

Watermelon Supper and Fall Sports Kick-Off

Our annual tradition continues when the school community comes out for our fall sports kick-off with our popular Watermelon Supper, which will be held on **Friday, August 23, at 5:00 p.m. on the Wildcat Football Field**. We hope all of our Wildcat Families -- from every school in every grade -- will join us as we kick off our school year with our annual event. We're going to be serving up hot dogs, watermelon, and Wildcat Fun!

Episcopal Media Galleries

Keep up-to-date with Episcopal photo and video galleries by bookmarking our [Flickr](#) and [Vimeo](#) pages!

Episcopal Social Media

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for the latest campus happenings!

Fall 2019 Percussion Newsletter

[Click here for a link to the 2019 Fall Percussion newsletter.](#)

Lower School

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

Welcome back, Wildcats! We have had an incredible first few days reconnecting with friends, meeting teachers, and getting to know new classmates and routines. The buzz around the halls is tremendously positive and energizing; it is hard not to be a very proud Wildcat these days.

We will welcome our youngest students Monday, so please note that there may be additional traffic around the Lower School that morning. I wanted to remind you all that our first Spirit Day will be next Friday, August 23. We hope you and your family will join us for the annual Watermelon Supper that afternoon from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This event is a great opportunity to connect with families across all three divisions.

Finally, I hope that all new families have had a smooth transition into the school year. We will host the New Parent Reception on Sunday, August 25 at 5:00 p.m. If you have any concerns or questions before that time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to an amazing year with your children, families, and our incredible faculty. I hope you are as excited as we all are here!

Sincerely,

Catherine Schuhmacher

Head of Lower School

Chapel News

Blessings on a new school year! What a joy to see students on campus again.

In our upcoming Community Chapel, for the first through fifth grade, I will be speaking about the gift of a new school year and the ways that God's gifts surround us every day. We will be talking about how we can recognize the goodness and grace around us when we pay attention and reflect on our experiences. **Parents are always welcome to join us for chapel!**

In Godly Play, we will be exploring the metaphor of light as a way to talk about God's presence and love. A candle will be lit for each child as a symbol of how their lives can be a light for others as they share all the good gifts God has given them.

Fifth Grade Readers: **Emma Beard, Emily Benton and Phillips Blair.**

Cantors: **Mary-Kathryn Irby, Emma Duncan and Liam Bailey.**

Grace & Peace,

Mother Curtis+

Lower School Chaplain

Lower School Picture Day

Individual student pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 4. All students will be required to wear Dress Uniform, Option A. Click [here](#) to see what is needed for Dress Uniform.

If you would like to go ahead and order your child's picture packet, please click [here](#) and then enter our school ID: **EVTDR8CPW**. You will then be asked to enter your child's name and grade. Paper picture packets will be sent home in backpacks soon.

Parent Technology/Resource Powerpoint

Many of you attend the parent technology information session at Orientation. [Please click here](#) to see the presentation if you were not able to attend. Thank you to Mrs. Keener and Mrs. Linder for providing these wonderful resources!

Room Parent Sign-Up

We need YOU! Would you consider serving as your child's room parent this year? Thank you in advance for saying yes!

Room Parent Sign-Up Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4CA8A72FA13-ecsroom>

What does a room parent do? Room parents organize classroom parties and teacher recognition, and they help the teacher with odds and ends throughout the year. Room parents do not have to be craft experts; we just need you to be organized and willing to ask for help from your class. We would love to have two parent volunteers per class.

We would like to kick off the year with an organizational meeting on Wednesday, August 21, at 8:00 a.m. in the Lower School Dining Hall.

Thank you for considering playing this important role for your child's class,

Angie Johnson & Mary-Margaret Marks

Room Parent Coordinators 2019-2020

Spirit Day - Friday, August 23

We will celebrate our first school-wide Spirit Day on Friday, August 23. Students may wear any Episcopal spirit shirt or a green or white shirt with uniform shorts. Cheerleading uniforms, Episcopal-themed dresses, and football jerseys with uniform shorts are allowed as well. Students may wear any socks and tennis shoes they prefer.

Wildcat Chorale

Wildcat Chorale Begins Tuesday, August 27 at 3:15 p.m.

