

August 16 Wildcat Weekly Archive

Parent Education Webinars

We hope you will join other independent school parents for the six evening webinars led by a celebrated team of experts to help you support and guide your children in all areas of their development. We look forward to learning right along with you!

Episcopal Collegiate School will send reminder emails with Zoom pre-registration links prior to each webinar. All parents, caregivers, or other members of the school community who plan to attend the live presentation must complete an individual Zoom pre-registration prior to each webinar. There will be six one-hour webinars from 6:30-7:30 pm and available anytime via recording.

Please reach out to Catherine Radtke, Associate Head of Lower School and Director of Student Support Services with any questions at cradtke@episcopalcollegiate.org.



**PARENT SERIES
WEBINARS**
6:30-7:30 P.M. LIVE

September 25, 2024 | Lynn Lyons
Back-To-School Momentum: Prepping Children of All Ages for the Challenges (& Successes) of a New School Year

November 19, 2024 | Jennifer Wallace
Never Enough: When Achievement Pressure Becomes Toxic – And What We Can Do About It

January 15, 2025 | Phyllis L. Fagell
How to Raise Socially Skilled Tweens & Teens Who Can Navigate Friendship Challenges

February 12, 2025 | Hasan Merali
Squish the Peas: Life Lessons from Toddlers on How to Live a Happier, Healthier Life

March 11, 2025 | Ken Ginsburg
Raise Your Children & Adolescents to be Authentically Successful, Emotionally Healthy & Prepared to Thrive

April 9, 2025 | Michael Thompson
Planning for Summers of Growth & Joy

  

2024-2025 All Sports Pass

Sports passes for the 2024-25 year are now available. Please click on the link below to purchase this year's pass. This all access pass entitles the holder to claim 1 ticket for each regular season home sporting event for grades 7-12. This pass is not eligible for post-season events or PSL events.

[SPORTS PASSES](#)

First Parents' Auxiliary Meeting | Friday, August 23

Mark your calendars to attend our first Parents' Auxiliary meeting on Friday, August 23. This year's Parents' Auxiliary meetings will be held in the Upper School Simpson Library, and will begin at 8:00 am. Our new Parents' Auxiliary President, Nikki Parnell, will discuss opportunities to volunteer, our Auction chair, Anna Dickinson will share information about our biannual Auction event in 2025, and Lower School Assistant Head of School, Catherine Radtke will provide information about Parent Education Webinars. We hope to see you there!

Watermelon Kick-Off | Friday, August 30

Calling all Wildcats! You are not going to want to miss the highly anticipated Watermelon Kick-Off! Join us as we celebrate our fall athletes and first football game against Smackover on FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 at 5:30 pm! (Kick-off is at 7:00) There will be watermelon, sports themed bounce houses, Big Poppa Bubble, face tattoos, and performances by our cheerleaders and NEW dance team! GO, WILDCATS!

Watermelon Kick-Off T-Shirts

Order your Watermelon Kick-Off shirt today! T-shirts are \$15 and all orders must be placed by Monday, August 19.

[ORDER HERE](#)

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

From orientations to the first day of school, it's been a joy seeing students reunite with their friends, meet new friends, and get to know their teachers. On Monday, we will welcome our PreK 3 and 4 students. I expect we will encounter some car line delays as we get our youngest students into a good routine with drop off and pick up. As a reminder, it is helpful to have all car seats closest to the door students will use to exit the car, rather than in the third row or on the driver side of the car.

We have thrown a lot of information your way these past couple of weeks. I wanted to remind you to bookmark the [Wildcat Community page](#). This page provides a link to all of the information you might need on the green sidebar.

Thank you for making this a great first week! If this first week is a sign of the 2024-2025 school year, it's going to be an incredible year!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher

Head of Lower School

Room Parent Sign Up

WE WANT YOU! We would love two parents per class to serve as room parents who will help coordinate the class holiday celebrations and the honoring of the classroom teachers. Please only sign up for one of your child's classes if you have more than one student at school.

THANK YOU for considering signing up. We will hold a meeting the week before Labor Day to go over classroom celebrations and other logistics.

