

August 29, 2025

All School News

Watermelon Kickoff- Friday, September 5 at 5:30 pm

We can't wait to see everyone (Lower, Middle, and Upper School families) for our annual Watermelon Kick-Off—a favorite Episcopal tradition! This is a fantastic chance to come together as a community to celebrate our student-athletes, coaches, and the start of an exciting Fall as we ring in the first Football home game of the season! Our teams and staff have poured a ton of energy into making this a memorable night for all.

Please note- today, August 29, is the last day to place your order for your Watermelon Kickoff T-shirt! [Click here to order!](#)

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

Just a reminder to sign up for your gate or concession slot if you have a student athlete this fall. If you have more than one athlete, you are still asked to only sign up for two spots during the season. More slots will still be added so please keep checking. The link for SignUp Genius can be [found here](#). Feel free to reach out to Laura Schnackenberg (lkschoe@gmail.com) or Mary Margaret Wippo (mmj48@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Thank you for all you do!

Laura and Mary Margaret

Lower School

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

Next Wednesday, all students should wear Dress Uniform, Option A for school pictures and Convocation. That same day, students in 1st through 5th grades will join our entire school community at Convocation beginning at 9am in the Championship Gym. Parents are welcome to attend this ceremony.

On Friday, we will have an all-school pep rally from 1:05-1:35pm in the Championship Gym to celebrate our first home football game. We hope you can join us for Watermelon Kickoff that evening beginning at 5:30pm. It's a great community event that you will not want to miss!

Enjoy the long 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 tomorrow, August 29.

For students with allergies reported to our School Nurse, we'll be serving Gluten-Free OREO cookies.

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

School Picture Day - September 3, 2025

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- Each student will bring home an order form on Monday that includes a QR code for online ordering.

You can also visit the [Inter-State Studio website](#) and use the code 0208FVA to place your order.

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.**

Little Rockers Registration

Registration for the 2025-2026 season of the Little Rockers Kids Marathon program is now open. This after-school activity is available to 1st through 5th grade students and meets on Monday afternoons from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Participants complete 25.1 miles throughout the season and run their final mile during the weekend of the Little Rock Marathon on Saturday, February 28. Please use this [link](#) to sign up. Should you have any questions about the program, please contact Mr. Alex Daniel.

Chapel News



It was a great week of experiencing our new Godly Play classroom and chapel schedule! In Godly Play, we heard the story of the Circle of the Church Year and learned about the colors the church used to mark time. Ask your student(s) which color of the church year they like best and why. Next week, we'll learn about the Holy Bible and the books it contains.

Community Chapel was another great time of gathering as a community to learn about what our Episcopal Collegiate Community prayer really says and what its words mean. This week we added several new roles for our 5th grade leaders - processing with the cross and candles as well as helping with our 1st grade classes as they learn about

being a part of Community Chapel. We will not have regular Community Chapel next week due to All School Convocation.

In PreK and Kinder Chapels we read *This is Church* by Sarah Raymond Cunningham and practiced the rhyme "Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors, there's all the people." We will not have PreK or Kinder chapels next week due to All School Convocation.

Michelle Moore
Interim Lower School Chaplain

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: September 2-5

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:

- Rachel Davis
- Kayleigh Dillett
- Parker Easley
- Alexander Eubanks
- Ford Fontes
- Rowan Gaillard

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, 11:30am dismissal
- October 8 | Wildcat Roundup, 4:30-6pm
- October 9-10 | Fall Break
- October 24 | Family/Teacher Conference Day, No School

Quick Links

[Lower School Live Morning News](#)

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](#).

Middle School

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Middle School Families,

It was great to see so many of you at Thursday evening's Baptist Prep football games and the concurrent middle school volleyball games. Looking ahead, and in conjunction with the Parents' Auxiliary, we are planning a middle school tailgate for the evening of

September 25, when we again have our football, cheer, and volleyball squads all in home action.

This week, our 7&8 grade advisory groups competed against one another in the iconic Middle School Dodgeball tournament, and we began our Wednesday clubs. Here are the clubs that various faculty members offered on Wednesday: 7th grade co-ed lacrosse, face painting, book club, dance, 6th grade dodgeball, modern hobby boardgaming, student council, and quiz bowl. Additionally, our newly minted STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) club hosted their first guest speaker, Dr. Jerrilyn Jones (Episcopal parent), who spoke with middle and upper school students about her career as an emergency room doctor and medical school teacher. This morning, a number of sixth grade students gave speeches to be student council grade representatives.

Middle School Athlete of the Week: 8th Grade Volleyball Player Carter Chance

From Coach Mary Herman: I am nominating Carter Chance for doing a great job of displaying the heart of a Wildcat! Carter has worked so hard every practice and been a great leader to her teammates. She is a true competitor and shows up every day with a great attitude and competitive spirit.