All fourth and fifth graders are warmly invited to sing with Wildcat Chorale. We meet on Tuesdays from 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. Members will have fun singing, learning music and technique, creating beauty, spreading joy, and going on several field trips representing the Lower School. We perform concerts, are featured in the Christmas Programs, and chapels. Return your permission slip to Mrs. Clark (yellow sheet in take-home folder).

Come have a blast singing with us!

Carpool Reminders

Please do not use cell phones once you enter school gates in carpool line. Also, please do not allow your children to unbuckle their seat belts until the car is in park.

Super Sessions

Registration is now open for all fall Super Sessions. Click [here](#) to register.

Our Super Session highlight for the week is Mrs. Pate's football edition of Painting with Pate, offered for students in third through fifth grade. This fun session will be held on Tuesday, September 3, from 3:45 - 5:30 p.m. in Lower School Room 130. Cost is \$48.00.

"Hey Wildcats! It's that time again... Time to show our Wildcat school spirit and cheer on our awesome football team!! Come get fired up with a football themed painting class. Never painted before? No problem! Mrs. Pate will guide you step-by-step and show you

how to make a stuffed burlap football to hang on your front door. Seats are limited, so sign up today to enjoy snacks, painting, music, and friends."

Our after-school program, Wildcat Club is in full swing! Please let [Morgan Dlouhy](#) or [Emma Daily](#) know if you have any questions. The Wildcat Club emergency contact number is 501.804.6649.

Pride Patrol

Each week, ten fourth and fifth-grade students will be assigned to assist with morning carpool duty. They will open doors, greet students, and those assigned to the Pre-K area will walk students to their classrooms. Students will be assigned to either K-5 carpool or Pre-K carpool and will need to be ready to start at 7:30 a.m that entire week. Students assigned to Pre-K will read morning announcements the following week. If there is a week that your child is assigned and he or she is unable to attend each day at 7:30 a.m., please email [Tonya Thomas](#) and we will find a replacement. This is an excellent opportunity for students to be leaders in our school and start other students' day with a pleasant greeting.

Pride Patrol students assigned for next week, Monday, August 19 - Friday, August 23 are:

Pre-K Carpool: Abby Arnold, Rhett Braunecker, Claire Covert, Gray Dickinson, Riley Dickinson

K-5 Carpool: Caroline Beard, Lucas Campbell, Jack Cochran, Emma Duncan, Vivi Green

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 20

- PSL Cheer Practice, LS gym, 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21

- Community Chapels
 - PreK 3, 8:45am-9am
 - PreK 4, 8:15am-8:30am
 - Kindergarten, 9:10am-9:25am
 - 1st-5th, 10:45am-11:15am

Thursday, August 22

- PSL 5th Grade Volleyball practice, LS gym, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, August 23 - Spirit Day

- Watermelon Supper, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Find the [LS Calendar](#) here.

Middle School

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Middle School Parents,

We are off to a terrific start in Middle School, orienting a number of brand-new seventh and eighth grade families earlier this week, in addition to a host of wonderful sixth grade folks. With the exception of a longer-than-usual carpool pickup on the first day, this has been the most positive start I have witnessed in my time here! We had our own Middle School Convocation program, featuring speeches by a faculty member - eighth grade teacher Mr. McHan - and our Student Council President, Luke Beck (8 gr.).

Mr. McHan's remarks are included here:

MS Convocation (first day of school)

Hello everyone. I am Mr. McHan, Coach McHan, whichever works best for you. Many of you have seen me around the last three years as either a teacher or coach. It's good to see everyone back. For those of you new students, we are so happy you're here and are looking forward to a great year.

When I think about where I fall in this place, in this community, I get a little confused. You may look at me in my tie and think, "he's a teacher". It's hard for me to say that when I look around at others with that title and the experiences I have had with them, and think that I could possibly fall into the same category as them. I like to think of my class as engaging, some of you

may think otherwise. But in observing Mr. Webb's class for ten minutes last year, I almost fell out of my seat laughing. I try daily to appear and to act professional, after all I am a professional teacher. But Dr. McCormick was literally born in a bowtie, leading a professional development session. There's actually only a little exaggeration in that. I can hear the most elegant conversation from across the hall about the intricacies of some obscure author's symbolism in a book I've never heard of, between Dr. Lien and Mrs. Wood. I suddenly realize me not make word so good. How many of you know who Michael Jordan is? Now how many of you know who Pete Myers is? Pete Myers is the guy who the Bulls signed to replace Michael Jordan when he retired for the first time after winning the title in 1993. Imagine how he must have felt. Big shoes to fill, huh? That's exactly how I feel teaching students the year after they've had Mrs. Lenfestey. I could go on and on about how amazing my colleagues are, so you can see how it might be hard for me to identify as a member of such an elite group.

