

## December 5, 2025

### **Middle School Social Tonight - 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

The theme is Winter Wonderland! Dress is holiday casual, Episcappropriate. Parents, please drop students off at the Wildcat entrance to the gym/dining hall no earlier than 5:50 PM, and please plan to pick up your children at 8 PM sharp, also at the Wildcat. This is a long day for faculty!

### **Competitive Cheer Competition - Saturday, December 6**

Episcopal Cheer is competing for the first time in 21 (since 2004) years! They will compete at the Southern Spirit Confederation Competition at Lake Hamilton High School tomorrow on Saturday, December 6th. They are slated to go first at 9:00 AM for the qualifying round. If they advance to Finals, those performances will begin at 11:12 AM and run through 12:00 PM. Awards will begin at 12:45 PM.

Ticketing information can be found here: <https://www.ticketleap.events/events/southernspirit>

### **The Episcopal Collegiate Choirs and Orchestra Annual Christmas Concert**

The Episcopal Collegiate Choirs and Orchestra proudly present the Annual Christmas Concert on Monday, December 8th at 7:00 PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The concert is free of charge and will feature familiar carols of the season along with a few surprises. Don't miss this opportunity to support the Fine Arts at Episcopal Collegiate and usher in the Christmas season with a delightful evening of music performed by our students. A wonderful reception will follow the concert, hosted by the Parent's Auxiliary.

Additional Christmas Performances by the Episcopal Collegiate Choirs:

#### Caroling at the Capitol Building

Wednesday, December 10

11:00-11:55 AM (7-12th grade choirs)

This event is free to the public.

#### Caroling at the Capital Hotel

Wednesday, December 10

12:00-12:45 PM (7-12th grade choirs)

This event is free to the public.

#### Annual 'Lessons and Carols' Chapel (Episcopal Collegiate Dining Hall)

Wednesday, December 10

2:30 PM

## Parent Volunteers Needed for Christmas Faculty Luncheon

Parents' Auxiliary is hosting our traditional Christmas luncheon for our incredible faculty and staff, and we need volunteers to help with set up, cleanup, and to supervise classrooms while teachers enjoy their lunches. Use this [link](#) to sign up for a shift.

Happy Holidays!

Catherine Love

## Angel Tree Raffle



## Concessions and Gate

Thanks so much to all of our volunteers for Gate/Concessions in November! We are so grateful for your help!

*Angelique & Brian Oaks, Emily & Andrew Whitley, Allison Hester, Charlotte Grumbles, Jenny & Evan Gregory, Christie Cobb, Frances Mitchell, Pamela Mobley-Frazier, Tamika & Quincy Edwards, Amanda Daugherty, Lesley Roberts, Julia & Kal Khasawneh, Rachel Fisher, Raiyne Hopkins, Traci Allen, Sherri Stacks, Liza Wright, Kim & John Prescott, Jill Penick, Catherine Suffridge, Julia Crow, and Eyona Mitchell.*

Basketball season is off to a great start, but we could still use your help with gate and concessions. Help us fill all of the slots including the just added PSL basketball weekends! Thank you in advance for your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CA9AF22A5F8C43-57767162-episcopal>

Thank you,  
Mary Margaret Wippo

## **Save the Date: Wild Game Dinner - March 14, 2026**

This biennial outdoor cooking event raises funds towards enhancements for our Fine Arts and Athletics programs at Episcopal Collegiate. Please mark your calendars to join our community on The Quad to support our Wildcat artists and athletes while enjoying delicious wild game dishes and great live entertainment.

## **A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher**

Christmas festivities are in full swing in the Lower School! Our Jesse Tree is up, and our PreK students had a magical time enjoying cookies and cocoa with Santa. All students are invited to wear festive holiday attire on the remaining Fridays in December, as well as on December 18 for our Sing-Along and classroom celebrations. Please see the information below for additional details about the Christmas Program and Sing-Along.

Next week, Wildcat Chorale will share their holiday songs with us during Community Chapel. We hope you'll join us on Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. to hear their sweet voices! On Thursday, December 11, the Parents' Auxiliary will host the Christmas Faculty Lunch. I included the volunteer signup link below. This special event is always a gift to our teachers, and we truly appreciate your willingness to lend a hand during this busy time of year.

Here's to a joyful season!

Catherine Schuhmacher  
Head of Lower School

### **Holiday Teacher Lunch**

Each year our wonderful Parents Auxiliary hosts a festive holiday lunch for our faculty and staff. Parents have supervised the students during the lunch time to allow our deserving teachers to eat lunch together. Please sign up using the link below to provide this opportunity to our teachers.

### **[Teacher Lunch Signup](#)**

### **Christmas Celebrations in the Lower School**

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

We will host our annual Christmas programs on Wednesday, December 17.

