

September 5, 2025

Watermelon Kickoff Tonight: 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.

Parents Auxiliary Meeting: Friday, September 19

Please make plans to attend our first meeting of the year! Friday, September 19, at 8:00 am in the Upper School Simpson Library.

School Pictures Update

Didn't get a chance to turn in your picture order form? No worries! Online order form is [linked here](#) for families who still wish to purchase photos.

Picture Retake Day will be Wednesday, October 22, for all students in PreK–11th grade who missed picture day. Seniors will receive a separate email with their ordering link once their photos are ready (please note: this is a different site than the one used for other grades).

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!

Concessions and Gate

Wow! Huge thank you to our families for almost filling all of the gate and concessions slots for our fall sports. We appreciate you all so much. We have just a couple of spots to fill including those for PSL volleyball on September 20, which were just added. Go Wildcats!

Thanks to all who volunteered for gate and concessions in August!

Taylor Carmichael, Betsy Carnell, Cathy Zimmerman, Lauren Dake, Tracy Harrelson, Beth Blackshaw, Julia Crow, Elizabeth Daniel, Lauren Ford, Henry Ford, Lindsay Coon, Amanda Daugherty, Niysha Baker, Christy Moss, and Courtney Jenkins

Volunteer signup [linked here](#).

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

We had a wonderful week in the Lower School celebrating Convocation with the broader Episcopal community. We also successfully made it through our first dress uniform day! To help with any questions, I've asked your child's teachers to post grade-specific dress uniform guidelines in their newsletters on Canvas this week. As always, our used uniform closet is open and available for any uniform needs.

Looking ahead, our next dress uniform day is Grandparents Day on Friday, October 3.

We hope you'll join us this evening at 5:30 p.m. for our Watermelon Kickoff! Enjoy a fun-filled evening with a bounce house, Big Poppa Bubble, face tattoos, and—of course—plenty of watermelon. Then stick around to cheer on our varsity football team as they take on the Bearden Bears at 7:00 p.m.!

This Saturday, our two Episcopal flag football teams will play one another at 8:00 a.m., followed by our tackle football game against LRCA Green at 9:00 a.m.—both right here at Episcopal. We hope you can come and support our football players and cheerleaders.

Go, Wildcats!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Carpool Timing

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we work to make carpool smoother and more efficient each day. Your efforts to arrive on time make a big difference, and we truly appreciate your support.

Please note that teachers assisting with morning carpool duty need to head to their classrooms at 8:00 a.m. If you arrive after that time, we kindly ask that you park and walk your child into the building.

This is especially important on Wednesday mornings, when our school day begins with Community Chapel at 8:00 a.m. We want every student to be present for this meaningful time together.

Thank you so much for your support!

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 another great week in Godly Play! This week we learned about the Holy Bible and the categories of books it contains. Ask your student if they remember how many books are in the Bible! Next Week, we'll learn about the Holy Family.

We enjoyed Convocation with the entire Episcopal community this week and look forward to returning to our regular chapel schedule next week. In PreK and Kindergarten chapels we'll watch a video about the Holy Family and continue talking about who is a part of the Holy Family and why they are important. In Community Chapel, we'll continue with our second part of our conversation about the what and why of the ECS Prayer.

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)

Chapel Duties for Community Chapel on Wednesday, September 10, 2025:

Procession:

- Cross: Louisa Young
- Candle: Henry Dake
- Candle: Kayleigh Dillett

Cantors:

- Darina Dementyeva
- Alice Guthrie
- Willa Dalvi

Readers:

- Hank Adams
- Jett Ludwig

1st Grade Partners:

- Emma K Baker
- Carter Cummings
- Jennings Owens
- Wyatt Sappington
- James Kemp
- Cole Irwin

Michelle Moore
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 8-12

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:

- Holden Gaines
- Annalise Hargrave
- Wyatt Hilbun
- Theo Howell
- Vivian Kalkbrenner
- Mykenna Kloske

Mark Your Calendars

- 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](#).

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Middle School Families,

This week we celebrated the official “coming together” of our school community with the all-school convocation on Wednesday, 9/3. This afternoon, we are excited to once again join together as a community for the Watermelon Kick-Off to celebrate Varsity Football’s home opener versus Bearden. I hope that many of you will endeavor to at least stop by for a few minutes. Please also mark your calendars for Thursday evening, September 25. That is the date of our “Middle School Tailgate,” where our terrific Parents’ Auxiliary will provide food for middle school students, and the middle school community will join together to cheer on our wildcat football, volleyball, and cheer teams, who all have home contests that night. Please make every effort to join us for part of this awesome event.

Parent Programming

Virtual Book Talks – Dr. McCormick will lead a virtual book study this semester, and this fall’s book is entitled 10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People by David Yeager, PhD. All parents are welcome to attend, including those who have not read the book! Our first conversation will take place on Wednesday, September 17. The second discussion will be on Tuesday, October 14, and the final conversation will take place on Tuesday, October 28. All of these sessions will occur from 8:15-9:00am at the following Google Meet link: meet.google.com/cfy-rkqf-dxo

Dial in: (US)+1 252-665-6568 PIN: 738 192 219#

ISAACS Parent Webinar Series:

We are excited that the ISACS Parent Webinar Series will kick off on Thursday, September 25th with Lisa Damour-School Skills: Setting Kids Up For Success. Each person who plans to attend the live webinars or watch the recordings MUST pre-register for each webinar on Zoom to receive their event ticket.

You may pre-register [here](#). You will have the option to register for all of the webinars in the series and for them to be added to your calendar for easy access to the Zoom meetings.

