

Dear Upper School Parents,

I hope you and your loved ones continue to enjoy these hot summer days. I appreciate the hearty welcome I have received from so many of you, and I look forward to partnering with you this year. The 2022-23 school year opens in about five weeks, so we have a good chunk of summer vacation ahead of us. I write to you today to share some back-to-school information, which you will find below. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

See you soon,

Kellen

Back-to-School Information

Please be sure to visit our [Back-to-School Resources](#) page, located on the Episcopal Collegiate School website, for comprehensive back-to-school information, including textbook orders, supplies, uniforms, [summer assignments and enrichment](#), and much more. New families will find this [New Family Brochure](#) useful, and I encourage everyone, at your convenience, to review our [Upper & Middle School Community Handbook](#).

Parents should be able to log onto Veracross to see their child's schedule. Please note that your child's locker assignment and combination may be found in the top left-hand corner of the schedule.

- To find your child's schedule, go to your parent portal and the link displays to the right of pictures/report card links and is called current class schedules.
- Parents of students new to Episcopal will be receiving email information about logging into Veracross. This email expires after 24 hours. Should you miss this window, please contact Mr. Don Stalls, Director of Technology and Innovation, at dstalls@episcopalcollegiate.org.
- We are pleased to continue our partnership with local bookstore Wordsworth Books for our textbooks for the coming year. The Wordsworth website has "gone live" for families to order textbooks. Please visit the [Back-to-School Resources](#) page on our website for an updated textbook list and link to Wordsworth for updated information as the summer progresses.
- Please address scheduling questions to Mrs. Julie Fitz, at jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org, or by phone at 501-372-1194, ext. 2461. The School does not make class/schedule/advisor changes based on requests for a particular teacher.

Class Rotation Calendar

[This link](#) takes you to our class rotation calendar, which displays the Upper and Middle School class schedule for each day of our school calendar.

Student Medical Information Update

Students who have turned 16 or will turn 16 before school begins are required to have their second meningococcal vaccine on or after their 16th birthday-- evidence of this needs to be on file in the US office by Wednesday, August 17. Many students ages 16 -18 are missing this second dose due to the pandemic. Also, if you started the HPV vaccination series remember to follow up with the sequential dose(s).

Any student requiring an asthma or allergy action plan should compile it between now and the start of school and should submit the plan and their medications to Nurse Lenna Hopkins on or before the first day of school. Some US students will carry their emergency medication with them, and in this case, we still need an action plan, knowledge of the plan, and the location of their medication.

With the exception of emergency medications like albuterol, insulin, glucagon, and epinephrine auto injectors, students may not carry medications on their person while at school. For more information, please see the [Episcopal Upper & Middle School Community Handbook](#). Most medication forms are on the school website.

Our annual flu vaccine clinic is scheduled for October 5, 2022. More information will be available in the School's Wildcat Weekly as the event nears.

New Student & New Parent Orientation - Monday, August 15th

We are excited to welcome all new-to-Episcopal students in grades 9-11, from 9 to 11:15 am, along with their parents, to an in-person orientation in the Upper School Commons.

Back-to-School Night (US Parents' Night) - Thursday, August 25th

Please mark your calendar: Back-to-School Night will take place on Thursday, August 25, from approximately 6:45-8:30 pm. This is a great chance to meet your child's teachers and learn more about our academic programs. We will share more details closer to that evening.

Canvas Overview & Training Sessions for Parents

Last year, Episcopal Collegiate moved to a new learning management system (LMS). Consequently, we want to make sure that parents know how to navigate this system to be able to see their child's progress and grades. Here are two, in-person training options that we are offering:

- Tuesday, August 23, 10:00-10:45 am, US Library
- Thursday, August 25, 5:45-6:30 pm, US Library

9th Grade Trip:

We are looking forward to our annual 9th grade trip this Fall. Details will be sent to 9th grade families once finalized.

Need Episcopal Gear?

