



EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Dear Upper School Families,

Happy Summer! I hope you and your loved ones are finding time to rest, relax, and have fun. The 2024-25 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. Our Upper School team looks forward to welcoming your children back to campus next month. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

See you soon,

Dr. Graham

Back-to-School Information

Please check out our [School Resources Page](#), located on the Episcopal Collegiate School website, for comprehensive back-to-school information, including the [2024-25 planning calendar](#), notes on textbook orders, uniform guidelines, [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](#).

Student Schedules

Parents should be able to log onto Veracross to see their child's schedule. **Please note that advisor assignments will not be published until Tuesday, August 6. Additionally, 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 Veracross parent portal, click on Classes & Reports, then the link displays on the right and is called current class schedule.
- Please address scheduling or portal login questions to Mrs. Fitz, jfitz@Episcopalcollegiate.org, or 501-372-1194, ext. 2461. The School does not make class/schedule/advisor changes based on requests for a particular teacher.

Textbooks

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. If you decide to order books online, please verify that you are ordering the correct edition by matching the ISBN number from the class/grade-level book list with what you find online.

Class Rotation Calendar

This [link](#) takes you to our first-semester 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 and evidence of this vaccine must be filed in the US office by Wednesday, August 14. Also, if your child started the HPV vaccination series, please remember to follow up with the sequential dose(s).

Students are not allowed to bring or carry any medication to school or school events. 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 Upper & Middle School Community Handbook. Most medication forms are located on the school website or can be filled out in the office.

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 the week before the first day of school. Some US students will carry their emergency medication with them, in which case we still need an action plan, knowledge of the plan and the location of their medication.

Our annual flu vaccine clinic is scheduled for October 3, 2024. More information and consent forms will appear in Wildcat Weekly in September.

Important Fall Dates (Mark Your Calendars!)

Class of 2025 Retreat - Tuesday, August 6

The Class of 2025 will kick off its senior year with a one-day group retreat to [Camp Mitchell](#). Senior parents, stay tuned for an email from Mr. Binder with complete details.

New Student & Parent Orientation - Monday, August 12

We are excited to welcome all new-to-Episcopal students in grades 9-12—along with their parents—to an orientation in the Upper School Simpson Library on Monday, August 12, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Dress for this event is casual appropriate (school uniforms are not required).

9th Grade Student Orientation - Tuesday, August 13 [*Required for ALL 9th Graders]

All 9th graders (new & returning) should arrive at the Upper School Simpson Library on Tuesday, August 13 at noon. 9th grade orientation will start promptly at noon and end at 3:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided, and students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Dress for this event is casual appropriate (school uniforms are not required).

Back-to-School Night (US Parents' Night) - Wednesday, August 28

Back-to-School Night will take place on Wednesday, August 28, from approximately 6:45-8:30 p.m. Our program will begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall. This is a great chance to meet your child's teachers and learn more about our academic program. We will share more details in Wildcat Weekly closer to that evening.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day - Friday, October 4 (*Half-Day)

We look forward to welcoming Lower, Middle, and Upper School grandparents and special friends to campus on Friday, October 4th. We will run a half-day schedule that Friday, and all Upper School students will be dismissed at noon. Stay tuned to Wildcat Weekly for more information about Grandparents and Special Friends Day.

Fall Break - Thursday, October 10 - Sunday, October 13

Fall Break will start on Thursday October 10 and extend through Sunday, October 13.

Fall Advisor-Student-Parent Conference Day - Friday, October 18

On Friday, October 18, every Upper School student--along with at least one parent or guardian--will be required to participate in a 30-minute, on-campus conference with their faculty advisor. Regular classes will not be held that day. Conference slots will start at 8:00 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m., and your child's advisor will contact you in September to set up a conference time. Conference Day provides you and your child the opportunity to reflect on and discuss your child's overall school experience, including academic standing, extracurricular engagement, and social fit.

Need Episcopal Gear – Wildcat Warehouse

We will have Spirit Day every Friday again this school year, unless notified otherwise. Students can wear an Episcopal spirit shirt, and/or any shirt with school colors, along with uniform bottoms or jeans. You can shop Wildcat Warehouse for Episcopal gear [online here](#). Orders placed through the portal will be delivered to your child's Division Office. Please email Aaron Nixon with any questions about Wildcat Warehouse.

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

- Monday, Aug. 12 in B Building from 8:00-2:00pm.
- Tuesday, Aug. 13 in the Lower School Mini Warehouse from 8:30-9:45, and in B Building from 10:00-2:00pm
- Beginning Wednesday, August 14, we are open during lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (12:00-1:30) for student/parent shopping.

Follow the Warehouse's Instagram account for more information @episcopalwildcatwarehouse.

Toggery special sale - July 25, Pleasant Ridge Location

The Toggery will have a special event for Episcopal families shopping for new uniforms at their West Little Rock location on Thursday, July 25, from 6:00-8:00pm.

You can access the Upper/Middle School Episcopal dress code [here](#). Students will wear the standard school uniform the first day of school and will not wear their dress uniform until September 4 for Convocation and picture day.

New Upper School Faculty

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

Mr. Olamide Adekoya joins Episcopal Collegiate as an Upper School physics and mathematics teacher and assistant Boys' Soccer coach. A native of Lagos, Nigeria, Mr. Adekoya completed his M.S. in mathematics at Purdue University while serving as a graduate assistant and laboratory instructor in the Purdue physics department. Olamide has experience teaching math, physics, and computer coding at Purdue University and Pathfinder Academy in Nigeria.

Ms. Lauren Byrd joins Episcopal Collegiate as the Associate Director of College Counseling. She earned her B.A. in History with a minor in Education from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky and a M.S. in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Baylor University. Lauren brings a wealth of experience in college guidance having served as Associate Director of Admission and Scholarship Programs at Centre College, an Admissions Counselor at The University of Arkansas, and in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Baylor University.

Dr. David Adkins joins Episcopal Collegiate as an Upper School English teacher. A native Arkansan, Dr. Adkins earned his B.A. in English from the University of Central Arkansas, his M.A. in English from The Pennsylvania State University, and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Toronto. David brings 14 years of teaching experience as an English instructor at Pennsylvania State University, University of Toronto, Tocoa Falls College, and Northwest Nazarene University.

Dr. Elias Baker joins Episcopal Collegiate as an Upper School history teacher. Dr. Baker earned his B.A. in history from Hendrix College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Mississippi where he first served as a Graduate Assistant in the Center for Civil War Research and later as an instructor in the history department for four years. Eli comes to Episcopal Collegiate from The University of Arkansas, Little Rock where he has been teaching for the past two years.