorial Writing:** This is a 45-minute contest. Contest materials shall consist of a fact sheet from which participants will develop an editorial.
- 🐾 **Impromptu Speaking (English and Spanish):** Contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which shall be presented without any notes. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest.
- 🐾 **Listening:** Contestants will listen to a script ranging from approximately seven to 10 minutes in length, take notes as needed, and use their notes to answer 25 multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false test questions. A variety of subject matter will be used for the listening tests.
- 🐾 **Maps, Graphs, and Charts:** Students will be given an objective test containing approximately 75 multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions which shall be answered in 45 minutes. The objective test will measure skills such as using an atlas as a reference book to locate information, making comparisons, estimating and approximating, using scale, and interpreting grid systems, legends, and keys.
- 🐾 **Mathematics:** The contest consists of 50 multiple-choice problems covering, but not limited to: numeration systems, arithmetic operations involving whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals, exponents, order of operations, probability, statistics, number theory, simple interest, measurements, and conversions. Geometry and algebra problems may be included as appropriate for the grade level. Calculators are not permitted.
- 🐾 **Modern Oratory (English and Spanish):** Prior to the tournament, the contestant will select a topic and acknowledge both pro and con points citing support discovered in their research. Students will choose a side to defend and support that side with additional evidence. At the tournament, students will deliver a three to six minute speech on their topic without the use of notes.
- 🐾 **Music Memory (6<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY):** Students will listen to approximately 20 seconds of up to 20 musical selections and write down the name of the major work (if it is required), selection title, and the name of the composer.
- 🐾 **Number Sense:** Students will be given a 10-minute, fill-in-the-blank test which they shall complete without doing calculations on paper or on a calculator. Erasures, mark-overs, and mark-outs are not permitted. Concepts covered include, but are not limited to: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, proportions, and use of mathematic notation.
- 🐾 **Oral Reading (English and Spanish):** Students shall have a maximum of six minutes to read selections of prose. Each selection may be a single reading, a cutting from a longer selection, or a combination of several selections. The same selection may be read in all rounds, but different selections are permissible. Selections shall be published, although the post may be unknown or anonymous. Prose readings may include fables, yarns, tales, science fiction, fantasy, mysteries, etc. There is no minimum time limit.

- 🐾 **Ready Writing:** Contestants are given a choice between two prompts, each of which defines the audience and provides the purpose for writing. Students should analyze the prompts for purpose, format, audience, and point of view. The writing period is timed, to be determined by the district.
- 🐾 **Science I and II (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY):** Each test will consist of approximately 35 objective questions. Concepts include, but are not limited to: matter and energy, equilibrium, force and motion, physical and chemical properties, the relationship between organisms and the environment, the components of our solar system, and the composition of matter and genetics.
- 🐾 **Social Studies:** The contest is designed to encourage students to expand their knowledge of social studies, particularly in the areas of history, government, systems, economics, citizenship, and culture. Students will be given an objective test containing approximately 40 questions, which shall be answered in 30 minutes.
- 🐾 **Solo Acting:** Students will present a selection from a published play, novel, short story, or poem. Selections must be memorized and must include an introduction stating the title and author. Costumes and props are allowed, including only one chair. Maximum time limit is seven minutes.
- 🐾 **Spelling:** Students will write down words given by their pronouncer. The sixth grade contest will have 80 words. The seventh and eighth grade contest will have 110 words.
- 🐾 **TV Commercial:** Contestants will pull three objects from a bag and will select one for use in “selling” a product to a television audience. Two minutes will be allowed for preparation. Two minutes will be allowed for presentation of the commercial. Commercials should include (1) the name of the product, (2) the cost of the product, and (3) the locations where the product may be purchased.

## Which Coach?

- 🐾 Brame: Maps, Charts, & Graphs and Social Studies
- 🐾 Garrett: Dictionary Skills, Editorial Writing, Ready Writing, and Spelling
- 🐾 Gilmer: Impromptu Speaking (Spanish), Modern Oratory (Spanish), and Oral Reading (Spanish)
- 🐾 L. Hernandez: Music Memory
- 🐾 M. Hernandez: Duet Improvisation, Solo Acting, and TV Commercial
- 🐾 Klein: Calculator Applications, Mathematics, and Number Sense
- 🐾 Maja: Impromptu Speaking (English), Listening, Modern Oratory (English), and Oral Reading (English)
- 🐾 Wang: Science I and Science II

## Tentative Saturday Tournament Schedule

8:30-8:45

Registration

9:00 – Section A

Spelling (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Spelling (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Social Studies (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Social Studies (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Oral Reading English  
Oral Reading Spanish  
Science I (7<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Science II (8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)

10:15 – Section B

Maps, Graphs & Charts (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Maps, Graphs & Charts (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Ready Writing (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Ready Writing (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Impromptu Speaking English  
Impromptu Speaking Spanish  
Television Commercial

11:30 – Section C

Calculator Applications (6-8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Editorial Writing (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Modern Oratory English (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Modern Oratory Spanish (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Duet Improvisation  
Listening (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Listening (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)

12:45 – Section D

Mathematics  
Music Memory (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Solo Acting  
*Finals – Oral Reading English*  
*Finals – Oral Reading Spanish*

2:00 – Section E

Number Sense (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Number Sense (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Dictionary Skills (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
Dictionary Skills (7/8<sup>th</sup> Gr.)  
*Finals – Impromptu Speaking English*  
*Finals – Impromptu Speaking Spanish*  
*Finals – Television Commercial*

3:15

*Finals – Modern Oratory English*  
*Finals – Modern Oratory Spanish*  
*Finals – Duet Improvisation*  
*Finals – Solo Acting*

5:00

Awards Assembly

### Academic Meets

**December 13, 2014**

Welch Middle School  
11544 South Gessner

**January 10, 2015**

Revere Middle School  
10502 Briar Forest

**March 7, 2015**

Pershing Middle School  
3838 Bluebonnet

**May 16, 2015 – District Meet**

Westbury High School  
1911 Chimney Rock

***Parents – Remember, you must provide transportation to and from the academic tournaments!***

Please note that you are **NOT** allowed to enter more than one *academic* event in each "Section" due to scheduling conflicts. You **may**, however, cross-enter in *speech* events only. If you are cross-entering in a speech event, you must have permission from the coach and a cross-entering form.



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## UIL Academics Policies and Expectations Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to follow all UIL Academics policies and expectations set forth in the introductory packet. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my teammates and coaches, and I will work hard to ensure my success and my team's success during practice and academic tournaments. I am aware that any violation of these policies and expectations may result in suspension during a tournament or removal from the UIL Academics team. I understand that the policies and expectations are open to change when appropriate and that I will be held accountable for following any new policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Events I am interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Dear Parent or Guardian:

By signing this, you are stating that you have read and agree to the policies and expectations contained in the introductory packet and are allowing your child to participate in and attend UIL Academics events. You will also provide transportation for your child to and from practices and academic tournaments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I am interested in serving as an event judge and/or chaperone during a Saturday academic tournament (more details to come).

Yes! I would like to donate **\$20** (attached in sealed envelope with student name) to the UIL Academics activity fund for meals and supplies. **Other amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form to Ms. Brame's box in Office B!

