

Episcopal Collegiate School 2025-2026 Re-Enrollment

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to re-enroll for the 2025-2026 school year is **Thursday, February 13**. To ensure your child's place for the upcoming year, please take a moment to review the information provided in Dr. Griffin's recent message from January, 27, 2025. You can access the re-enrollment process through [this link](#) and complete it before the deadline. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Mary Jane Briggs, Director of Admissions at mjbriggs@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Upcyclers Update

The goal of the Episcopal UpCyclers is to keep as much of our community-generated textiles out of the landfill as possible. After the Used Uniform committee sorts its donations, the UpCyclers receive the ones that aren't in good enough condition to donate or resell. We use these to make Buddy Blankets, Christmas ornaments, stoles for Father Rob and the Bishop, hats, pet chew toys, etc. Do you need fabric supplies for any projects at home or at school? We need help using our supplies! Anyone is welcome to use the supplies in or on top of these cabinets and drawers in the Lower School Parents' Auxiliary room. No need to ask, just help yourself! We have polos, plaid, khaki, navy, Tshirts, dri-fit, green fleece pieces, sweaters, zippers, elastic, buttons, cut out logos, strings, shredded fabric for stuffing, etc. For parents, UpCyclers meet most Fridays during the school day in the LS Parents Auxiliary room. Drop in for a little while or stay all day! We would love the help, no experience necessary.

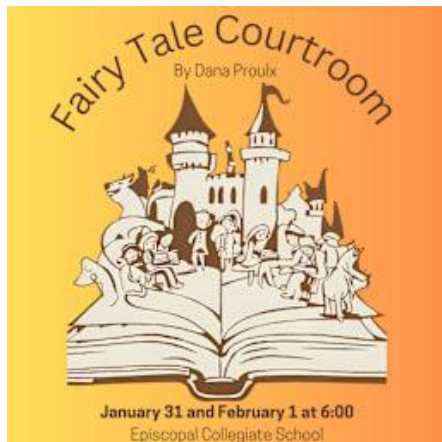
Contact Lisa Jones at 501-837-4700 for questions.



Middle School Play

Middle School Students will be performing Friday, January 31, and Saturday, February 1, at 6:00 pm.

General admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens (free for Episcopal students and staff)



Pancake Supper (Support the Class of 2026) - Tuesday, February 11

The Junior Class is gearing up for the annual Pancake Supper! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased from any 11th grader or **from this Google Form**. The event will take place in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall. Looking forward to fellowship and flapjacks!

Parents' Auxiliary Valentine's Day Cookie Buffet

Parents' Auxiliary is excited to host our annual Valentine's Day Cookie Buffet on Thursday, February 13, for our amazing faculty and staff! To make this event a success, we're asking parents to donate cookies and baked goods to show our appreciation for our teachers, coaches, and staff! Use **this link** sign up, and thank you for supporting this faculty favorite tradition.

Lauren Dake

Teacher Appreciation Committee

French E Auction- February 22, 2025

Buy your tickets today!

Free Tuition Raffle Tickets

We are excited to announce that raffle tickets for a chance to win **free tuition for the 2025-2026 school year** are now available for purchase! This exclusive opportunity is part of our upcoming **French E Auction 2025**, and all proceeds will support our school community.

Tickets are available for just \$100 each, and the winner will be drawn during the auction event on Saturday, February 22. Don't miss your chance to secure this incredible prize!

Our amazing French E Auction committee is selling tickets, and you may also purchase during Middle and Upper School carpool on the following dates.

- February 6
- February 11

Please contact **Hannah, Alicia**, or **Claire** in the Advancement office about raffle ticket information as well. You may purchase your ticket with cash or check.

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

This week our 5th grade students visited the Arkansas Food Bank where they bagged and weighed sweet potatoes and packed emergency food boxes. Our students were such amazing leaders and hard workers! Thank you to Mr. Daniel for organizing this meaningful experience for our students. Click **here** to see a few pictures!

