

Wildcat Weekly: September 12, 2025

### **Parents' Auxiliary Meeting: Friday, September 19**

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

### **Wildcat Roundup: Wednesday, October 8, from 4:30-6:00 PM**

YEEHAW, Wildcats! Get ready to saddle up on Wednesday, October 8th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on the football field and in Wildcat Alley. Wildcat Roundup is the Lower School's fall festival with bounce houses, face painting, games, and more. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities for this family favorite event in next week's Wildcat Weekly.



### **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](mailto:mjbriggs@episcopalcollegiate.org), or Associate Director of Admissions, Mahlon Martin, at [mmartin@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:mmartin@episcopalcollegiate.org).

Thank you for being a valued part of Episcopal Collegiate!

### **Concessions and Gate**

Parents, we could still use some help with PSL volleyball shifts on September 20th. Contact Laura Schnackenberg or Mary Margaret Wippo with any questions or concerns.

Volunteer signup [linked here](#).

### **Highlights with Dr. House**

At Episcopal Collegiate School, the new year doesn't just begin with books and backpacks—it begins with community and intention. One of the most meaningful back-to-school traditions is the All-School Convocation. This week, nearly 1,000 people filled our championship gym—students, families, teachers, staff, board members, and clergy from across Little Rock—gathered to bless this school year, this campus, and this community.

Father Rob's homily centered on Luke 14, where Jesus calls us to humility and inclusion: do not seek the seat of honor, but instead lift others up. Do not invite only those who look like you or share your table easily, but make room for those who might otherwise be overlooked. In short, save someone else a seat.

That lesson is not confined to convocation—it is taught at Episcopal every single day. We teach it in Morning Meeting, when each of our 384 Lower School students is greeted by name and offered a chance to share an idea that is authentically theirs, all before 8:30am. We teach it in fourth grade Language Arts, where a novel study of Sarah Weeks's *Save Me a Seat* spans several weeks. During that time, the study becomes more than vocabulary and comprehension—it becomes practice in making space for another person, quite literally saving a seat for someone who needs it. We teach it in

student-led clubs, like the Upper School Kindness Club, where teenagers choose to spend their free time posting encouraging messages, gathering donations for neighbors in need, and smiling at each person they pass. Through these and many more experiences, we teach students to have the courage to notice someone who may not feel they belong—and to invite them in.

You don't have to be Episcopalian to experience that kindness. You don't even have to be Christian. You simply have to be human. And here, at Episcopal Collegiate, we promise to keep teaching our students—every day, in every classroom, in every gathering—to be kind, to make room, and to save someone else a seat.

### **Yearbook Family Photo Submissions**

We're collecting family photos for the yearbook! Please send your Summer 2025 local or international vacation photos--no trip is too big or too small. Please [upload photos](#) and email details of your trip to Madeline Balgavy at [mbalgavy@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:mbalgavy@episcopalcollegiate.org) or use the QR code below. All content is reviewed by the yearbook staff, and anything inappropriate will be deleted. Additionally, please do not send screenshots or photos with filters, logos, hand gestures, or watermarks.

<https://photos.jostens.com/HT6ABN>



**A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher**

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through September! We have several exciting events coming up, and we hope you'll join us.

Next week, first-grade families are invited to First Grade Literacy Night on Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the skills your child is learning in class and how you can support literacy at home.

The following week during chapel, we're excited to offer a Parent Preview of the Grandparents' and Special Friends Program. All students from PreK through 5th grade will be performing their songs and dances. The preview will take place on Wednesday, September 24 at 8:15 AM. We ask that parents attend this event if they would like a sneak peak given our high attendance and space limitations on Grandparents' Day.

Looking ahead to the weekend, our PSL flag football games kick off at CAC at 8:00 a.m., followed by our tackle football team at PA at 9:00 a.m. We hope you can come and support our cheerleaders and football players.

Go, Wildcats!