So maybe I should identify with the students who are returning from last year? After all, many of you have been at Episcopal longer than I have, and I am still learning new things every single day. Am I really more of a student? Then I look in the hallways and see the amazing artwork that you guys have produced or go to a game and see what you can do on the field or court. We've had students from this Middle School dance in competitions all over the world, win championships in a ton of different sports, and take their art to competitions and win! I am consistently impressed by the students here.

Then I think about how nervous I am at the start of a new year, so I think maybe the group that I fit in with most is the new sixth graders and new students. I can't wait to see the talents and gifts that you bring to Episcopal this year, but I can imagine that many of you are nervous to be in a new place, whether it's a new building or new school entirely. I'm hopeful it's an excited sort of nervous. That's the kind that I feel at the start of a new year. Where you just can't wait to get started and see what the year will hold. I think I'm a new teacher every year, which makes me a little nervous.

All this to say that sometimes it can be really hard to know exactly who we are within a community like this. We look around and see other people doing things that maybe we can't do, haven't tried, or would never think to try. We see people who like things that we don't or have never been exposed to. Figuring out who you are can be really difficult. You know when is a great time to start? Right now! This year! Why wait?

Now you do have to remember that you go to Episcopal, which means a couple of things. You can always go to Mrs. Chaudoir for a hug. Four square games are always available, thanks to Ms. Lewis. And you will be supported in whatever you pour your heart into. This community, more than any other that I have ever been a part of, loves its own. When you belong to this Wildcat family, you've got three divisions and 15 grades worth of students and faculty cheering you on in whatever you pursue. My hope for this year is that our proudest tradition, supporting our community, thrives more than ever before. That everyone on this campus can discover a little bit more about who they are and will have an army of Wildcats to help them along. I hope you all have a great year. Welcome Back and Go, Wildcats!

Opening Middle School Social - Friday, August 23 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

We will hold our first Middle School social next Friday, August 23, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall and Championship Gym. As the Watermelon Supper will take place on the football field beforehand, students may simply come and check in starting at 7:00 p.m. Dress for this event is casual-appropriate. We will have a DJ in the dining hall and the gym will be open for games. Students may bring their phones, but we will ask that they use them exclusively in a spot designated by the faculty. **Please pick up your child at the entrance to the MS/US Dining Hall nearest the football field, and please do so by 9 p.m.** As you can imagine, this is a long day for faculty!

Bringing Students Lunch?

I would like to remind our parents that if you choose to bring a restaurant lunch to school for your student, you are required to eat with them. If you wish to bring lunch for your child **and** his/her advisory for a celebration, birthday party, etc., that is perfectly fine, and you may arrange that with your student's advisor. In either case, you need to check in at the Middle School Office before proceeding into the building.

Middle School Picture Day

Individual picture day is next Wednesday, Aug. 21st! Students **MUST** wear their Dress Uniform! Link to purchase individual school pictures: Mylifetouch.com, **Picture Day I.D.: EVTHVHV2T**

Upcoming Events

August 21 - Class/Individual pictures (Dress Uniform)

August 23 - Watermelon Supper, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

August 23 – First Middle School social, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (MS/US Dining Hall)

September 2 - Labor Day – No School

October 10 - Family/Teacher conferences (No classes or activities, but students should participate in Middle School conferences with parents/guardians.)

Find the [MS Calendar](#) here.

Upper School

A Note from Mr. Urquhart

We've had a great start to the year! Students bring life to the school, and I've enjoyed having them back on campus this week and getting to hear about some of the great things they did this summer: our ninth graders made a trip to Colorado, and other students have talked about internship experiences, athletic camps, books they read, time they spent with family, and the days when they slept late and watched movies on Netflix. During Wednesday's bell ringing ceremony to open school, Father Rob offered us a wonderful version of the bell legend that was both whimsical and historical. One of our long-time faculty members--who has been present for every version of this story--told me how much he enjoyed this year's version, which students enjoyed and

which offered not only entertainment but also the opportunity to think deeply about what the new year offers.