Next week we will celebrate Spirit Week across campus. Students are invited to dress for each day's theme or wear their regular school uniform. Please send students in appropriate shoes each day to participate in PE and recess. I included each day's theme below along with some updated Super Session offerings. We have some exciting after-school options coming up soon, so please take a look!

Good luck to our RoboCats in the Russellville Winter Classic Tournament and to our PSL Basketball teams in their games on Saturday! Go, Wildcats!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Winter Spirit Week- Special Dress Days (Monday, February 3 through Friday, February 7)



Christmas Program Times- December 2025

Thank you so much for responding to our Christmas program survey last week. Over 80% of respondents said that they could attend the 1:30 pm program if given advance notice. In the qualitative responses, many parents expressed that the 6:00 pm performance posed significant challenges for their families due to competing commitments and the extended length of the day. In an effort to help with your planning, I wanted to share the Christmas program date and times for December 2025.

Wednesday, December 17, 2025:

- PreK - 1st Grades, 9am
- 2nd - 5th Grades, 1:30pm

Valentine Cookie Buffet for Teachers

Each year parents provide cookies to show their love for teachers. **[Sign up here to donate cookies!](#)**

Chapel News

In Godly Play this week students heard the Parable of the Good Samaritan and created cards of encouragement and inspiration that will be shared with the residents of the Methodist Family Health Children's Home.

Next week, we'll learn about the value of the Kingdom of Heaven through the Parable of the Great Pearl in Godly Play.

In our PreK and Kindergarten chapels we'll read Who is My Neighbor? by Amy-Jane Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and in community chapel we heard from Mrs. Tracy Peterson and Ms. Jessica McSpadden about the educational trip they took to Kenya over the summer.

Next week in PreK and Kindergarten chapels we'll read The Precious Pearl by Bob Hartman and in Community Chapel we'll hear a presentation from the 2nd grade class about the character trait perseverance.

Wednesday, February 5:

- 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

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore
Interim Lower School Chaplain

Pride Patrol- February 3-7

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:

- Jeremiah Goree
- Eli Gray
- Whit Gray
- Henry Hall

- Henry Hargraves
- Gibbs Harvey
- Colin Hickey

Super Session Highlights

Bookmark and Beyond : Mrs. Linders Silent Book Club - Join Mrs. Linder's Silent Book Club! Calling all 3rd-5th graders who love to read (or want to love reading)! Come unwind after school with Mrs. Linder in a fun and relaxed Silent Book Club where you will talk about books, read what you love and create unique bookmarks each week!

- Every other Tuesday starting February 11 - April 29, 3rd - 5th grade, 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm.

Dino Dig with Mrs. Keck - Calling all future paleontologists to embark on an exciting adventure to: Dig for Fossils – Use special tools to uncover hidden "dinosaur bones." Crack Open Frozen Dinosaur Eggs – What's hiding inside? Find Fossilized Treasures – Discover ancient secrets of the past!

- Feb 4th - 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm, PK3 - Kinder
- Feb 6th - 3:45 pm - 5:45 pm, 1st - 3rd Grade

Create and Craft with Mrs. Linder - 📖✨ Calling all 3rd through 5th graders! ✨🍪

Join Mrs. Linder after school for an exciting creative adventure! In this fun-filled workshop, you'll learn how to craft THREE unique handmade mini books using everyday materials to express your creativity. Design and make your very own custom stickers to personalize your projects or share with friends!

- Feb 6th - 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm, 3rd - 5th Grade

February Art Club : Enchanted Castles and Dragons - Join Mrs. Saoud for an enchanted adventure filled with castles, dragons, and imagination. During our 3 sessions, we will be creating a watercolor landscape with a cardboard layered castle and a dragon with moving legs! Thursdays in February. No class the day before Winter Break.

- Feb 6th - Thursdays, 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm, Kinder - 2nd Grade

Adventurer's Guild : February - Wealth! Fame! Adventure! Join Mr. Carter this summer as we delve into Tabletop RPGs like Dungeons and Dragons. You and your fellow adventurers have taken up a quest to help the Sheriff of Brandonsford deal with a dragon that's attacking travelers. Are you up to the task?

