

Dear Episcopal Collegiate Community,

It is hard to believe that we are entering the final weeks of the 2020-21 school year. I don't have to tell you that we are in the midst of the busiest time. Every week brings one of our year-ending events, traditions, and ceremonies, including honor society recognitions, Lower School Field Day, Blazer Ceremony, 8th Grade Moving-up Ceremony, 5th Grade Recognition, Baccalaureate, Class Day, and Commencement. The list goes on. I have no doubt that these final weeks will be exciting and memorable ones for all of our families.

In the midst of our end-of-year busyness, we must also start to prepare for the 2021-22 school year. I am pleased to report that those preparations are well underway. In that regard, I am sure that many of you are wondering about next year in terms of how we will operate given the uncertainty of how the pandemic may continue to impact our community. Although it is a bit early to know for sure what the health situation will be in Little Rock in August, current trends are favorable. Covid cases are down significantly from their highest levels, and vaccination rates continue to improve. It is also significant that the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine was recently approved for children 12 to 15. In addition, new CDC guidelines, announced just yesterday, clear the way for fully vaccinated people to resume most activities without masks and distancing. (We are still digesting this news trying to determine the impact, if any, on how we operate the school for the last two weeks of school.)

In the coming weeks, we will continue to gather more information, including the vaccination rates for our students 12 and older, so that we can make informed decisions about how we move forward. We are hopeful that guidelines for operating schools will continue to evolve and move us toward normalcy. Although it is too early to finalize our approach, one decision that has been made is that we will prioritize in-person learning. For 2021-22, the synchronous, virtual learning option will only be available to accommodate documented medical situations of a serious nature and decisions about its availability will be made on a case by case basis. More complete guidelines will be communicated this summer.

To help support our efforts to open school in the best way possible, we encourage all in our school community who are eligible to get vaccinated.

Our goal is to provide you with our next update in June, which allows adequate time to coordinate with our medical panel. Let us stay vigilant so that we can finish the year well. We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Steve Hickman  
Interim Head of School

## **Starting Monday, May 17, Daily Temperature Checks Will Be Discontinued**

After consultation with our medical advisory group, we will no longer require temperature checks to start the school day or upon entering a school event. We thank everyone for their support.

## **Little Rock Downtown Bridges Light Up The Night For The Class of 2021**

On the evening of graduation, May 22, 2021, Episcopal will share the stage with Lisa Academy, Robinson High School, and Mills High School as the downtown bridges light up the night for the Class of 2021! Show off your green and blue pride by tagging us in your photos and videos!

The light display will begin between 8:15 and 8:30 and will run throughout the night. Please note, the colors rotate every 4 minutes.

Go, Wildcats!

## **Summer @ the E!**

Enrichment and athletic camps are now [available for registration](#). Summer @ the E! is proud to offer some popular camps from previous years (including Bike Camp, Football Camp, Cheer Camp) as well as brand new activities (Lego Camp, 3D Printing Camp) for our students and non-Episcopal students! If you have any questions about Summer @ the E! 2021 or to register, reach out to [summer@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:summer@episcopalcollegiate.org). We look forward to spending this summer with you and your friends!

Discovery Day Camp is also available for [registration](#), which is open to all students from Pre-K3 through rising 7th grade. Each week of Discover Day Camp will include a splash day on the lawn, sports and outdoor games, arts and crafts, and enriching activities related to the weekly theme.

Dates and Themes:

**Week 1** June 7-11: Outer Space

**Week 2** June 14-18: Know Your Natural State

**Week 3** June 21-25: All Creatures Great and Small

**Week 4** June 28-July 2: Party in the USA

**Week 5** July 6-9: Discovering Dinosaurs

**Week 6** July 12-16: Farm Week

**Week 7** July 19-23: Under the Sea

**Week 8** July 26-30: Up in the Air

**Week 9** August 2-6: Pirates

## **Summer @ the E! Camp Highlight - Kids Cook! Cafe with Faith Anaya**

Inspire your kid chef to be creative, to be confident in the kitchen, and to develop healthy behavior patterns. Students will learn about the ingredients, tools, equipment, and skills that you need to be a chef. They will practice safe cutting, measuring, combining, presentation, and tasting techniques. The Café chefs will prepare and cook their creations. Best of all--there is a different restaurant every day! This camp is designed to encourage independence, to nurture interest in cooking, develop skills, and have fun! Students will take home a recipe book, extra tastes, and a cooking tool.

(In accordance with our safety policies, students must be 6 by the first day of camp.)