Convocation & Picture Day: September 3

Looking ahead, on September 3, we will hold our all school convocation in the Championship Gym. September 3 is also individual student picture day, so for both events students are required to wear formal dress uniform. We appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your children are properly attired before dropping them off at school on Wednesday.

New Family Parent Program: "So My Kid is in Middle School, Now What?"

We invite you to join Dr. Chuck McCormick, Mrs. Catherine Radtke, Mrs. Tiffany Hargrave, and Mrs. Melissa Baker next Thursday, September 4, from 8:15 to 9:00am in

the Middle School's Erwin Library to learn more about what to expect as your child adjusts to middle school. This parent program will focus on how to support your child in building self-advocacy skills and independence.

We hope to see most of you at next Friday, September 5th's Watermelon Kickoff, which will take place on and around Mourot Stadium next Friday evening.

Stay well!

Chuck McCormick

Upper School

A Note from Dr. Graham

My teammates and I loved seeing so many of you at Back-to-School Night on Wednesday. If you were with us, I hope you enjoyed meeting (or reconnecting with) your child's faculty advisor and teachers. If you couldn't make it, please know that our faculty and staff are always here to answer questions about our program.

Shoutout to our Varsity Volleyball team for a strong conference-opening win against Harding Academy in Championship Gym on Monday night. Our full fall sports schedule is linked below. Come out and see the Wildcats in action.

Also, please check out Dr. Aaron Leverette's "Welcome" letter below. Dr. Leverette joined our team as Upper School Counselor this year.

Looking ahead to next week...

Wednesday is Convocation and School Picture Day, which means it's a DRESS UNIFORM DAY for students.

Enjoy the long weekend, and please keep reading to learn more about what's happening in Upper School.

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.

School Picture Day & Convocation- Wednesday, September 3 (Dress Uniform Day)

All Upper School students will have their school pictures taken on Wednesday, September 3, which is also Convocation Day. *All students should wear their Dress Uniform.

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 that includes a QR code for online ordering.

You can also visit [Wingard Photography's website](#) and use the code 0208FVA to place your order.

Senior Portraits (Summer Makeups)- September 3

Senior portraits will be taken on September 3 starting at 8:00 am for those who could not make the summer session. Students should wear their dress uniforms for convocation (please remove buttons for the picture). If you are taking a drape picture, you may wear or bring a tank top (or borrow one). This is the final sitting for senior pictures, so please be sure to review your pictures to ensure that you have options you like. When the pictures are ready, you will receive an email with a link to view and choose the pose for the yearbook and composite.

Also, senior tribute ads are available and should be placed on the Jostens site. Please view more information and instructions for placing ads here. The deadline is Friday, October 31. Do NOT order a yearbook from this site (you already did that during re-enrollment).

Welcome from Dr. Aaron Leverette, Upper School Counselor

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope your family has had a wonderful start to the school year! It has been great meeting so many amazing students around campus—whether just to say hello or to process an issue. There is a special warmth within the ECS community among both students and faculty, which has been very encouraging to me.

As the new Upper School Counselor, I wanted to briefly introduce myself and share some ways I can be of service. My bachelor's degree is in Music Education, my master's degree is in Professional Counseling, and my doctorate is in Educational Leadership. Over the past 10 years, I have worked in both school and clinical settings as a counselor, and I am excited to help ECS students navigate tough moments or seasons and learn to not just survive but thrive.

I am available to meet with students and families as needed to support and guide them through a wide range of challenges, including stress, anxiety, sadness, depression, interpersonal conflict, insomnia, grief, changing family dynamics, and challenging school behaviors. Please reach out—even if you are unsure whether an issue is “too big” or “too small.” My goal is to ensure your child receives the support they need, whether through school counseling, the support of our school team, or connecting with providers in the community.

You know your children better than anyone else, and I value your insight. If your teen is experiencing something outside of school that may make it difficult for them to be at their best on a given day, you are welcome to let me know without feeling obligated to share all the details (life is complicated!). This allows me to communicate with teachers so they can provide some extra grace or check in with your child as needed.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me by phone, email, or in person with any questions. I look forward to getting to know you and your teens better in the coming months. Go Wildcats!

Sincerely,
Aaron Leverette

College Counseling Notes

College Rep visits for Juniors & Seniors begin next week. In order to attend a college visit, students must grab a green slip from College Counseling and get your teacher to sign it before the class period.

- Upcoming Visit: 09/04 - University of Chicago - 11:05 AM: The University of Chicago is a private research university in Chicago, Illinois with about 8,000 undergraduate students. University of Chicago is known for their distinctive core curriculum and an impressive 5:1 student to faculty ratio.
- The most popular majors are Mathematics, Biology, Social Sciences, Psychology, and Literature. Students live together in 39 distinct houses that have their own

unique traditions and mascots. They are in the NCAA DII and their mascot is a Phoenix!