- Starting Feb 4 - Feb 27 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fairy Dust and Tea Cups - Calling all fairies! Join us for a magical time with lots of glitter, tea, and magic! We'll make glittering wands fit for any fairy and their magic, create our very own shimmering wings, and don crowns of flowers in order to get ready! Once all the fairies are dressed up, we'll enjoy a magical tea party with a sweet snack and an enchanting story about some of our fairy friends!

- Feb 10 and 11 (two separate sessions) - 3:45 pm - 5:45 pm, PK4 - 1st Grade

Looking Ahead

- February 13 | Classroom Valentine's Parties, Students wear Valentine's colors
- February 14-17 | Mid-Winter Break - No School
- March 4 | Shrove Tuesday Parade and Celebration, Students wear Mardi Gras colors
- March 7 | Family/Teacher Conference Day
- March 24-28 | Spring Break - No School
- April 18-21 | Easter Break - No School
- May 20 | 5th Grade Recognition, 1:30pm
- May 21 | Field Day, LS Dismissal at 12pm

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Middle School Families,

During Wednesday's Middle/Upper School Chapel, we were treated to a preview of the Middle School Play, and I would like to encourage everyone to come out either Friday or Saturday evenings at 6pm to see our middle school thespians in action. The preview was certainly entertaining!

At Monday's Middle School Morning Meeting, we announced our most recent MS Athlete of the Week. This student-athlete was Andrew Rogers from our eighth grade

boys' basketball team. Here is what Coach Friedel said in his nomination of Andrew, *"The 8th grade boys basketball player this past week is Andrew Rodgers. Andrew has worked extremely hard in practices and games and has continued to improve throughout the year. Andrew has had a great attitude and has been coachable all season long which has helped lead to the success of our 8th grade basketball team."*

When Your Child is Sick

Parents, you need only make one phone call or send one email when your child is sick. That call or email should be directed to Middle School Office Manager, Jan Britt, jbritt@episcopalcollegiate.org, who maintains our attendance records and needs to know. You need not contact your child's teachers or advisors about absence due to illness. If your child would like to reach out to their teachers to ask about work, that is great. In most cases, what they will need is already accessible on our Canvas Learning Management System.

Winter Spirit Week- Special Dress Days (Monday, February 3 through Friday, February 7)

Appropriate Dress:

- Wear appropriate footwear for everyday school activities and PE.
- Shorts must be appropriate length - fingertip length or longer
- No political figures or potentially offensive characterizations of people/ groups

The following items are not allowed per our community handbook:

- Bike pants, spandex clothing items
- No T-shirts with offensive language, boxers, tank tops, or sleeveless shirts
- Any backless dress, top, or cutoff shirts that expose any part of the midriff or back
- Mesh-type or see-through shirts
- Clothing with revealing necklines and sleeve openings (tank tops, spaghetti straps, etc.)
- Leggings - make sure you wear shorts or long shirts if you wear leggings
- Jeans or pants with holes, rips, or fraying

7th and 8th Grade- Boys and Girls Golf Opportunity

This week in chapel, we announced the opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to join the Middle School Golf Team, open to both boys and girls. The program, offered through the First Tee, will start in early to mid-March. *Please note, there is a cost for using their facilities.*

If you're unsure whether your child has signed up or would like to sign them up, feel free to reach out to jlester@episcopalcollegiate.org with any questions. Parents of all interested students will receive an invitation to a Google Meet on February 12 to learn more. After the meeting, you'll receive a link to officially register through the First Tee platform.

Looking forward to a great spring season! Go Wildcats!

Middle School Artists Recognized at Thursday's Morning Meeting

Celebrating Art is a national art publication designed to showcase and celebrate the work of student artists from grades K–12 in the United States. It offers a platform for young artists to have their work published in a professional anthology, providing recognition for their creativity and talent.

The program is organized into different age categories and typically conducts art contests several times a year, allowing students to submit their work for consideration. Winning submissions are selected based on creativity, technique, and originality. These pieces are then published in a high-quality, full-color art book, which is distributed to participants, schools, and libraries.