**Date:** July 12-16

**Time:** 9AM-11AM

**Grades:** 1st-3rd

**Tuition:** \$185

**Yearbooks are Here!**

The Yearbook staff is proud to share with you the 2021 yearbook--Behind the Scenes. We spent time this week passing out books and signing with our friends--a traditional milestone during this very different school year. If you did not pre-order a yearbook but are interested in getting one now, please add your name to the waiting list by Wednesday, May 19. Please find the link to the waiting list below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wothojl7etcGoINjhtU7HHyWG5AJhWihXXKmk8P39KI/edit?usp=sharing>

If you have questions, please email Julie Fitz: [jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org)

## **Episcopal Collegiate Annual Fund**

Our current family participation rate is 42%. If you have not made your contribution yet, there's still time! We ask that each family [participate with a donation](#); no gift is too small and every gift makes a difference in the life of a Wildcat!

## **Covid-19 Reporting Form**

Families, please remember to use this Covid-19 reporting form when reporting school absences, Covid-19 exposure, and Covid-19 test results.

[Find the updated reporting form for school absences, Covid-19 exposure, and Covid-19 test results here.](#)

## **A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher**

It's hard to believe, but we have made it to the last few weeks of school. Capstones are complete, yearbooks distributed, and our end-of-year traditions are set to take place. We had our final Division Meeting this week where we said farewell to our teachers who are leaving. I will share more details about departures and internal moves at a later date, but I did want to celebrate two very special teachers who are retiring this year.

Patti Coleman and Jane Ann Fortenberry have been with the Lower School since the doors opened in 2009. They came with quite a following and incredible reputation as educators in the Little Rock community. We are so grateful for the love, care, and dedication they have shared with our students

over the past 12 years. We wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement. Cheers to Patti and Jane Ann!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher  
Head of Lower School

## Running Club Final Mile Complete

The 4th and 5th grade running club finished their final mile last Saturday. It was a beautiful day to run. [Click here to view pictures.](#)

## Field Day Information

Field Day is coming soon! Our committee has been working diligently to plan a safe and fun day for students. To keep our numbers low, parents may only attend if they are volunteering with an assigned job.

Please note that students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will dismiss at noon on Thursday, May 27 and not return on Friday, May 28. Students in PreK through 2nd will dismiss at noon on Friday, May 28, as planned.

### Field Day Schedule

**Thursday, May 27 - 3rd, 4th, & 5th dismiss at noon & don't attend Friday**

8:15-9:15am - 3rd Grade

9:20-10:25am - 4th Grade

10:30-12pm - 5th Grade - Pizza picnic, Dismiss directly from football field

**Friday, May 28 - PK-2 dismiss at noon in regular carpool line**

8:15-9am - PK 3 & 4

9:10-9:55am - Kinder

10:05-10:50am - 1st

11:00-11:50am - 2nd

## **Attention 5th Grade Parents - Recognition Ceremony Information**

Our 5th Grade Recognition Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 26 at 2:00 pm in the Championship Gym. To maintain reasonable and safe numbers, we ask that no more than two family members per student attend the in-person event. We plan to livestream for those who cannot attend.

## **Chapel News**

In Chapel, our very own Lower School Counselor, Mrs. Betsy Abbott, will be speaking as she helps us to celebrate the school year in giving thanks for the good and letting go of the bad.

You can watch the Lower School Chapels live on Wednesdays at this [Live Stream Link](#). PreK & Kinder Chapel is at 8:15am and 1st-5th Grade is at 10:45am. You can find previous chapels on our YouTube channel playlist [Here](#).

In Godly Play, we will explore the story of Paul by looking at parts of the letters that are included in the Bible. Paul wrote many letters to churches around the Roman Empire as he traveled as a missionary. Paul writes letters of encouragement and hope as he explains the ways that love behaves.

Grace & Peace,  
Mother Curtis

**Find the [LS Calendar](#) here.**

## A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Parents,

### No school for middle school students on Friday, May 21!

Parents, as a reminder, middle school students will not have school on Friday, May 21. Typically, we have celebrated a joint middle/upper school awards program known as Class Day on this Friday, and we have not held classes anyway. This year, because we are holding our Middle School Class Day events on May 19 and May 20, middle school students should not come to school on May 21.

I recently had the opportunity to watch a 30-minute video that Mr. David Webb showed all of his eighth grade Latin students on the *Meditations* of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. I would encourage you to watch it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu0xDtK3g3Q>, as both Mr. Webb and I marvel at how a personal diary written 2000 years ago still offers both useful and relevant messages for living a good life.

### Heart of the Wildcat Recipients

During Thursday's Morning Meeting, we recognized four students with the Heart of the Wildcat Award, for doing random acts of kindness for others and the community. Here are their names and deeds:

**6th graders Charlie Radtke, Jack Cochran, and Liam Bailey:** *On Thursday, May 6, these boys remained at the sixth grade lunch/recess spot and cleaned up areas where trash had been left. This was not their personal trash. Thank you, Boys!*

**8th grader Addison Linder:** *". . . very kind and helpful with my history project"* Nicely done, Addison.

### Class Day Award Ceremonies: Dates and Times

[6th grade](#) - Wednesday, May 19, 12:45-1:25pm

[7th grade](#) - Thursday, May 20, 8:30-9:15am

[8th grade](#) - Thursday, May 20, 12:45-1:25pm

These programs will all be livestreamed at the following link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Fcx9TvCdt3\\_JyaGoD1wdg/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Fcx9TvCdt3_JyaGoD1wdg/live).

