

August 22, 2025

Safety Drills

Dear Parents,

The continued safety and security of our students, faculty, parents, and guests is of the utmost importance. We hold school-wide safety and security drills each semester. Our first safety drill of the 2025-26 school year will take place on Tuesday, August 26, from 8:10 am-8:45 am. All students will participate in our safety and security drills which will include a fire drill, tornado drill, and campus lockdown. As always, we appreciate your assistance in ensuring students arrive on time so that we can run these drills efficiently. Teachers will discuss and guide students during these drills in an age-appropriate manner.

If you have any questions, please contact your Division Head.

Respectfully,

Matt Radtke
Assistant Head of School

School Picture Day- September 3, 2025

All Lower School students will have their school pictures taken on Wednesday, September 3, which is also Convocation Day. All students should wear their Dress Uniform (Option A in Lower School). Wingard Photography will be taking the pictures. Ordering is easy and can be done online:

- Each student will bring home an order form on Monday for online ordering. You can also visit the [Inter-State Studio website](#) and use the designated codes below to place your order:
 - Lower School: 0208FVA
 - Middle and Upper School: 0211ZVA

Admission Season is Already Here!

Over the past few years, Episcopal has seen an increase in inquiries and applications, and as a result, we opened the 2025-26 school year with a record enrollment of 842 students.

Episcopal is intentional when it comes to class size, allowing our students to feel known and cherished. Given the increase in applications, we encourage you to [submit an application](#) for any sibling(s) currently not enrolled who plan to attend the upcoming 2026-27 school year. While submitting an application does not guarantee admission, it is an essential step to start the admission process for your child(ren). We are thrilled about the growing interest in our school and want to provide every opportunity for current families to benefit from our programs.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Director of Admissions, Mary Jane Briggs, at mjbriggs@episcopalcollegiate.org, or Associate Director of Admissions, Mahlon Martin, at mmartin@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Thank you for being a valued part of Episcopal Collegiate!

Gate and Concession

Thanks to all the families that have **already signed up** to help with gate and concessions. We are off to a great start. There are still some open spots to fill and we will be adding PSL volleyball slots once the schedule is posted. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to **Laura Schnackenberg** or **Mary Margaret Wippo**.

Go Wildcats!

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

It has been a wonderful week, especially with our PreK friends joining us—what a joy it is to have them on campus! We're grateful for your patience and cooperation as carpool becomes more efficient each day. Please continue to make every effort to arrive on time. Teachers on morning carpool duty need to head into their classrooms at 8:00 a.m., so if you arrive after that time, we kindly ask that you park and walk your child in. This is especially important on Wednesday mornings, as we begin the day with Community Chapel at 8:00 a.m. and want every student to be part of this special time.

A few PreK reminders for both morning and afternoon carpool:

- Please have your Brightwheel app open and ready to scan the QR code during morning carpool.
- Unbuckle your child before reaching the drop-off area to help keep the line moving smoothly. In the afternoon, plan to pull forward out of the carpool line after pickup to safely buckle your child back in.

For afternoon pickup, please remember that a school-issued carpool sign is required. If you need one, please **email Tonya Thomas**, and she will send it home in your child's backpack.

Our PSL flag and tackle football teams, along with our PSL cheerleaders, have their first games this Saturday. Flag football starts at 8:00 a.m., followed by tackle football at 9:00 a.m. Come out and support our Lower School athletes. Go, Wildcats!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Lower School Cookie Days

We're excited to share that each Lower School grade will enjoy a special "cookie day" over the next few months, beginning Friday, August 29.

For students with allergies reported to our School Nurse, we'll be serving Gluten-Free OREO cookies. You can view the full ingredient list [here](#):

INGREDIENTS: SUGAR, WHITE RICE FLOUR, TAPIOCA STARCH, PALM OIL, SOYBEAN AND/OR CANOLA OIL, WHOLE OAT FLOUR, CORNSTARCH, COCOA (PROCESSED WITH ALKALI), INVERT SUGAR, SOY LECITHIN, BAKING SODA, SALT, XANTHAN GUM, CHOCOLATE, ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR.
CONTAINS: SOY.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to nurses@episcopalcollegiate.org.