[ROOM PARENT SIGN UP](#)

Watermelon Kick-Off | Friday, August 30

Our first community event, Watermelon Kick-Off, will take place on Friday, August 30 starting at 5:30pm before the first home football game. This is a fun family event and a great way to meet other Episcopal families. T-shirt orders are due by Monday, August 19.

Students are allowed to wear these t-shirts any Friday for spirit day.

[ORDER T-SHIRTS HERE](#)

SAGE Lunch Reminder

Our current lunch options in the Lower School cafeteria include full lunch from SAGE or a lunch brought from home. We no longer have the “drinks only” option. If your child is bringing his or her lunch from home, please make sure they bring a water bottle for lunch.

Chapel News

The Lower School opening days were full of excitement and joy as we greeted old and new friends. Our opening day chapel for Kindergarten through 5th grade focused on our excitement and anticipation for the new school year. In our upcoming Community Chapel, Mrs. Michelle Moore will be presenting a lesson on putting what is most important first in our lives.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on Wednesdays. You are always welcome!

- PreK 4: 8:20-8:40am, Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Library
- PreK 3: 8:50-9:10am, Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Library
- Kindergarten: 9:20-9:50am, Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Library
- 1st-5th: 2:30-3:00pm, Erwin Performance Hall & Gymnasium

In Godly Play, we will practice inviting one another into the circle to prepare ourselves to listen to the stories of the Bible and will be getting to know one another.

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore

Interim Lower School Chaplain

A Note from Lower School Counselor, Mrs. Abbott

We are so excited to start a new school year!! I wanted to provide some information on what to expect from me this year and what services I can provide. I will be doing mindfulness and character lessons in K-5th grade classrooms each month. I really enjoy seeing how our students grow in their faith and values each year. Developing an understanding of different character traits helps them to establish a good moral compass to guide them through life. I will also be available to meet with students and families as needed on a wide array of issues including any changing family dynamics, coping with grief/loss of a loved one or pet, developing social skills, managing ADHD symptoms and behaviors, general emotional support, anxiety, and challenging classroom behaviors...just

to name a few. Even if you are uncertain if it is an issue I can help with, you can always contact me and we can make sure to get you in touch with the right person.

I begin every year with this same note to remind our families that we are here to support your child however we can:

Handle with Care

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend, please email me "Handle with Care". Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day.

I am looking forward to an awesome year and I am here if you need me!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betsy Abbott, LCSW

501.372.1194 ext.2343

babbott@episcopalcollegiate.org

Girl Scout Troop Open House

All interested girls and their guardians are invited to learn more about our organization at 5pm on Tuesday, August 19 in the Lower School Library. Our Service Unit includes troops between I-630 and the Arkansas River and between I-30 and I-430 (The Heights and most of Downtown). We accept girls from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The Girl Scouts program focuses on serving God and Country, helping others, community service, building confidence, having respect for others, and making the world a better place. Girl Scouts offers summer camps, travel opportunities, volunteer service hours, and scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors. Please join us on August 19 to learn more. Please reach out to [Brian Jones](#) with questions.

Girls on the Run

Did you know Episcopal Collegiate School offers the one-of-a-kind Girls on the Run program to 3rd-5th grade students? Not only does Girls on the Run inspire girls to set and achieve movement goals, but it unlocks confidence and compassion in girls when they need it most. GOTR will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15-4:45 beginning September 4. The season ends with a Celebratory 5K Run on Sunday, November 24! [Register today!](#) Questions? Please contact [Kathleen Van Lierop](#). For more information visit our website gotrcentralark.org.

Carpool Pro Tips

Tips for Morning Drop off

- All students dropped at south entrance near gym from 7:00-7:30 am
- After 7:30 am, PreK-1st students are dropped off at north entrance near office and 2nd-5th dropped at south entrance near gym
- Parents will merge in or out of line immediately after first drop off spot
- PreK car seats should be on the side of car closest to LS for easiest exit.
- PreK parents should have Brightwheel app open and ready to scan

Tips for Afternoon Pick up

- Have school-issued carpool sign clearly visible against windshield for better visibility
- PreK-1st parents wait until name is called by teacher near football field before changing to left lane
- Parents with students in multiple divisions should pick up LS students first
- PreK parents should have Brightwheel app open and ready to scan
- Teachers cannot buckle students in carseats. Plan to pull forward and park to buckle students.
- Parents should not get out of cars.