I am pleased to let you know that every Friday of the school year will be Spirit Day! Shop the Wildcat Warehouse [online here](#). Orders placed through the portal will be ready for pick up after August 3. Orders will be delivered to division offices for Middle and Upper School, and to homerooms for Lower School. Please email Marcy Saoud with any questions about Wildcat Warehouse or to schedule a shopping appointment. Orders will be charged to your FACTS account.

If you would like to shop in person, Wildcat Warehouse will be open the following times:

- Thursday, August 4th: 8 am - 2 pm during the Toggery Pop-up Shop
- Monday, August 15th: 8 am - 2 pm
- Tuesday, August 16th: 10 am - 2 pm
- Beginning Wednesday, August 17, we are open during lunch Wednesdays and Fridays (12:00-1:30 pm) for student/parent shopping. (Students will be asked if they have permission to charge your FACTS account.) Additional hours will be posted once school starts.

Follow the Warehouse's Instagram account for more information [@episcopalwildcatwarehouse](#).

Toggery Pop-Up Shop - Thursday, August 4th

The Toggery will be selling new school uniforms at their on-campus Pop-Up Shop on Thursday, August 4, from 11 am -6 pm, in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall.

New Upper School Faculty in 2022-23

We are thrilled and fortunate to have four outstanding educators join our Upper School team this year. You can read about them below:

Mrs. Marly Gammill - French Teacher

Marly Gammill is a proud Little Rock native. She began learning French during elementary school and carried the love of everything Francophone with her throughout college and graduate school. Marly has a BA in French Studies from the University of Mississippi, an MA in French Linguistics from the University of Alabama, and a Master of Education from UALR. Marly comes to Episcopal Collegiate with ten years of teaching experience. She has spent the last nine years teaching French 1 - AP at Mount St. Mary Academy. Once Marly stepped foot on our campus, she felt the faculty camaraderie was so contagious, she absolutely wanted to be a part

of it. Very recently, Marly began a new chapter entitled, "Motherhood" with the births of her sons Bo (age 2) and George (age 1). She looks forward to the day when they, too, become Wildcats!

Mrs. Annie Hogate - English Teacher

Mrs. Annie Hogate is so excited to return to Episcopal as an Upper School English teacher where she began her teaching career 15 years ago. Mrs. Hogate was born and raised in New York City. She earned her B.A. from Dartmouth College, majoring in English and Psychology, and she discovered her passion for teaching through volunteer and curricular work in the Education Department. She earned her M.Ed. from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has taught Middle School English at The Lexington School in Lexington, KY and Upper School English and AP Psychology at Episcopal Collegiate School. Outside of school, Mrs. Hogate enjoys cooking, tennis, board games, and backpacking with her husband, Brad, and her two children, Charlotte (8) and Tommy (6).

Mr. Jack Lester - Math Teacher

Jack Lester hails from Central Arkansas. After graduating from Conway High School in 2017, Lester graduated summa cum laude from Hendrix College in 2021 with a B.A. in Mathematics. He has spent the past year working on his M.A. in Mathematics Education at the University of Central Arkansas, which he expects to receive next summer. During his studies at Hendrix, Jack tutored fellow undergraduates in several mathematics courses, most notably calculus I and II, and while pursuing his Master's at UCA, he has taught courses in college algebra and served in the math resource lab as well. Mr. Lester is a fourth generation educator in his family, and he is motivated to share the joy he sees in mathematics with students every day. He is very excited to become a part of the Episcopal community!

Mr. Dan Binder - Student-Life Coordinator & History Teacher

Dan Binder is a native New Yorker, but he's spent enough time in the South to pick up an accent. In his fourteen years at Episcopal High School in Houston, Texas, Dan chaired the Religion Department, helped lead the Chapel program, worked with Advisory, and led student retreats, among other duties. Above all, he enjoys working with students and adults to support a strong campus culture that allows young people to flourish. He looks forward to teaching in Episcopal Collegiate's History Department and to serving as the Upper School's Director of Student Life. He holds a B.A. degree from Columbia University and a graduate degree in Divinity from Yale.