PreK-1st grades will perform at 9am, and 2nd-5th grade will perform at 1:30pm. Please note that there is no nighttime performance this year. Each performance will take place in the Erwin Hall Performance Center and Gymnasium. Doors will open 45 minutes prior to each performance. Please do not try and reserve seats prior to that time or between performances during the day. A courtesy shuttle will be available 30 minutes prior to each performance. Each performance will be recorded and a link to the program will be provided via email.

#### **Thursday, December 18**

All families are invited to join us for the annual Sing-Along on Thursday, December 18 at 10am in the Erwin Hall Performance Center and Gymnasium. This should last around 20 minutes. Parents are then invited to join students for their classroom Christmas parties which will begin immediately after the Sing Along. Dismissal is at 11:30am and there is no Wildcat Club offered that day. Students can wear holiday-themed clothing on Thursday, December 18 for the Sing-Along and classroom parties.

## **Chapel News**

This week in Community Chapel we enjoyed the annual service of Lessons and Carols. Next week we will hear the Christmas performance from Wildcat Chorale in our final Community Chapel of the semester. In PreK and Kinder chapels we will listen to a video lesson on the story of Christmas.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on December 10:

- 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, December 10, 2025:

#### Procession

- Cross: Bradley Suffridge
- Candle: Channing Chase
- Candle: George Wright
- Advent Candle: Jack Chatham

#### Readers

- John Allen
- Mykenna Kloske
- James Kemp

#### Cantors

- Landry Rolston
- Louisa Young
- Kennedy King
- Ming-An Chen

#### 1st Grade Partners

- Ace Blake

- Evie Peek
- Frankie Patton
- June Querdibitty
- Kennedy Smith
- Stella Mangum

You can view the schedule of chapel duties for the remainder of the school year using the link [here](#) or on the Godly Play Canvas page.

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore  
Lower School Chaplain

### **Pride Patrol: 12/8-12/12**

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:

- Jaeger Whaley
- Sam Williams
- Grayson Williams
- Willow Woolley
- Emma K Baker
- Channing Chase

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- December 17 | Christmas Programs, PreK - 1 at 9am, 2nd-5th at 1:30pm
- December 18 | Sing Along at 10am, Early Dismissal at 11:30am, No Wildcat Club
- January 6 | First Day of Second Semester
- January 19 | No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### **Helpful Links**

[Lower School Live Morning News](#)

[Wildcat Parent Hub](#)

## **A Note from Dr. McCormick**

Dear Families,

We returned from our respective Thanksgiving breaks and plunged back into the business of teaching and learning this week. Mrs. Radtke joined us at Monday's Morning Meeting to inform students of all of their semester exam preparation resources, including meeting with her or Ms. Melissa to create a personalized study plan! Here is Mrs. Radtke's blueprint for what students should be thinking about regarding semester exams this week and next:

#### Week of Dec. 1st-7th: GET ORGANIZED AND GET FAMILIAR WITH THE MATERIAL AGAIN

- Clean out all of your notebooks and folders.
- Put notes, quizzes, tests, etc. together by chapters or units and label them.
- Print off Google Slides to review.
- Look over quizzes, reading questions, and past study guides. Prime your brain for what you will need to review.
- Exam Study Guides will be available Friday Dec. 5th. Knock out easy sections of study guides that you can answer quickly from the information you can easily recall.

#### Week of Dec. 8th-12th: STUDY IN SECTIONS

- Look at how many units you have for each subject to decide how to chunk your studying. Plan to cover a unit of material for a couple of subjects each night.
- Look over old study guides, quizzes, and homework.
- Review videos posted on Canvas, review slides, review notes.
- Complete any study guides provided to you. Have your teacher check your study guide to make sure you are studying the correct material. Attend extra help sessions.
- Follow your study schedule each night.
- Distributed practice is more effective than cramming!

Exam Prep Session Recording On Tuesday, December 2, Mrs. Radtke and Dr. McCormick held a virtual, semester exam prep session for parents of students new to the Episcopal Middle School. For those who are interested, the session recording may be found [here](#).

#### Middle School Social Tonight - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

The theme is Winter Wonderland! Dress is holiday casual Episcappropriate. Parents, please drop students off at the Wildcat entrance to the gym/dining hall no earlier than 5:50 PM, and please plan to pick up your children at 8 PM sharp, also at the Wildcat. This is a long day for faculty!

#### Art Exhibition Winners

Four students have been selected to be part of a special student exhibition at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library and Learning Center! Their pieces will be on display from December 6th through January

24th. We are so proud of the effort and artistry they have put into their projects. Families can visit the exhibition during the library's regular hours throughout the display dates.