LOWER SCHOOL

CARPOOL DO'S & DON'T'S

| DO  | DON'T  |
|--|---|
|  |  |
|  |  |

Pride Patrol is a leadership opportunity for our 4th and 5th grade students. These students should arrive by 7:30 am, help open car doors, welcome students, and walk our youngest Wildcats to their classrooms.

Pride Patrol student leaders next week include:

- Bella Alvarado
- Austyn Brown
- Evelyn Bumpass
- Claire Canada
- Caroline Carmichael
- Claire Causey

Mark Your Calendars

August 19 | PreK 3 & 4 First Day of School

August 30 | Watermelon Kick-Off

September 2 | Labor Day, No School

September 4 | All School Convocation and School Picture Day, Dress Uniform Required

October 9 | Wildcat Roundup

October 10-11 | Fall Break

October 18 | Family/Teacher Conference, No School

Quick Links

[Lower School Live News](#)

[Wildcat Community Page](#)

Find the [LS Calendar](#) here.

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Hello, Middle School Families,

We have had a wonderful start to our school year! Students enjoyed our back-to-school orientations, complimented by Kona Ices. Special thanks to parents Leslie Bright, Nikki Hastings, and Liza Wright for providing a delicious lunch to our sixth grade students after Tuesday's orientation. Also, kudos to our student council members, Hadley Black and Ava Madison Rodgers, who gamely stepped up to thoughtfully address and welcome our new families during orientation activities. Thanks, too, to our student council members Harper Fields and Quinn Tucker, in addition to Hadley and Ava Madison, for all of their time and effort spent on both Monday and Tuesday helping orient new students, not to mention eighth grade volunteers - Charlie Wallace, Henry Wallace, John Warren, Pax Mangan, Charlotte Warren, Austin Easley, and Layla Dement - for providing phenomenal support to our new sixth graders during Tuesday's sixth grade orientation. On Wednesday, we held our opening MS Convocation, which featured inspirational talks by Student Council President Hadley Black (8th grade) and veteran faculty member and sixth grade life science teacher, Mrs. Susie Bridges!

Have a great weekend!

Chuck McCormick
Head of Middle School

Middle School Social | TONIGHT - Friday, August 16

This Friday, today, we will host our fall MS Social. It will take place in the MS/US Dining Hall and Championship Gym from 6:00-8:00 pm. Dress is casual and appropriate - t-shirts, shorts, and tennis shoes make the most sense if students plan to both play in the gym as well as possibly dance. The theme is Safari and there are prizes for great outfits! Please drop off and pick up your child at the Wildcat statue entrance to the Championship Gym. Please do not drop off prior to 5:50 pm and please collect them promptly at 8:00 pm; this is a long day for faculty!

Back to School Night | Wednesday, August 21

Middle School Back to School Night falls on Wednesday evening, August 21, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Parents wishing to meet their child's advisor should plan to join their advisor and fellow advisory parents in their advisor's meeting location (Advisors should inform you of this via email in advance.), beginning at 6:30 pm sharp. Parents not wishing to join their child's advisor's session should simply report to the middle and upper school dining hall by 6:45 pm, when we will begin the formal event. After a 15-minute, opening program, parents will be dismissed to visit their child's classes where teachers will introduce themselves and provide brief snapshots of their classes and what students can expect. Please note that this is not the venue to discuss your individual student's performance in a given class. Teachers are very happy to schedule a meeting or phone call with you at another, mutually convenient time. We do hope to see most of you at Back to School Night!

Carpool Procedures

Arrival to School

Campus opens at 7:00 am for students. So that we can provide appropriate supervision, students may not enter the building before this time. Students who arrive before 7:30 am should be dropped off at the doors leading into the dining hall and Championship Gym (across the street from the Wildcat statue). They will then report directly to the dining hall, where they will be supervised until 7:45 am. Those students wishing to be in the library or design lab or go outside to the quad (weather permitting) may do so beginning at 7:30 am when the faculty supervisor is present. Students may not enter the second floor of the middle school building until 7:45 am, unless they are attending math lab or have an appointment with a teacher.