Catherine Schuhmacher  
Head of Lower School

### **1st Grade Literacy Night: Thursday, September 18**

All first-grade parents are invited to join the first-grade team on Thursday, September 18 from 4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. to learn more about ways parents can support literacy at home. First-grade Episcopal students can join Wildcat Club at no cost during this parent event.



## 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

In PreK and Kindergarten chapels we watched a video about the Holy Family and talked about what it means to be a part of a family. Next week in PreK and Kindergarten chapels we will read a book called When God Created You by Matthew Paul Turner. In Community Chapel, we wrapped up our deep dive into the ECS Prayer. Next week, we'll hear from our 5th grade class as they present the character trait "self-control."

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 17, 2025:

### Procession

- Cross: Thomas Utter
- Candle: Magnolia Cunningham
- Candle: Max Gutierrez

### Cantors

- Annalise Hargrave
- Jack Chatham
- Layla Turner

### Readers

- Ellie Daniel
- Jennings Owens

#### 1st Grade Partners

- June Querdibitty
- Nama Scarborough
- Aaron Virani
- Sawyer Murphy
- Preston Robinson
- Townley Steadman

Grace & Peace,

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](http://gotrcentralark.org).

#### **Pride Patrol: September 15-19**

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:

- Clayton Lee
- Jett Ludwig
- Stella Mangum
- Will Marshall
- Bonnie McCauley
- Eva McNally

## PSL Handbook

All 3rd-5th grade parents should have received the PSL Handbook earlier this week. It is linked below if you missed it. Please direct any questions to **Micah Marsh**.

## PSL Handbook

### Mark Your Calendars

- September 24 | Parent Preview of Grandparents Day program, 8:15am -9:00am
- October 2 | Monarch Migration for 1st graders, 2:00pm
- 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,

We have hit the mid-point of the quarter, so students and faculty are working hard on various projects, learning new material, and asking thoughtful questions. This week, seventh and eighth grade advisors looked at student grades and began planning for how to sustain early successes or redress areas for growth. All in all, I have been very pleased with our collective efforts as students and citizens!

Stay well!

Chuck McCormick

MS Athlete of the Week - Barclay Blair

During Thursday's Morning Meeting, Football Head Coach Cody Fortner conferred the athlete of the week award on eighth grader Barclay Blair. Here is what Coach Fortner said in his nomination: *"Our 8th grade athlete of the week goes to a young man who racked up an impressive stat line against the Bearden Bears. A two way starter and a leader on the field, he racked up 6 catches for 112 yds and 3tds, as well 7 tackles, including 2 tackles for loss, on defense. Our Athlete of the Week is Barclay Blair."*

Message for Eighth Grade Families (From Dr. Kellen Graham, Head of Upper School)

**Dear Eighth-Grade Parents,**

I hope you and your family are having a great start to the school year. It won't be long before your child moves from Middle to Upper School. My teammates and I are already looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2030 to the Upper School next year.

I would like to personally invite you to our upcoming parent program, Looking Ahead to Upper School. To accommodate different schedules, we will be offering this session on two separate days—both sessions will take place in Upper School room 215, which is located on the second floor of the Upper School adjacent to the College Counseling Office:

- Monday, September 22nd, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 23rd, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by our Upper School leadership team, along with Dr. Griffin, these sessions will highlight what makes our program unique, including our approach to student and family support, opportunities for student leadership and community engagement, college guidance and readiness, and signature learning experiences.

We hope you can attend one of these sessions, and we look forward to working with you and your child over the next four years. Please kindly RSVP your attendance to my email ([kgraham@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:kgraham@episcopalcollegiate.org)).

See you soon,

Kellen Graham  
Head of Upper School

Message to 6th Grade/PSL Families from Athletic Director Micah Marsh

Dear Wildcat Parents,

Attached you will find the updated [PSL sports handbook](#) for the 2025-26 school year. This resource was developed to increase transparency and address many of the questions and issues that have come up as the Private School League continues to grow.

Inside, you will find important information about how the league operates in the sports of flag football, tackle football, volleyball, cheer, and basketball. The handbook also outlines key details on eligibility, expectations, scheduling, and communication.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to review the handbook so that you are familiar with the guidelines in the seasons ahead.