- Kassie Hulett- 6th Grade
- Liam McRae- 7th Grade
- Vivie Embry- 8th Grade
- Henry Oberste 8th Grade

### MS Athlete of the Week

At Thursday's Morning Meeting, seventh grade girls' basketball player Matsy Leacock earned the Middle School Athlete of the Week award. This is what Coach Marsh said in his nomination:

*This young lady listens, gives great effort and is very coachable. Not only does she play for the 7th grade team, but she also gives a lot of valuable minutes to the JH team as well. All coaches love students who come to practice with a smile on their face, give great effort and are great teammates. Congratulations, Matsy Leacock!*

At Thursday morning's meeting, seventh and eighth grade teachers awarded students for excellent effort, teamwork, and most especially consistency and high quality work output during the sometimes dreary month of November.

### November Over the Top Awards

- Spanish 2 : Mary Catherine Allen
- Ex. Des. 8: Andrew Saoud
- Latin 1: Buck Bright, Ximena Harris
- Social Studies 8: Nora Lancaster, Dominic Chiappinelli
- Algebra: Tucker Moore, Andre Bernard
- English 8: Helen Crowe, Pierce Gailliard

### November Seeking the Summit Awards

- English 7 - Evan Gregory, Constanza Madrigal
- Science 7 - Wright Richey, Kendall Vargas
- History 7 - James Young, Quentin Warren
- Math 7 - Fenley Wright, Grant Willis
- Ex. Des. 7 - Rowan Wells
- Spanish 1 - Preston Holsclaw, Meredith Martindale

### Semester Exams

The Learning Specialists are available to support students as they prepare for semester exams. Students can schedule individual check-ins or small group check-ins for help with organization, study strategies, and content

planning. A detailed Exam Prep Timeline will also be shared, offering step-by-step guidance to keep studying manageable and on track. Using these tools together can help students feel more confident and prepared going into exam week. Please reach out anytime for support.

- Director of Student Support Services: Catherine Radtke [cradtke@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:cradtke@episcopalcollegiate.org)
- Middle School Learning Specialist: Melissa Wilson [mwilson@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:mwilson@episcopalcollegiate.org)

### Wildcat Club is Now Accepting Volunteers!

Looking for a fun way to get involved on campus? WildCat Club is now accepting volunteers! We have several opportunities available — from helping during after-school activities to supporting special events.

Take a moment to explore the form below to learn more about how you can get involved. If you have any questions, please reach out to Izzy Jackson via email at [ijackson@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:ijackson@episcopalcollegiate.org).

[Sign Up Here!](#)

## **A Note from Dr. Graham**

A special thank you to those senior parents who planned, contributed to, and/or came to yesterday's tree-trimming event. The Class of '26 enjoyed being together and decorating the Upper School Christmas Tree in preparation for Tuesday's Senior-Kindergarten buddy event.

This week, our students and teachers have been focused on closing out the second quarter, which officially ends next week. End-of-semester exams start in two weeks, and next week will be devoted to exam review in our classrooms. I want to draw your attention to Reading Day, which is Friday, December 12th. Classes will not be in session that day, and students can choose whether or not to come to school. Faculty and staff will be in school all day, ready to help students who wish to review for their exams. Students may also study and read independently here at school. Lunch will not be provided by the School on Friday, and we encourage kids to bring a lunch/snacks.

I'm excited to see many of you next week at the Christmas Concert and at our home varsity basketball games.

Thank you,  
Kellen

### **Updates, Reminders, and Action Items**

#### **End-of-Semester Exam Schedule**

The above link shows you our end-of-semester exam schedule. Each day, students who do not have an afternoon exam will be dismissed from school at 10:30 am, after their morning exam. On Monday and Tuesday of exam week, lunch will be served in the dining hall for students taking an afternoon exam.

### End-of-Semester Exam Prep/Support

The Learning Specialists are available to support students as they prepare for final exams. Students can schedule individual check-ins or small group check-ins for help with organization, study strategies, and content planning. This detailed [Exam Prep Timeline](#) has also been shared, offering step-by-step guidance to keep studying manageable and on track. Using these tools together can help students feel more confident and prepared going into exam week. Please reach out anytime for support:

- Director of Student Support Services: **Catherine Radtke**.
- Middle School Learning Specialist: **Melissa Wilson**.
- Upper School Learning Specialist: **Paige London**.

### 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 Selby Boyd at [sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org). Upper School students are expected to communicate any known absences in advance with their teachers, coaches, and advisor.

### Talking to Kids about Report Cards [Written by Paige London, Learning Specialist]

As final exams draw near and report cards loom on the horizon, [this article](#) from Understood offers a reassuring dose of perspective, as it frames report cards as tools for learning and self-reflection. The author suggests that conversations between parents and kids about report cards should focus on growth and understanding, rather than simply final scores. For students who may be feeling stressed out about grades, it serves as a timely reminder: a report card doesn't define you, but can guide you.