What's for Lunch?

Our SAGE dining menu is always just a click away! You can find it under the Parent and Student Quick Links dropdown menu on the Episcopal Collegiate website – or view it [directly here](#).

Parent Room Signup!

Thank you to those who have signed up to be room parents in your child's class. We still have a few open spots and would love to have those filled before our PA room parent coordinator meeting on Thursday, August 28 at 8:30am. This will be a virtual meeting via Google Meet. We will go over expectations and best practices. Parent Room sign up and Google Meet Code for our meeting is linked below:

- [Sign Up to be a room parent here](#)
- [LS Room Parent Virtual Meeting](#)
- Or dial: (US) +1 502-947-4189 PIN: 270 944 410#

Wildcat Chorale- Choral Group for 4th and 5th Graders!

Wildcat Chorale will begin on September 2, 2025, and will meet from 3:15 to 4:15 PM.

Sign-up forms will be available for students to pick up starting August 22, 2025. Completed forms must be returned for your student to participate. Forms are [linked here](#). Questions? **Contact Shelbi White.**

Outerwear and Appearance Reminders

As we begin the school year, we want to share a few important reminders to help ensure consistency across campus:

- Outerwear: During the school day, only Episcopal-approved outerwear may be worn inside school buildings. Please reserve cheer sweatshirts and other non-approved items for Friday Spirit Days.

- Football Hoodies: Students in grades 3–5 who are participating in PSL football may wear the Episcopal football hoodie on any school day, as it is considered approved outerwear.
- Jewelry: Girls may wear earrings, but for safety reasons—especially during PE and playground activities—please ensure they are not large or dangling.
- Hair Guidelines:
 - Students should not have dyed hair or tinsel hair extensions.
 - Boys with longer hair must keep it pulled back and above the collar.

For full dress code details, please refer to the Lower School Handbook, particularly pages 40–41.

Attention 4th & 5th Grade Parents!

On Friday, August 29 at 8:00 a.m., Katie Robinson, Director of Innovation and Technology, will share tips and tricks to navigate our learning management system, Canvas. All 4th and 5th grade students, along with those in Middle and Upper Schools, use this system daily. Please join us in the Lower School library for this helpful training.

Chapel News

It was an exciting week as we welcomed our PreK students and continued to get to know the new Godly Play classroom. In Godly Play, we continued learning about and how we will get ourselves ready and respond to the stories we hear this year. Next week we will start with our first story of the year, The Circle of the Church Year.

Our first Community Chapel was wonderful as we gathered together at a new time, beginning our Wednesday together. This "Community Chapel 101" involved conversation about what it means to be a community and practice on how we enter and exit in a reverent manner, how we sing together respectfully and how we open worship in a new way as we will begin with a procession this year. Next week in 1st-5th Community Chapel we will take a deeper look at our Episcopal Collegiate School prayer and what the words and phrases mean.

In PreK and Kinder Chapels we read *This is THE Day* by Amy Parker and learned a new prayer with hand motions (ask your student if they remember the "God is in my head..." prayer). Next week in PreK and Kinder Chapels we will read *This is the Church* by Sarah Raymond Cunningham.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on Wednesdays. Note the new chapel times (and location for PreK and Kindergarten) this year listed below. You are always welcome!

- 1st-5th: 8:00-8:30pm, Erwin Performance Hall & Gymnasium
- PreK 3: 8:50-9:10am, Godly Play Classroom, Room 142 (next to Library)
- PreK 4: 9:20-9:40am, Godly Play Classroom, Room 142 (next to Library)
- Kindergarten: 10:00-10:20am, Godly Play Classroom, Room 142 (next to Library)

Michelle Moore
Interim Lower School Chaplain

A Note from Mrs. Linder: Upcoming Author/Illustrator Visit & Book Order Form

We are excited to welcome our first author-illustrator visit for the 2025-2026 school year! New York Times Bestselling author-illustrator [Matt Tavares](#) will present to Pre-K3 through 5th graders on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. Mr. Tavares is the author and illustrator of 13 books and illustrated more than 12 books for other authors. We are proud to partner with Wordsworth Books to sell books that Mr. Tavares will autograph for students and families. Order forms were sent home Monday, August 18. If you missed it, [here is the order form](#) to order books. These order forms are due to Mrs. Linder FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, sorry, late orders cannot be accepted.