### **Exam Prep Assistance!**

This was a note that Mrs. Radtke sent to our students earlier this week: I will be visiting many of your advisories over the next couple of weeks to share some reminders about exam prep. In addition, if you want help organizing your materials and creating a personalized study schedule, I will be available for exam prep organization in the AAC from 12:45-1:25 on Friday, May 14th, Tuesday, May 18th, and Wednesday, May 19th. You can schedule an appointment with me or just drop by. I'll have extra organization supplies available.

Chuck McCormick  
Head of Middle School

## **Summer For-Credit Course Registration Open for Rising 9th - 12th Grade Students**

Rising 9th-12th grade students who are planning to take Online Health, Online Oral Communications, or Wildcat Wellness this summer need to register online using the [Summer at the E!](#) site. Registration will remain open until Friday, May 21st.

Want to know more about the summer course offerings? Check out the information here: [2021 Summer For-Credit Courses](#)

**Find the [MS Calendar](#) here.**

### **A Note from Mr. Urquhart**

We're looking forward to next week, when we'll celebrate many of our traditional end-of-year events with our students. On Wednesday, May 19, we



will recognize our current juniors during our Chapel time as they transition to senior status and receive their senior blazers. Rising seniors and up to four members of their household will be able to attend in person, and live streaming will be available through the school's [YouTube channel](#) during the event for those who are unable to join us in person. The event will begin at 9:20 am in our Championship Gymnasium, and guests should not arrive any earlier than 9:00 am.

On the evening of Thursday, May 20, we will hold our annual Baccalaureate service at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Attendance at this event is limited to members of the senior class and up to four family members as guests. Baccalaureate will begin at 5:00 pm, with live streaming available through the Cathedral.

On Friday, May 21, the Upper School will celebrate Class Day. In-person attendance at this event will be limited, but all members of our graduating senior class and award winners will be able to attend with up to four members of their household as guests. Please be sure that award winners have filled out the Google Form that was emailed earlier this week to reserve your seating. Class Day will begin at 9:30am in our Championship Gymnasium, with live streaming available through the school's [YouTube channel](#) during the event. As a reminder, regular classes do not meet on Class Day.

On Saturday, May 22, we will celebrate the school's eighteenth graduating class with our Commencement ceremony beginning at 9:30 am. We're excited to welcome Shannon Huffman Polson as this year's Commencement Speaker. One of the first women to fly the Apache helicopter in the U.S. Army, she is the author of *The Grit Factor* and the founder of The Grit Institute, a leadership consultancy committed to whole leader development and a focus on grit and resilience. In-person attendance at this event will be limited to ten guests per graduate, and live streaming will be available through the school's [YouTube channel](#) during the event. As we move into the middle of next week, we will monitor the weather forecast to determine whether the event will take place in the Championship Gymnasium or on the Quad.

Semester examinations for students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will begin on Tuesday, May 25, and conclude on Friday, May 28. In the Upper School, students will take their exams in their advisory classrooms, using the schedule listed below. Students who have been working remotely will follow the same schedule, but they will receive additional information from me and their teachers about taking their exams as exam week approaches.

- Tuesday, 8:00-10:00: English
- Tuesday, 10:30-12:30: Oral Communications
- Wednesday, 8:00-10:00: History and Social Sciences
- Wednesday, 10:30-12:30: World Languages
- Thursday, 8:00-10:00: Mathematics
- Friday, 8:00-10:00: Science

We have also reserved time between 10:30 and 12:30 on Thursday and Friday for students who are taking multiple classes in a subject area--for instance, for students who are taking two science courses or two history courses.

Troy Urquhart  
Head of Upper School

## **Summer For-Credit Course Registration Open for Rising 9th - 12th Grade Students**

Rising 9th-12th grade students who are planning to take Online Health, Online Oral Communications, or Wildcat Wellness this summer need to register online using the [Summer at the E!](#) site. Registration will remain open until Friday, May 21st.

Want to know more about the summer course offerings? Check out the information here: [2021 Summer For-Credit Courses](#)

**Find the [US Calendar](#) here.**

## **Upcoming Games**

**Friday, May 14**

- Girls Varsity Soccer, State Tournament vs. Maumelle Charter @2:00 pm, Burns Park
- Boys Varsity Soccer, State Tournament vs. Centerpoint @4:00 pm, Burns Park

Find team results by visiting our [Athletics News and Schedules](#) page. Click into each team to view results.

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