This fall we had 25 middle school art students selected to be published for their amazing work!

A Note from Dr. Graham

It's hard to believe that the third quarter ends in one month (Friday, February 28th). This week was full of quizzes, tests, essays, and other assessments. As it is everywhere else, life in Upper School is all about balance and managing transitions. Next week is Winter Spirit Week, a time for our kids to have some fun with special dress days, some not-yet-announced competitions, a pep rally, and our annual Winter Dance. Our students are

invited to cut loose a little bit next week, AND the work doesn't stop. It's a balancing act for our kids, and they are learning when and where to have fun and when and where to "lock in" and get their work done.

Soon, I'll share more information about our Spring Conference Day, which is set for Friday, March 7th. For now, please mark that day on your calendar. Classes will not be held that day to clear the decks for student-advisor-family conferences.

Please keep reading to learn more about what's happening in Upper School.

My teammates and I appreciate you and the opportunity to work with your children.

See you soon,

Kellen

Updates, Reminders, and Action Items

Winter Spirit Week

- Special Dress Days
 - Monday, Feb. 3 - Hero/Inspiration Day
 - Tuesday, Feb. 4 - Music Genre Day
 - Wednesday, Feb. 5 - Cozy Day
 - Thursday, Feb. 6 - Jungle/Camouflage DayTh
 - Friday, Feb 7. - ECS Spirit/Emerald City Day
- All-School Pep Rally- We will rock an all-school Pep Rally on Friday, February 7th from 1:05 to 1:35 p.m. in Championship Gym. Families are always invited to our Pep Rallies.
- The Dance- "A Night in Emerald City"- This year's Winter Dance - "A Night in Emerald City" - will be on Saturday, Feb 8th, from 8-10pm in the MS/US Dining Hall. Students must arrive before 8:30, and we expect them to remain at the dance until 10pm. If your student is planning on bringing a guest, please make sure they submit the **guest registration form** to Mr Binder as soon as possible. As usual, we will have faculty chaperones and professional security on site. DJ Waterboy will be providing the music, and we look forward to a great time. Please let Mr Binder know if you have any questions.

Spring Play Information- From Mr. Maindard O'Connell

Auditions for the Spring Play (Shakespeare's Twelfth Night) will take place after school on Wednesday, February 5 at 3:45 in the dining hall. We should be done by 5:30. We'll also have a callback audition for those I need to see again at the same time the next day. If you'd like to audition, please print, fill out, sign, and return **this audition form** on or before audition day. **Here** is a rehearsal and performance schedule for your information.

At the audition, I will assign you a scene to read from **this packet**. You'll have a few minutes to practice it with your scene partner(s) before you perform it on stage. No need to memorize it, but you're encouraged to read the scenes in advance so you know what to expect. **Here** is a summary of the plot and characters.

If you are interested in participating on the TECH CREW, please print, fill out, sign, and return **this form** by Wednesday, 2/5. **Here** is the general production schedule. **Here** is a description of the various crew positions. Reach out to **Mr. Mainard O'Connell** with questions.

Pancake Supper (Support the Class of 2026)- Tuesday, February 11

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Coming up Next Week

Chapel Schedule

- Mon, 2/3 - Lauren Humiston '25
- Tue, 2/4 - 2nd Grade Character Virtue
- Wed, 2/5 - Jackson Rowell '25
- Thu, 2/6 - Father Rob
- Fri, 2/7 - Ella Gary '25

Athletics Schedule

- **Athletics Schedule** Let's go, Wildcats!

Service Opportunities

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

Beyond Next Week (Mark Your Calendars)

- Pancake Supper (Sponsored by Class of '26) - Tuesday, Feb. 11
- Class of '24 Valentine Lunch - Wednesday, Feb. 12
- Winter Break - Friday, Feb. 14 - Monday, Feb. 17
- Parents' Auxiliary Auction - Saturday, Feb. 22
- End of 3rd Quarter - Friday, Feb. 28
- Fine Arts Showcase - Monday, March 3
- Spring Conference Day - Friday, March 7