

2024-25 Annual Fund

It's the final day of our *9 Days of Giving*, but don't worry – there's still time to make your gift to the Annual Fund! Your support during this season of generosity helps us create unforgettable educational experiences, boost our programs, and provide every Wildcat with the tools they need to shine.

Whether it's your first gift or you're renewing your support, you're making a real difference in our amazing community. Let's finish strong together! Thank you for being an essential part of Episcopal Collegiate and may your holiday season be filled with joy and cheer. Merry Christmas!

Concession and Gate Volunteers

Thanks to:

Jessie McLarty, Jake Snowden, Nikki & Mary Eleanor Parnell, Lauren & Henry Ford, Amy Brantley, Quincy Edwards, Julia Crow, Catherine Suffridge, Alicia Hughes, Amanda Daugherty, Lesley Roberts, Marcy Saoud, Meredith Linder, Evelyn Dickinson, Amber Read-Zamilpa, and Elizabeth Daniel.

We have lots of slots available for Basketball Season still, so **please sign up** and help out if you can.

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

Next week will be an exciting one in the Lower School with our Christmas programs, Sing Along, and classroom parties. Families are invited to join us for these celebrations. Please read below for more details about each event.

A heartfelt thank you to Parents Auxiliary for such a delicious lunch on Thursday. We appreciate those who organized and set up the lunch, as well as those parents who supervised students, making it possible for our teachers to enjoy a well-deserved lunch with their colleagues.

We will continue collecting hats, mittens, and gloves for St. Francis House through next week. Students can place their donations in the boxes near the front door. Thank you for helping us spread warmth and kindness this holiday season.

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Christmas Celebrations in the Lower School- Wednesday, December 18

We will host our annual Christmas programs on Wednesday, December 18. The times of each performance are noted below:

- 9am: PreK-1st grades
- 1:30pm: 2nd-5th grades
- 6pm: 2nd-5th grades

Each performance will take place in the Erwin Hall Performance Center and Gymnasium. Doors will open 45 minutes prior to each performance. Please do not try and reserve seats prior to that time or between performances during the day. A courtesy shuttle will be available 30 minutes prior to each performance. Each performance will be recorded and a link to the program will be provided in Wildcat Weekly once ready.

Concert Etiquette

We are teaching our young Wildcats about performance etiquette and concert manners. Please help us set the example by staying for the entire performance and waiting until the full show is complete before congratulating your child on their performance. Please only leave your seat or enter during applause. It shows respect for all the students who have worked so hard to make this a wonderful show for all to enjoy! Thank you!

Thursday, December 19

All families are invited to join us for our annual Sing Along on Thursday, December 19 at 10am in the Erwin Hall Performance Center and Gymnasium. This should last around 20-25 minutes. Parents are then invited to join their students for the classroom Christmas parties immediately following the Sing Along. Dismissal is at 11:45am and there is no Wildcat Club offered that day.

Students can wear holiday-themed clothing on Thursday, December 19 for our annual Sing Along and classroom parties.

Hat, Mitten, and Glove Drive Continues through Next Week:

The Lower School will continue its efforts to collect Hats, Mittens, and Gloves as part of the National Honor Society (NHS) Hat, Mitten, and Glove Drive. Students are encouraged to bring these items to the donation boxes in the Lower School until Thursday, December 19th. Upper School students will then collect these donations and bring them to needy families at the St. Francis House, which serves our Veterans and their families in moments of need. Let's all do our part to help those in need as we move into these cooler months.

Kindergarten Girl Scout Opportunity



**Your Year of
Cheer**

We're ready- Are you?!
Learn more about Girl Scouts and celebrate the holiday season with us! We have one troop leader, but we are still seeking excited adult volunteers and kindergarten girls to join!

Kindergarten girls: Join us on Tuesday, December 17th from 5:00 - 6:00 P.M. at Fletcher Library (823 N Buchanan Street, Little Rock, AR)

Can't make it or have additional questions?
Contact Farrah Beck at fbeck@girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Be a Girl Scout
www.GirlScoutsDiamonds.org

girlscouts
diamonds of arkansas,
oklahoma and texas

Classroom Highlights from Dr. House

Each week, our Lower School students gather for Godly Play, a class led by our Interim Chaplain, Mrs. Michelle Moore. One of Mrs. Moore's key focuses is ensuring that each child is personally known and valued. At the start of every class, she invites each child by name to join her on the carpet for the story. This moment sets the tone for the lesson, affirming each child's unique presence and contribution. Calling students by name and validating their participation is also consistent with our Lower School's Responsive Classroom initiative. This connection reinforces the student-centered, culture of the Lower School, where it's important that every child feels valued and included.