- Amherst, Bowdoin, Carleton, Pomona, Swarthmore, and Williams will host a joint college admissions information session for all interested students (any grade). Monday, September 8, 2025 7:00 p.m. - Central High School, 1500 Little Rock Nine Way, Little Rock, AR 72202: Register at : www.sixcolleges.org
- College Excused Absences can be obtained for juniors and seniors through the college counselors. Here's how:
 - A parent should forward the confirmation email of the college tour to one of the college counselors at least a week before the scheduled visit.
 - You must get the form signed by teachers, return the form to Ms. Waldon, and turn in any work due that day before you depart.
 - Students may not be excused to visit the same college twice in a year.

Coming up Next Week

Chapel Schedule

- Tuesday, 9/2 - Matthew Collins '26
- Wednesday, 9/3 - Convocation
- Thursday, 9/4 - Father Rob
- Friday, 9/5 - Will Jones '26

All-School Convocation & School Picture Day - Wednesday, September 3

This formal ceremony celebrates the start of the school year. *This is a 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 and the first home varsity football game, both of which are set for later that evening. Parents are always welcome at our Pep Rallies.

Beyond Next Week (Mark Your Calendars)

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!

Athletics

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!

Wildcat Club

A Note from Izzy

It's so wonderful to see all the familiar faces back on campus for the school year! So far, WCC has continued to grow in our daily numbers following a fantastic summer, and we can't wait to welcome all of our Wildcats each afternoon.

This year, we're striving for even more growth and have introduced some exciting new additions to our daily schedules. In our newsletter, you'll find highlights about our weekly STEAM activity, where we encourage collaboration and creativity across age groups. Our 4th and 5th grade students team up with our Kindergarteners to help them tackle fun and challenging STEAM projects – building both confidence and connection.

We're also adding some fresh traditions to our Fridays. Each week, students will celebrate the week's triumphs with a rotating sweet treat. And once a month, we'll host Fantastic Fridays – big events that bring all of our groups together for games, laughter, and community fun.

We're looking forward to another year of growth, excitement, and joy with your Wildcats, and we're so grateful you're a part of it!

Izzy Jackson
Director of Auxiliary Programs

A Note from Katie

I'm thrilled to begin this new year as the Associate Director of Auxiliary Programs! It has truly been a joy becoming part of the Episcopal family and getting to know our amazing

students. Izzy and I are excited to bring fresh ideas and engaging activities to our program, and we can't wait to see all the fun and growth this year will bring. Here's to making it the best year yet for our Wildcats!

Katie Beard
Associate Director of Auxiliary Programs

Here's What's Happening this Year

STEAM Fun Every Week

Each week, we'll dive into an exciting, hands-on project that sparks curiosity and creativity.

Monthly Big Events

One Friday each month, we'll go big with an interactive, themed event for all students to enjoy.

Fun Fridays

Every Friday we'll celebrate the week's hard work and positive behavior with a sweet treat. This week, we're topping off the first week of school with an ice cream bar!! (We will have alternative options for students who have allergies or dietary restrictions)

Supersessions Coming Soon

Supersessions will be making a comeback in the coming weeks—once we've all settled into the school routine, you will be able to sign up via [Homeroom](#).

Pick-Up for Super Sessions

Should you have a student in a session please park and walk up to the LS Main Office Entrance for pick-up. We kindly ask that session pick-ups do not sit in the carpool lane

in order to avoid congesting the lane for WCC pick-ups. Should you need a student early from a session please then call (501)-804-6649, notify what session your student is attending and a member from our team will go get them.

For our Busy Bees in Activities

If your child participates in sports, dance, gymnastics, baseball, or any other extracurriculars that require them to change clothes and head out promptly, please let us know their schedule in advance. When we have those details ahead of time, we can make transitions smoother and help ensure our students arrive on time and ready to shine.

Pickup Protocols

For any and all pick-ups please call the WCC phone number located on either entrance of the Lower School, (501)-804-6649, notify the team of who you are picking up and wait at the door for our arrival.

- Daily use of carpool signs is required – this is crucial for the safety and security of our students. We must be able to quickly and clearly identify every vehicle in the line.
- PK–1st Grade: Picked up at the Main Entrance.
- 2nd–5th Grade: Picked up at the Gym Entrance.
- Siblings in Multiple Grades: All siblings will be picked up at the Main Office Entrance for convenience.

Coming up Next Week

- Friday's Treat: Candy Trail Mix - Kids will have a variety of candies to choose from and they will walk around and pick which ones to make their trail mix.
- STEAM Project: Balloon-Powered Cars – a hands-on activity exploring motion and speed.

We can't wait to make this year in WCC full of creativity, fun, and community!