We are excited for what promises to be a great year of competition and growth, and we are grateful for your support as our athletes represent our school with pride.

Sincerely,  
Micah Marsh

#### 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](https://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](#).

#### A Note from Dr. Graham

Happy Friday, Upper School Families!

I am writing to you on Thursday morning, as we gear up for a big night of Episcopal athletics. Our Varsity Tennis team, JV and Varsity Volleyball teams, and Junior High football team all played at home last night. Tonight, our Varsity Football team plays away at Spring Hill.

We are excited for Monday's 9th-Grade Trip to Camp Mitchell. 9th-Grade parents, please make sure your child submits their permission forms (linked below) by the end of today.

This coming Wednesday is Family Night, which means that we will end all school-organized activities by 5:00 pm, and our students will not be assigned homework that night, nor will they sit for assessments on Thursday. There are four Family Nights scheduled throughout the year, and we hope you enjoy the proverbial "breather" from school obligations.

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](mailto: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:

- Trinity University - Monday, 9/15 - 8:15 AM

Trinity University is home to more than 2,500 in San Antonio, TX. Students at this liberal arts & sciences university focus on three foundational values- perpetual discovery,

enduring excellence, and intentional inclusion. Students also study abroad in over 140 countries across 6 continents! They even have a chocolate festival and their acapella group performs every Friday. Trinity is a part of NCAA Division III Athletics. Go Tigers!

- Harding University - Monday, 9/15 - 11:05 AM

Harding University is a private liberal arts university with around 5,000 students located in Searcy Arkansas. Harding is affiliated with the churches of Christ and offers chapel services, bible studies and more. There are many student clubs to choose from and Harding hosts a "Spring Sing" yearly for students to both perform and attend. Harding offers undergraduate degrees in more than 110 academic majors in 8 colleges: health, arts and sciences, Bible and ministry, business, education, nursing, and pharmacy. The Bison compete in the NCAA DII!

- Bowdoin College - Tuesday, 9/16 - 8:15 AM

Bowdoin College is a private, liberal arts college with about 2,000 students located in beautiful Brunswick, Maine. The college was founded and endowed to "benefit the common good", and Bowdoin students are known for their community and student "hello" tradition. Although Bowdoin is highly ranked, students say the academics are cooperative, not competitive. Top majors include biochemistry, computer science, economics, and languages. Bowdoin gives amazing financial aid packages! The Bowdoin polar bears compete in the NCAA DIII.

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 today, Sept. 12.

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.

Students taking the SAT this weekend: if you use a Chromebook, you will need to borrow one for testing from the school. Please contact Melissa Wilson Baker (in the MS AAC) [mwilson@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:mwilson@episcopalcollegiate.org) to arrange for a loaner computer.

## Coming up Next Week

### Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 9/15 - Father Rob
- Tuesday, 9/16 - Mu Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony
- Wednesday, 9/17 - 5th Grade Character Virtue
- Thursday, 9/18 - Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- Friday, 9/19 - Mallory Stewart '26

Wednesday is FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday is the first of four scheduled FAMILY NIGHTS throughout the year. On Family Night, we end all school activities by 5:00 pm, and students are not assigned homework that evening, nor do they sit for assessments the following day. We encourage your family to take a “breather” from school obligations.

### **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!

[Grandparents Day Updates](#)

We are so excited to welcome all of our families and friends to campus for a wonderful day of creating memories! If you need childcare following the GP presentation, please RSVP as soon as possible. Our WCC staff will be available from 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM. To RSVP, please use [this link](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to [ijackson@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:ijackson@episcopalcollegiate.org).

[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: We will be doing the Egg Drop Challenge! This week we worked on constructing our carriers and hypothesizing our outcomes.
- Fun Friday: Nacho Bar!! \* There will be alternatives for students who cannot participate due to dietary restrictions and/or allergies.

### 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 are now LIVE! 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.