Throughout the class, Mrs. Moore continues this intentional yet subtle approach by calling on students by name to share their thoughts and questions about the story. She carefully responds to each contribution with neutral affirmations, validating every child's input as meaningful without implying that one response is more important or insightful than another. This ensures that all students feel safe, respected, and encouraged to engage, fostering an environment of inclusion and mutual respect.

Another central element of Godly Play is the significance of gathering at a table to share food. This theme, woven throughout The Bible, reflects a universal human experience: the need for nourishment and fellowship. Mrs. Moore uses this concept, both literally

and symbolically, to emphasize commonalities among students. Gathering at a table becomes a springboard for building relationships, finding shared ground, and understanding the value of connection.

By intentionally weaving these practices into her class, Mrs. Moore helps students develop the foundational skills they need to connect with others in respectful, Christ-like ways. These moments in Godly Play support our mission at Episcopal Collegiate School to prepare students for lives of “leadership and service,” nurturing their ability to lead with compassion and serve with humility.

Chapel News

In our PreK and Kindergarten chapels we read *Room for a Little One* by Jason Cockcroft. In Community Chapel we enjoyed a performance from the Wildcat Chorale.

There will be no chapels next week due to the Christmas programs on Wednesday, December 18.

In Godly Play this week we talked about each of the 4 weeks of Advent. Next week, we'll read *Lullaby for the King* by Nikki Grimes in PreK 3 and PreK 4 classes. In Kindergarten and 1st grades we'll read *Santa's Favorite Story* by Hisako Aoki and Ivan Gantshev. 2nd through 5th grade classes will participate in a nativity escape room experience.

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore
Interim Lower School Chaplain

Pride Patrol | December 16-19

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:

- Henry Norwood
- Jennings Owens
- Frankie Patton
- Evie Peek

- June Querdibitty
- Barrett Robinson
- Landry Robinson

Looking Ahead

- December 18 | Christmas Programs: PreK-1, 9am; Grades 2-5, 1:30pm and 6pm
- December 19 | Christmas Sing-Along at 10am, Classroom parties to follow, 11:45am dismissal, No Wildcat Club offered that day, Students can wear holiday-themed clothing
- December 20-January 6 | Christmas Break - No School
- January 20 | MLK Jr. Day - No School
- February 14-17 | Mid-Winter Break - No School

Quick Links

Lower School Live News

Find the [LS Calendar](#) here.

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

This week, we recognized our sixth and seventh grade academic effort standouts for the month of November. These students, in a very challenging time of year in and around the distractions of sport seasons changing and the distractions that accompany our winter holidays, persevered and continued to apply themselves in their classrooms. Additionally, effort and kindness to peers, along with seeking help when needed, and engagement with the material, and diligence were common themes among the superlatives teachers used to describe their award recipients. Below please find the names of these scholarly role models:

Seventh Grade

French I - Ann Kelley Roberts

Spanish I - Vivie Embry

English - Cash Gordon, Quinn Tucker

Science - Tucker Moore, Francis Maingi

Math - Layla Mitchell, Zoe Allen

Social Studies - Ridley Brown, Carter Pace

Sixth Grade

English - Thomas Walker, Rayna Fitzgerald

Social Studies - Ruby Harrison, Jack Mitchell

Writing - Maddie Walsh, Amelia Suffridge

Math - Kaitlyn Lafayette, Simon Mangum

Science - Evan Gregory, Clark Irwin

Introduction to Romance Languages - Sofia Mitcham, Liam Strother

Middle School Spelling Bee

This past Thursday and Monday we held our annual middle school spelling bee. Thirty sixth-eighth graders got word lists from Spelling Bee coordinator and English teacher Pam Lewis, prepared, and entered the contest. When the dust settled, after 12 rounds, sixth grader Mary-Eleanor Parnell correctly spelled the word anomaly to be crowned champion! Mary-Eleanor will represent our school at the Pulaski County Spelling Bee in January.

MS Athlete of the Week

This week's Middle School Athlete of the Week comes from our seventh grade girls' basketball team. Coach Marsh had this to say in his nomination of Quinn: Quinn is one of our toughest players in the whole basketball program. She continues to play hard every game and practice, despite having a back injury. Quinn is a great example of what it means to be a WILDCAT!

