



EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Dear Middle School Parents,

This June I have been able to get away to Sarasota for a couple of days of beaching and golf and took members of our Girls' Lacrosse Team to the Southeast Shootout in Nashville in mid-June, where they won three games and tied one - not to mention having an awesome bonding experience as well! 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, [School Resources Page](#), for comprehensive back-to-school information, including the very useful 2024-2025 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 into 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 **Please note that advisor assignments will not be published until Tuesday, August 6.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 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.

- 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.

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 14. 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 14. (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.

Students are not allowed to carry medication with them while at school or at school functions, with the exception of emergency medications like albuterol, insulin, glucagon, and epinephrine auto injectors. 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 3, 2024. More information will be available in Wildcat Weekly as the event nears.

Locker Set-Up

The first date that students may come to school to set up/organize their lockers is **Thursday, August 1**. This may occur anytime between 8:30am-3pm, Monday-Thursday, and 8:30 am-Noon on Fridays. 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 school year 2024-2025. We recommend buying two sets of PE uniforms and putting students' names clearly on both shorts and shirts. Students/parents are encouraged to consider buying used uniforms at the used uniform sale

on August fifth and sixth - students can set up their lockers at the same time. If you wish to order a new PE uniform from the Wildcat Warehouse, here is a link to the [PE Uniform](#) page on the website. Your order will be filled and left for pick-up in the middle school office.

Orientations

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 12.

New student/parent orientations

New seventh and eighth grade students and their parents Monday, August 12 11:00am-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 12. The formal parent program will conclude at 12:45. The student program will run until 1:15pm, which includes a social event with other members of their grade outdoors in the quad between 12:30 and 1:15.

In-person sixth grade student orientation (No parents, please.) Tuesday, August 13 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. 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 12:00 pm, and then our parents' auxiliary will host a grade-level social from 12 until 1:00. Lunch will be provided.

Sixth grade in-person parent orientation Tuesday, August 13 11:00am-12:00pm (w/ optional Canvas training from 12:15-1:00pm)

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 12:15-1:00pm.

Canvas Training Sessions For Parents

Three years ago, 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:

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

Tuesday, 8/13, 12:15-1:00pm Upper School Room 215

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 Aaron Nixon 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 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. Ms. Nixon will ask your student if they have permission to charge your FACTS account.

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

Toggery Special Shopping Event

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.

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.

Important Fall Dates/Events

Middle School Student Social - Friday, August 16, 6-8pm, Championship Gym and MS/US Dining Hall

All middle school students are welcome, though certainly not required, to attend a social featuring free-play games in the Championship Gym and a DJ/dancing and food in the middle/upper school dining hall. Dress is casual appropriate and cell phones may only be used in the hallway between venues. Drop off and pick up are at the wildcat statue across from the Championship Gym and dining hall. Please do not drop your child off prior to 5:50pm and please pick up your child promptly at 8pm. This is a long day for faculty!

Middle School Back-to-School Night, Wednesday, August 21 (Parents only)

This year's event will take place on Wednesday, August 21, from approximately 6:40-8:45pm. Please plan to meet your child's advisor at their advisory meeting location promptly at 6:40pm. Your child's advisor will inform you of where this is. If you arrive after 6:40pm, please come directly to the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall, and our formal program will begin at 7:00pm.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day - Friday, October 4th (*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 Middle 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 10th - Sunday, October 13th

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

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

On Friday, October 18th, every Middle 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 8:00am and run until 4:00pm, 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.

New addition to the Middle School Faculty Team!

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce you to the one, new addition to our middle school team!

Kathryn Hyde - Ms. Kathryn Hyde re-joins our Episcopal Collegiate Team as first semester sixth grade math teacher and thereafter as middle school math specialist. She previously served in the Episcopal Collegiate Lower School - beginning as a Kindergarten associate before working as math and later science specialist until December 2015. Since 2015, Ms. Hyde has taught 3-5 grade English Language Arts for the Central Arkansas Homeschool Association. Ms. Hyde holds bachelor's degrees in both biology and chemistry and a MA in teaching from the University of Central Arkansas. We are very excited that the highly qualified Ms. Hyde chose this time to re-join the Wildcat Family.

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