Most of all, I've enjoyed seeing the ways that our students engage with each other--one of our new faculty members told me this morning how encouraged she was when she saw how inclusive our community is. Several times this week, she noticed our returning students inviting new students to join them in conversation. It might be easy sometimes for us to take for granted the ways that our students invest their time and attention in their relationships with each other, but I feel very fortunate to be in a school community where relationships are so highly valued.

We know that our advisors worked closely with students last spring to select courses for this year, but if any students would like to change a course, we are asking them to see Ms. Julie Fitz in the Upper School office no later than next Friday, August 23, to complete an add/drop request form. If students find that they need additional support with any of their courses, teachers are happy to meet with them outside of class time. Additionally, our Math Lab is open before and after school, and our Writing Center is open throughout the day.

For our students planning to take the ACT in September, Ms. Tori Garrett is offering math review sessions on three Mondays leading up to the test date. On August 19, she'll review concepts and skills from Geometry; on August 26, she'll review Algebra, and on September 9, she'll cover test-taking strategies for the math portion of the test. These sessions will be held in US 102 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Students who plan to attend should let Ms. Garrett know in advance.

Looking forward to next week, school photos will be taken of our ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-grade students on Wednesday, August 21; students should be in dress uniform that day for photos. I hope that you'll join us next Thursday, August 22, for the Upper School's Back to School Night. We'll meet together in the MS/US Dining Hall at 7:00 p.m., and then you'll have the chance to spend a few minutes with your child's advisor and each of your child's teachers. I also hope that you'll come out next Friday evening for our annual Watermelon Supper to help kick off the new year and celebrate our student athletes.

Also, for those of you who are parents of seniors, please join us on Monday, August 26, at 5:30 p.m. for a discussion with Ms. Tricia Morgan about college applications, scholarships, and financial aid.

Troy Urquhart

Head of Upper School

College Counseling

Seniors will begin three weeks of College Counseling Class with Ms. Morgan on Tuesday, August 20. The students will come one study hall per week to create accounts in our new college counseling software, Scoir, to learn how to request transcripts and teacher recommendations, begin the Common App, send test scores, and so much more. [Here is a link to the College Counseling Class schedule.](#) Please make every effort to have your senior at school during this period.

Upper School Picture Day

Individual picture day is next Wednesday, Aug. 21st! Students **MUST** wear their Dress Uniform! Link to purchase individual school pictures: Mylifetouch.com, **Picture Day I.D.: EVTHVHV2T**

Upcoming Events

August 21 - Class/Individual pictures (Dress Uniform)

August 23 - Watermelon Supper, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

August 26 - Senior Parent College Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

September 2 - Labor Day – No School

October 10 - Family/Teacher Conferences

Find the [US Calendar](#) here.

Athletics

Exciting things are happening on campus right now! The Wildcat fall teams are preparing for action, and have been all summer. If you stopped by our campus, you saw first-hand the many teams preparing for their upcoming seasons. Coach Johnson has been busy in the Fitness Center training athletes to be faster, stronger, and ready to go for their competitive seasons. The coaches have been meeting, strategizing, working with athletes, and ensuring they are game day ready. The people you need to applaud the most though, are the student-athletes. They have given up time over the summer to become faster, stronger, and tougher. They are willing to do whatever it takes to succeed. It is during these moments, which no one sees, that they are at their best. This is why they will succeed - because they chose to put time and effort in when no one was watching, when a clock wasn't ticking, or when there was no pitch count. They chose to get better. While that does not guarantee victories, it does guarantee success on and off the field. With the work ethic they are developing, they may still have setbacks in loss column, but they will never fail. They are finding out what it is like to face adversity and keep going. Keep looking at the calendar, the Golf team starts everything off and we couldn't be more excited! Friday night is also the Watermelon Supper, and Saturday the Volleyball team will travel to Harding for a jamboree to compete against some of the best teams in the state. Go, Wildcats!

FALL SPORTS... ...IT'S TIME

Upcoming Games

Tuesday, August 20

- Boys and Girls Varsity Golf - CAC, at Burns Park

Thursday, August 22

- Boys and Girls Varsity Golf - Lisa Academy, at 1st Tee

Saturday, August 24

- Girls Varsity Volleyball - Harding Academy Jamboree
- 5th and 6th Grade Football vs. LRC White, AWAY at 10:30 a.m.

Find the [Wildcat Athletic Calendar](#) here.