Students who arrive on campus after 8:00 am must have their parents call the middle school office to announce their child's arrival and the reason for lateness. The student will report to the middle school office and receive a pass to either their advisory or first class. Those students without valid reasons for lateness will receive a tardy.

Dismissal

Students who have siblings at the Lower School may meet their rides in the parking lot north of the football field so that parents do not have to make another loop in the carpool line. Students should take care when crossing the street by the Wildcat statue. Students

may NOT be picked up at the Championship Gym between 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm or in the Upper School student parking lot. Students exiting from these locations may be subject to disciplinary action.

Middle school students who do not have siblings at the lower school must wait in the designated grade-level pick-up area.

6th Grade: Covered area outside the main, middle school carpool line doors

7th Grade: Overhang at the end of the carpool line

8th Grade: Overhang at the end of the carpool line

When the quad is open and supervised, students who are planning to attend Aftercare may be here until 4:00 pm when they must report to the Middle School Aftercare in room, Room 108.

Mark Your Calendars

August 30 | Watermelon Kick-Off

September 2 | Labor Day, No School

September 4 | All School Convocation and School Picture Day, Dress Uniform Required

October 10-11 | Fall Break

October 18 | Family/Teacher Conference, No School

A Note from Dr. Graham

Welcome back! I thought Dr. Griffin's Opening Day note captured the magic of back-to-school time. Your kids have done an outstanding job transitioning this week. These last few days have been filled with energy, enthusiasm, and no shortage of smiles. This morning, our entire school will march out to the turf field for a "Welcome Back" chapel. And yesterday, we held our annual Handshake Ceremony, during which all new students, faculty, and staff were greeted—with hearty handshakes, first bumps, and waves—by every member of our Middle and Upper School communities.

As we move into the first full week of school, it's important that we help our kids develop healthy routines around sleep, homework, exercise, social activities, and unstructured down time. Talk to your child about and prioritize their routines. Teenagers need consistency and predictability to be successful.

See you soon,

Kellen Graham

Head of Upper School

Contact Us if Your Child is Absent, Late, or Checking Out

Parents, if your child is absent from or will arrive late to school for any reason, or if they need to check out during the school day, it is imperative that you contact the School and let us know. If your child is absent, please either call us in the Main Office at **501.372.1194 ext. 3** and leave us a detailed message or email Selby Boyd at sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org. Upper School students are expected to communicate any known absences with their teachers, coaches, and advisor in advance. Parents, we also expect to hear directly from you any time your child is absent.

Dress Code

[Here](#) is our dress code, excerpted from our Community Handbook. I encourage you to take a look; we are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Wednesday = Phone-Free Days

To bolster our sense of in-person community and productivity, every Wednesday will be designated as a “phone free day” in Upper School. On Wednesdays mornings during advisory check-in, students will store their phones in their faculty advisor’s classroom and pick them up at dismissal; students who arrive late to school will drop off their phones in the Main Office.

Add/Drop Deadline

Friday, August 23 is the deadline for students to add or drop a course. Students should speak directly with their classroom teacher, advisor, and Ms. Fitz if they wish to add or drop a course.

Calculators for Geometry Students

Each Upper School student is responsible for having a graphing calculator (with the exception of Algebra 1 students). These students are required to purchase the TI-84 CE or TI-84 CE Plus Graphing Calculator (The TI-84 C is also acceptable) for use in their math and science courses. These calculators may be purchased online or from a store that provides office supplies. They can often be found in back to school sales for \$100 (Target online had them last summer at this price), but can otherwise run as much as \$140. You should know that students will be able to use their graphing calculator on the ACT, SAT, and AP exams and for the remainder of their time at Episcopal Collegiate. In fact, families will not be asked to purchase another calculator for their tenure at Episcopal Collegiate School. If your family needs assistance with a more affordable option for the graphing calculator, please reach out to Math Department Chair, Heather Benton.

Upper School Carpool Procedures

Here is a [map of traffic patterns](#) on campus. Our campus is one-way for all drivers every day between 7:00 am and 8:30 am and between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm, and Upper School drop off and pick up follows the blue line.

