

Dear Middle School Parents,

I have enjoyed seeing some of our students here in the mornings for summer workouts or camps and I love seeing recent grads back on campus either working out or just to say hello! Episcopal does become like a second home away from home for many of our students. . . not to mention faculty! Below I will endeavor to provide a host of typical mid-summer reminders about the start of school. Please read the below and prepare for other communications from the School, your child's advisor, and the Wildcat Weekly in the weeks ahead.

#### Back to School Information

While I will highlight new family orientations below, please check the Episcopal Collegiate School website's [School Resources Page](#) for comprehensive back-to-school information, including the very useful 2022-2023 planning calendar, [middle school carpool procedures](#), notes on classroom supplies, uniforms, and book ordering instructions. Other helpful resources include a [New Family Brochure](#) and the [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](mailto: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 [School Resources](#) page on our website for an updated textbook list and for updated information as the summer progresses.
- Please address scheduling questions to Mrs. Fitz, at [jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org), or by phone 501-372-1194, ext. 2461. The School does not make class/schedule/advisor changes based on requests for a particular teacher.

#### MS/US Class Rotation Calendar

[This link](#) will take you to the class rotation calendar, which depicts the Middle/Upper School class schedule for each day of our school calendar.

#### Student Medical Information Update

Students who have turned 11 or will turn 11 before school begins are required to have the Tdap vaccine on or after their birthday and evidence of this needs to be on file with the school by

Wednesday, August 17. Students entering the seventh grade are required to have the meningococcal vaccine, and evidence of this should also be on file in the MS office by August 17. (The meningococcal vaccine might have been given with their 11 year old vaccines). 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 this between now and the start of school and should submit this and their medication to Nurse Lenna Hopkins on or before the first day of school. Some MS students will carry their emergency medication with them. In this case, we still need an action plan, knowledge of this, and 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.

### Locker Set-Up

The first date that students may come to school to set up/organize their lockers is Monday, August 1. This may occur anytime between 8:30am-3pm, Monday-Friday. We ask that students/parents check in at the middle school office prior to going to their child's locker.

### PE Uniforms - Required

Middle School students are required to wear PE uniforms for the 2022-2023 school year. We recommend having two sets of PE uniforms and putting students' names clearly on both shorts and shirts. Students/parents are encouraged to visit the used PE uniform sale from August 1-16, in the entryway of the Middle School - students can set up their lockers at the same time. To order a new PE uniform from the Wildcat Warehouse, please email [orders@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:orders@episcopalcollegiate.org), and provide your size and quantity for shorts and t-shirts. Your order will be filled and left for pick-up in the middle school office.

### Back-to-School Night, Thursday, August 18

This year's event will take place on Thursday, August 18, from approximately 6:45-8:45pm. Parents/guardians will receive more detailed information on this event one week in advance.

Please note that the below orientation programs are only for families new to Episcopal Collegiate Middle School. Returning seventh and eighth grade students/families have no orientation responsibilities, though returning students are encouraged to join their classmates for [grade-specific social events](#) on August 15.

### New Student/Parent Orientations

New seventh grade and eighth grade students and their parents- Monday, August 15, 11:00 am-12:45pm

New seventh and eighth grade students and their parents should plan to attend an in-person welcome program in the Middle School's Erwin Library on Monday, August 15. The formal parent program will conclude at 12:45. The student program will run until 1:00pm, which includes a social event with other members of their grade outdoors in the quad between 12:30 and 1:00.

In-person sixth grade student orientation (No parents, please.)- Tuesday, August 16, 8:30am-12:00pm

Sixth graders should arrive at the middle school via the middle school carpool line entrance between 8:00 and 8:30 am. Students should bring a snack and a water bottle. Dress for this event is casual appropriate - t-shirts with school appropriate logos, shorts that do not rise more than three inches above the knee, and tennis shoes are fine. The student orientation program will run until 12:00pm, and then our Parents' Auxiliary will host a grade-level social from 12 until 12:45 pm. Lunch will not be provided.

Sixth grade in-person parent orientation Tuesday, August 16, 11:15am-12:00pm in the Championship Gym (w/ optional Canvas training from 12-12:45pm)

Parents of sixth grade students are invited to come hear from different members of the middle school administrative and teaching teams and meet their child's advisor. They are also welcome to attend an optional informational session on the Canvas Learning Management System from 12-12:45pm.

#### Canvas 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 three, in-person training options that we are offering:

Monday, 8/15, 12:00-12:45 Middle School's Erwin Library

Tuesday, 8/16, 12:00-12:45 Upper School Room 215

Thursday, 8/18, 5:45-6:30 Middle School's Erwin Library

Need Episcopal Gear?

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: 8am - 2pm during the Toggery Pop-up Shop
- Monday, August 15th: 8am - 2pm
- Tuesday, August 16th: 10am - 2pm
- Beginning Wednesday, August 17, we are open during lunch Wednesdays and Fridays (12:00-1:30) 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.

Toggery Pop-Up Shop

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

Sixth grade families only:

Children will be provided planners by their teachers on the first day of school, and your FACTS account will be billed, so there is no need to purchase a planner ahead of time.

New additions to the Middle School Faculty Team!

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce you to three new additions to our middle school team!

Mrs. Tiffany Hargrave - MS Counseling

With school counseling stints at Meekins Middle School in Stuttgart, at Benton and Marion High Schools, and for the past four years at East End Intermediate School in Little Rock, Mrs. Tiffany Hargrave brings a wealth of school experience to our middle school counselor post. During the interview process, Mrs. Hargrave's breadth of experience, professional competency, and love for students made her a great fit for our school community. Prior to being a school counselor, Mrs. Hargrave was a classroom teacher for three years. She earned her BA in psychology and two M.Ed. degrees, one in middle childhood education and one in counseling, from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Ms. Jessica Chaney - 7th Grade Social Studies

Ms. Jessica Chaney is a native of Winchester, Arkansas, and has lived in Little Rock for 10 years. She earned her BA in history from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is currently working on her Master's in history and teaching from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Most recently, Jessica has served as a social studies teacher at Graduate Arkansas High School, and prior to that she taught English and history at Quest Academy of West Little Rock. When she visited our campus this spring, she immediately impressed us with the way she connected with students; moreover, it was equally evident that she truly enjoyed doing so!

Ms. Lucinda Lawson - 7th Grade Mathematics

Lucinda Lawson is a self-professed life-long learner, who gets excited about learning and teaching mathematics, and her positive energy is exciting to those around her. She joins our team as seventh grade math teacher and advisor, after serving as high school mathematics teacher for the past four years in the Pine Bluff School District. There, she most recently taught honors precalculus, geometry, and algebra two. Prior to this, Ms. Lawson had a career in human resources. She earned her PhD. in Human Resources Management and Organizational Behavior from Texas A&M, and she is an ACT Certified Math Educator.

I hope that the above information is helpful and that everyone continues to enjoy a happy and safe summer!

Sincerely,

H. Charles "Chuck" McCormick, EdD  
Head of Middle School