Girls on the Run: 3rd-5th Grade Students

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 from 3:15pm-4:45pm beginning September 8. The season ends with a Celebratory 5K Run on Sunday, November 23! [Register today!](#) Questions? Please contact Kathleen Van Lierop (501) 519-7739. For more information visit our website gotrcentralark.org.

Pride Patrol: August 25-29

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:

- Kenzie Cook
- Carter Cummings
- Magnolia Cunningham
- Henry Dake
- Willa Dalvi
- Ellie Daniel

Mark Your Calendars

- September 1 | Labor Day, No School
- September 3 | All School Convocation and School Picture Day, Dress Uniform Required
- September 5 | Watermelon Kick-Off
- September 24 | Parent Preview of Grandparents Day program, 8:15am -9:00am
- October 3 | Grandparents and Special Friends' Day
- October 8 | Wildcat Roundup
- October 9-10 | Fall Break
- October 24 | Family/Teacher Conference Day, No School

Quick Links

[Lower School Live Morning News](#)

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at Back to School Night, and I know that our teachers truly enjoyed meeting you and introducing their classes and curricula. Moving forward, should you have questions about a class or teacher, please reach out to that professional directly. I hope that many of you will come cheer on our middle school and junior high wildcat sports teams and find a way to get involved with the Parents' Auxiliary. Remember that your child can earn community service hours by serving in our concessions stand, but they are only able to do this if accompanied by a parent!

Chuck McCormick
Head of Middle School

Middle School Athlete of the Week- From Junior High/Middle School Cheer Coach Melissa Baker

When Dr. McCormick asked me to provide the first athlete of the week, I knew this wasn't going to be easy. There are so many that are deserving of this, but I thought back to cheer camp this summer, our preseason practices, and this first week of school's practices and there was a person that really stood out to me.

This young lady is in her second year on the JH team and to watch her love for her team grow has been a wonderful experience to watch. She has always had the want and desire for our team to perform well on the sideline and at halftime, but what has stood out the most to me this summer and school year is the support, leadership, and encouragement she has shown to our Captains and new members of our team. This was also displayed at cheer camp this summer when she was awarded the "Pin It Forward" award for the same qualities. I'm excited to see what the future holds for this Wildcat Cheerleader. Congratulations, Chloe Hooks.

Middle School Social Today, Friday, August 22

We will hold our opening Middle School social (students only). This will take place from 6-8pm in the Championship Gym and MS/US Dining Hall. Parents should drop their students off and pick them up at the entrance to the gym and dining hall by the wildcat statue. Dress is casually appropriate - t-shirts and shorts with episcappropriate logos are fine. Student advisory groups will donate drinks and snacks. Please do not deliver your students before 5:50pm at the earliest, and please do pick them up by 8pm sharp. This is a long day for faculty!

Come Cheer on Our Wildcats- 7th Grade & Junior High Football Games

We'd love to see everyone out this Thursday night for our 7th grade (5:30 pm) and Junior High (7:00 pm) football games vs. Baptist Prep. Bring your Wildcat spirit and help cheer on our teams! Go green and white!

Dropping off Students in the Morning

If you drop your student off prior to 7:30am, please drop them off at the wildcat statue and see that they walk into the building near the gym and dining hall. There is supervision in the MS/US Dining Hall, which is right there, and we do not want students entering the Middle School building until 7:30am when the carpool line door is staffed.

Thank you!

A Note from Dr. Graham

This first five-day week in Upper School was awesome. Our students are settling into their school routines, and the caliber of teaching and learning—across subject areas and grade levels— is inspiring. On Tuesday, students, faculty, and staff signed our School's honor code. On Wednesday, senior parents met with our College Counselors to preview the college application process. On Thursday morning, several 9th-grade parents met with members of our leadership team for a conversation about helping our 9th graders thrive. Our football, volleyball, tennis, cross-country, rowing, and tennis teams are in full swing, and we look forward to catching them in action in the coming days.