Heart of the Wildcat recipients:

Remember that this commendation is given by students and faculty to students and faculty for performing a random act of kindness. Below please find our recipients and their contributions to our community:

Ava Madison Rodgers - Being a leader and a good friend

Mrs. Hughes - helping work the concession stand at a community event when the assigned workers were overwhelmed

Max McGeorge - He gets everyone's book in math class and puts them away.

Leighton Robinson - She is always kind to me and others!

Jack Shelby - Including others that are sometimes left out

Sara Dalvi - She loves to help others when they are sad and lift them up.

Prepping for Exams

Mrs. Radtke and Ms. Melissa have met with each sixth grade advisory group this week to provide helpful strategies and calendars to help students prepare for exams. Moreover, during activity time on Thursday and Friday Mrs. Radtke and Ms. Melissa have been available in the middle school library to help interested seventh and eighth grade students formulate a personalized study schedule. Going forward, any student may email either Mrs. Radtke or Ms. Melissa to make an appointment for individualized study assistance.

Semester Exam Schedule

Parents, please find our semester exam schedule [here](#). For families/students new to the middle school, during exam week, December 16-19, students should be dropped off for their morning exam and picked up immediately after the exam, unless they have a meeting with a teacher or are attending an extra help session. We neither serve lunch nor provide after care during exam week. The only exception to this is on Monday, December 16, seventh and eighth grade students taking a world language class that is giving a semester exam (not all world language classes will be giving an exam) will remain on campus between the two exams and be served lunch. Students playing a sport should be notified by their coaches as to when practices will occur.

Fall 2024 Semester Exams	
Monday, December 16th	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	Science - students not taking a world language exam should be picked up in the ms carpool line at 10:30am.
10:30 - 11:30	MS Advisory for 7/8 grade World Language Students Taking Afternoon Exams
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch for World Language Students Taking Afternoon Exams
12:30 - 2:30	World Languages - pickup for these students is 2:30pm in the ms carpool line.
Tuesday, December 17th	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	History and Social Sciences

10:30	Students should be picked up in the ms carpool line at 10:30am.
Wednesday, December 18th	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 - 10:30	Math
10:30	Students should be picked up in the ms carpool line at 10:30am.
TBD	Conflicts
Thursday, December 19th	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	English
10:30	Students should be picked up in the ms carpool line at 10:30am.
TBD	Conflicts

A Note from Dr. Graham

Music and exam review were this week's themes in Upper School. Monday night's Christmas Concert at St. Mark's Episcopal Church was a real treat, as our Middle and Upper School choral and orchestra students put on an extraordinary show. Then on Wednesday, we held our annual Lessons and Carols service, and yesterday in chapel the Steelcats entertained us with a holiday sing-along. Guided by their teachers, our students have spent the last three days reviewing for their exams (see below for more info about Exam Week). Today is Reading Day. Students are invited (but not required) to come to school today to study and work with their teachers.

Please keep reading to learn more about next week.

Have a great weekend!

See you soon,

Kellen

Reminders for Exam Week

Exam Schedule

Arrival/Dismissal: Morning exams start at 8:30 a.m. and afternoon exams start at 12:30 p.m. Students should arrive in time for their first exam. Students are dismissed for the day after their last exam.

On Monday, 12/16: those students who are taking a science exam in the morning and a language exam in the afternoon will be required to stay on campus between exams. After their morning exam at 10:30 a.m., they will attend Advisory until 11:30 a.m., during which they can study and relax before lunch.

Lunch: For students with afternoon exams, lunch will be available in the dining hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dress Code: We ask that students be in regular dress code during exam week.

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

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**](mailto: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.

Beyond Next Week (Mark Your Calendars...)

- Christmas Break - Friday, December 20 - Monday, January 6
- Second Semester Begins - Tuesday, January 7
- “Welcome Back, Wildcats” Pep Rally - Friday, January 10

Episcopal Wildcats Hudl Page

Wildcat Athletics has moved live streaming to the Episcopal Collegiate Hudl Fan Page. This page includes a live stream of events as well as highlights, team schedules, and rosters.

Episcopal Wildcats Hudl Page

Please note, we will no longer be using the Episcopal Athletics YouTube Page.

The Hudl Fan App is supported by Roku TV, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, and Android TV.

Go, Wildcats!