We are excited to be able to participate in this virtual program for independent school parents, faculty, and caregivers. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Registration Instructions [linked here](#).

Stay well!

Chuck McCormick

A Note from Dr. Graham

Happy Watermelon Supper Day–

I like to break down the school year into smaller segments. Counting today, we have 27 school days until Fall Break. It's an important segment, as the habits our kids forge in the month ahead will shape the course of the semester.

On Wednesday, we held our all-school Convocation, at which we formally celebrated the start of the 2025-26 school year. We are getting hype for this afternoon's all-school Pep Rally. That's at 1:05 pm in Championship Gym—all parents and guardians are welcome. The Pep Rally will pump everyone up for tonight's Watermelon Supper and the kickoff of the Varsity Football season. My teammates and I hope to see you tonight!

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

Kellen

Updates, Reminders, and Action Items

9th-Grade Retreat - Required Paperwork

9th-grade parents, please complete the forms linked below to enable your child to attend the 9th-grade retreat on Monday, September 15th. Dean of Students Ms. Self will email you more details about the retreat early next week. We expect all 9th graders to attend the retreat.

- [9th-Grade Trip Permission Slip](#)

- [9th-Grade Trip Medical Form](#)

Making Homework Time Less Stressful - From Ms. Paige, Learning Specialist

Does homework time often turn into a tense tug-of-war at home? [This helpful article](#) offers actionable ways to ease the pressure. It shows how simple shifts—like having your teen estimate how long assignments will take, starting with the easiest task first, and using a calm, well-lit homework spot—can significantly reduce stress and increase motivation. Read on for more details and practical tips to make homework time smoother and more collaborative.

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.

College Counseling Notes

College Rep visits for Juniors & Seniors begin after Labor Day! 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.

Here are the upcoming visits:

- Monday, 09/08- Washington & Lee University - 10:00 AM

Washington & Lee is a private university with about 2,500 undergraduate students in Lexington, Virginia. W&L students really get to know their professors with an impressive 8:1 student to faculty ratio. Popular majors include: Business, Economics, Biology, English, and Political Science. W&L has a unique 12-12-4 academic calendar which gives students a four week spring term where students take a single course- often abroad! There are lots of clubs to join, including Outing Club which offers trips that include backpacking, fly fishing, caving, skiing, and more! The Generals compete in the NCAA DIII.

- Tuesday, 09/09- Rice University - 11:05 AM

Rice University is a private research university with about 5,000 undergraduate students located in Houston, Texas. Rice is a top-ranked research university with a reputation for close relationships with faculty. Their most popular majors are Computer Science, Engineering, Biochemistry, and Economics. Rice students are sorted into residential colleges that add another facet to their exciting social life opportunities. Rice students also have a long tradition of pulling pranks, including moving a presidential statue and building chairs of popsicle sticks. The Owls compete in the NCAA D1!

The application for Senator Boozman's Congressional Youth Cabinet program for current juniors is now open for applications. This nonpartisan initiative is a great opportunity for students interested in political research & policy development. Come see Ms. Byrd & Ms. Morgan for more info. Applications are due Sept. 12.

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

- Monday, 9/8 - Father Rob
- Tuesday, 9/9 - Heidi Sanders '26
- Wednesday, 9/10 - Matthew Collins '26 & Annie Zimmerman '26
- Thursday, 9/11 - Summer Science Scholars
- Friday, 9/12 - Ben Blackmon '26

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!

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!

A Note from Ms. Izzy

What a wonderful week in WCC! We capped things off with our very first STEAM activity, where our Kinder Wildcats partnered with our 4th and 5th graders to build marble run mazes. At first, our older students weren't quite sure why they were paired with the little ones, but the moment they realized they were the "teachers" and helpers, they jumped right in. It was so heartwarming to see the smiles, laughter, and lightbulb moments as they worked together to create some truly impressive mazes. This is exactly the kind of connection and collaboration we love to see in WCC! To make the week even sweeter, we celebrated Fun Friday with our super sugary Ice Cream Bar. Don't worry, we only indulge in these things once a week, parents, we promise!

Izzy Jackson

Director of Auxiliary Programs

A Note from Ms. Katie

Last week's STEAM activity was a huge success! Our marble run maze was a favorite! The students had a blast exploring, building, and problem-solving together. As we move forward, we'd love to encourage our 3rd-5th grade Wildcats to mentor and connect with our PreK-2nd graders. This not only gives

our older students a wonderful sense of leadership and responsibility, but also helps us strengthen our community by bringing all grades together. Our goal is to continue building a true Wildcat family spirit within our program!

Katie Beard

Associate Director of Auxiliary Programs

Reminders

As we continue to fine-tune our program, here are a few important reminders for the weeks ahead:

Monday Pick-Ups- Cheer practice is held every Monday and ends at 5:00 PM. On Mondays only, all WCC pick-ups will take place at the front office doors. Cheerleaders will be picked up at the gym entrance.

Tuesday Pick-Ups- On Tuesdays, we share our carpool lane with Chorale students, who are released at 4:15 PM. Please be mindful as we merge both groups.

Homework Time in WCC- Each day, we dedicate 20–30 minutes to homework, adjusting based on grade level and student needs. We also stay in touch with homeroom teachers to help reinforce any focus areas from class. Soon, a few of our middle and upper school Wildcats will also be joining us to lend a hand — another layer of support we're excited to roll out!

We are so excited for all that's to come this year and deeply appreciate your partnership as we grow together. Be sure to check out a few photos from our STEAM marble run activity below!

Coming Up Next Week

- STEAM: Egg Drop Challenge!!
- Fun Friday: Snow Cones, Popcorn, and Interactive Game Day!!

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.