Next week is Back-to-School Night. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:00 pm in the Dining Hall, where our program will start with brief remarks from Dr. Griffin and me. After that, you will get to walk your child's schedule and meet their faculty advisor and teachers. It's a fantastic way to get to know (or get reacquainted) with our program. The program will conclude at 8:00 pm.

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

See you soon,

Kellen

Updates, Reminders, and 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, you must 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 a detailed message or email Ruth Waldon at rwaldon@episcopalcollegiate.org. Upper School students are expected to communicate any known absences in advance with their teachers, coaches, and advisor.

Dress Code

[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.

Add/Drop Deadline

Today, Friday, August 22 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.

Coming up Next Week

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 8/25 - 6th-Grade Religion Class

- Tuesday, 8/26 - Chapel Guild
- Wednesday, 8/27 - Catherine Crow '26
- Thursday, 8/28 - Father Rob
- Friday, 8/30 - Tate Mikles '26

Campus Safety & Security Drills - Tuesday, August 26

On Tuesday morning, we will run a series of on-campus safety and security drills (lockdown, tornado, fire) in Upper, Middle, and Lower School. We will notify our students ahead of time.

Back-to-School Night - Wednesday, August 27 - 6:00-8:00 pm

We hope to see you on Wednesday evening. Our program will start promptly at 6:00 pm in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall. This evening is a great chance to meet your child's faculty advisor and teachers and to experience our academic program.

Beyond Next Week (Mark Your Calendars)

All-School Convocation - Wednesday, September 3

This formal ceremony recognizes the start of the school year. *This is a dress uniform day for students.

School Picture Day - Wednesday, September 3

* Dress uniform day for students.

All-School Pep Rally & Watermelon Supper - Friday, September 5

We will hold an all-school Pep Rally, from 1:05-1:30 pm in Championship Gym, to fire us up for Watermelon Supper, which is set for later that evening. Parents are always welcome at our Pep Rallies.

9th-Grade Trip - Monday, September 15

Our 9th-grade class, along with several faculty and staff members, will travel to Camp Mitchell for a one-day retreat.

Family Night - Wednesday, September 17

This is our first Family Night of the year. There will be no school activities after 5:00 pm, and students will not be assigned homework this evening.

Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day - Friday, October 3

We look forward to welcoming our grandparents' and special friends on this day. We will run a half-day schedule.

On-Campus Flu Clinic - Monday, October 6

CAPS College Fair - Monday, October 6

The annual CAPS College Fair will be held at UALR, in the Stephens Center, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for students to meet representatives from many colleges and universities.

End of Quarter 1 - Wednesday, October 8

The first quarter (marking period) ends on Wednesday, October 8.

Fall Break - Thursday, October 9 - Sunday, October 12

School will be closed for Fall Break.

Homecoming & Spirit Week - Monday, October 13 - Saturday, October 18

More details coming soon.

Fall Conference Day - Friday, October 24

Athletics Schedule

[Athletics Schedule](#) - Let's go, Wildcats!

Digital Ticketing System

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to share an important update regarding our digital ticketing system for athletic events.

Beginning this school year, we will be transitioning to GoFan as our exclusive platform for purchasing tickets to all home athletic events. This change is part of our ongoing efforts to improve the game-day experience for our families and fans.

Here's why we're making the switch:

- **User-Friendly:** GoFan offers a more streamlined and user friendly experience for purchasing and accessing tickets.
- **Widespread Adoption:** Over 90% of schools using digital ticketing in Arkansas currently use GoFan, making it easier for families to use one platform for both home and away games.
- **Consistency with AAA:** The Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) utilizes GoFan for all postseason events, so aligning with this system creates a consistent experience throughout the season and into playoffs

[Season Tickets and events](#) are ready to purchase when you are ready. You'll receive step-by-step instructions on how to access and use GoFan with your purchase. We're confident this transition will benefit everyone involved and we appreciate your continued support.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Go Wildcats!

Micah Marsh, Director of Athletics

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!