Arrival

Between the hours of 7:30-8:30 am and 3:00-4:00 pm, our campus is designated one-way only for vehicular traffic. You must turn to the right upon entering campus and go around the outer lanes on campus. Do not enter campus, drive around the cones, and turn left. You may not enter the parking lot between the fields or the parking lot directly in front of the Lower School from the front of the campus during these hours.

Dismissal

Carpool will begin immediately upon the conclusion of school at 3:35 pm. Please ask your carpool riders to be present in the pick-up area to be loaded into your vehicle promptly. **Any vehicle that is parked at the front of the carpool line for more than two**

minutes with no passengers loaded is asked to proceed around the campus and get back in the carpool line. This will allow the carpool line to move more efficiently for everyone.

Students may NOT be picked up at the Championship Gym between 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm or in the Upper School student parking lot. Students exiting from those locations may be subject to disciplinary action. Middle School students with Upper School siblings may choose to be picked up at the Upper School pickup line. Students who have siblings at the Lower School may meet their rides in the parking lot north of the football field so that parents do not have to make another loop in the carpool line. Students should take care when crossing the street by the Wildcat statue.

A reminder that driving students cannot move their cars to the gym for after school practices.

When Upper School students are not picked up by 4:30 pm, students must be in the commons until 5:30 pm.

Coming Up Next Week

Chapel Schedule

Monday, August 19 - Honor Council Presentation

Tuesday, August 20 - Honor Code Signing Ceremony

Wednesday, August 21- Father Rob Leacock

Thursday, August 22 - Dr. Griffin

Friday, August 23 - John Jennings '25

Athletics Schedule

Let's go, Wildcats!

Service Opportunities

We will endeavor to share new service opportunities for our students as they come to us.

College Counseling Senior Parent Meeting | Tuesday, August 20

Senior parents, we hope you can join Ms. Morgan and Ms. Byrd on Tuesday, August 20, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in US Room 215, for our annual Senior Parent College Counseling Meeting. We ask that at least one parent attend for every senior.

9th-Grade Parent Education “Helping Your 9th Grader Thrive” | Thursday, August 22

9th-grade parents and guardians are invited to join me and members of the US Leadership Team team on Thursday, August 22, from 8:00-8:50 am in the Academic Achievement Center (AAC), for an interactive conversation about helping your child thrive in 9th grade. We will share insights to typical 9th grade behaviors and attitudes and offer you practical tips for supporting your teenager.

Beyond Next Week

9th Grade Trip Info Session | Wednesday, August 28

9th-Grade parents, please join Dean of Students, Dan Binder and Head of Upper School, Dr. Kellen Graham for an information session about this year's 9th grade trip. We will share key trip info and tips for helping your child prepare for the trip. This meeting is intentionally scheduled shortly before the start of Back-to-School Night, from 6:00-6:30 pm.

Back-to-School Night | Wednesday, August 28

Back-to-School Night will take place on Wednesday, August 28, from approximately 6:45-8:30 pm. Our program will begin promptly at 6:45 pm in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall. Join us! 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.

All-School Pep Rally | Friday, August 30

We will hold our first Pep Rally of the year to celebrate Watermelon Kick-Off from 1:05-1:35 pm.

All-School Convocation | Wednesday, September 4

We will hold our annual all-school Convocation on Wednesday, September 4th. This will be a dress uniform day for all students.

9th-Grade Trip | Saturday, September 14 - Monday, September 16

Our 9th graders are headed up to Kansas City this year for their class trip. Our crew will depart from campus on the morning of Saturday, September 14 and return to school on the evening of Monday, September 16. 9th grade parents are encouraged to join us at the 9th-grade trip info session on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 pm in the dining hall (immediately before US Back-to-School Night).

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

All Upper (& Middle) School students will participate in a 30-minute conference, along with their Advisor and at least one parent or guardian. Conferences are a holistic checkpoint for students, families, and advisors. In addition to discussing your child's academic standing, you will have the opportunity to discuss (and to hear your child talk about) their social and extracurricular lives. More info about signing up for conferences will come to you in September.

Find the [US Calendar](#) here.