### **Coming Up Next Week...**

#### Christmas Concert

I hope to see many of you at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Monday, 12/8 at 7:00 pm for our annual Choral and Orchestra Christmas Concert. Middle and Upper School choral and orchestra students will perform a festive slate of holiday songs. Added bonus: the audience will be invited to sing Christmas songs in between performances.

#### In-Class Review Days

Teachers will hold in-class exam review sessions for students on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week. In class, our faculty will review portions of their study guides and discuss the format of their exams and study strategies. Students will not be assigned any new content or sit for assessments for the rest of the quarter/semester after Tuesday.

### Lessons & Carols

Our annual Lessons and Carols service, which combines bible passages, Christmas carols, and hymns, will happen on Wednesday at 2:35 pm in the US/MS Dining Hall.

### Reading Day

Friday, December 12th is Reading Day in Upper School. Classes will NOT be in session, and student attendance is optional that day. Faculty and staff will be in school, ready to help students prepare for exams, and we encourage students to come to school to study, read, and work 1:1 with their teachers. Please note that lunch will not be provided in the dining hall on Friday.

### Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 12/8 - Lucy Coon '26
- Tuesday, 12/9 - Miles Windel '26
- Wednesday, 12/10 - Lessons & Carols (2:35 pm)
- Thursday, 12/11 - Percussion performance

### Athletics Schedule

Let's go, Wildcats!

### **Beyond Next Week...**

- Christmas Concert (Choir & Orchestra) - Monday, December 8 - @ St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- End of 2nd Quarter - Thursday, December 11
- Reading Day for Upper School Students - Friday, December 12
- Fall Semester Exams - Monday, December 15 - Thursday, December 18
- Christmas Break - Friday, December 19 - Monday, January 5

### **College Counseling Notes**

#### 2026 Case Studies Workshop - Saturday, January 31 at 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

You're invited to our College Admissions Workshop for Juniors and Their Families! Join six college admission deans from across the country for a hands-on, informative look at the application process. In the morning, students and families will work together to review mock application files and experience what it's like to make decisions as an admission committee. The afternoon will feature breakout sessions covering key topics like admission planning, scholarships, financial and aid! It's a valuable opportunity to gain insight, ask questions, and prepare for the college journey ahead.

SENIORS - All admissions applications must be submitted by Wednesday, December 3rd. Please use your break to finish up supplemental essays and be ready to send in your remaining applications. Scholarship applications can be completed after this deadline through the spring.

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 official 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. Selby, 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.

## **Athletics Schedule and Notes**

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

### **Fall Sports Recognition Photos:**

Link to photo gallery for the 2025 Fall Sports Recognition assembly can be found here:

<https://fic.kr/s/aHBqjCBf6V>

### **Varsity Athlete Letterman Jacket Orders**

Parents and Athletes,

Here is the order form for varsity athletes to order letterman jackets for all fall and winter athletes. These jackets are optional and you should be able to customize them on the website. [Letterman's Jacket Link](#)

### **Student-Athlete Recognition Updates**

Dear Parents,

I hope your family is off to a great start this school year. I want to share an update regarding how we will recognize and celebrate our student-athletes moving forward. Beginning this year, athletic recognitions will take place during the school day in special assemblies, replacing the traditional evening sports banquets.

We believe this new format will create a more meaningful and spirited experience for the students, and here's why:

- Improved Attendance: Holding the event during the school day ensures that all student-athletes are present.
- Celebrated by Their Peers: Recognizing our teams and athletes in front of classmates allows the entire student body to share in their accomplishments.

- Fewer Conflicts: Moving away from evening events reduces scheduling challenges with family obligations, extracurricular activities, and other school commitments.

Each season will have its own recognition assembly for the Fall, Winter, and Spring, celebrating our athletes in grades 7-12. While the setting has changed, the level of recognition for our students remains the same, and the focus will be on making the experience spirited, inclusive, and student-centered.

Our Fall Athletics Assembly will take place on Wednesday, November 12. Additional details will be shared prior to the assembly in the Wildcat Weekly.

Thank you for your continued support of our athletic program and student-athletes. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Go Wildcats!

Micah Marsh

### **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.

Please note [this link](#) also includes individual game tickets.

GoFan Ticket Link

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.

### **Upcoming 12-Month Days for Thanksgiving Break**

Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th.

If you plan to attend either of these days please fill [this form](#) out! If you have any additional questions or concerns please reach out to Izzy Jackson via email.

### **Coming Up Next Week**

- STEAM :
  - PK & K- Oobleck Sensory Bin
  - 1st - 5th- Lava Lamps (continued)
- Fun Friday:
  - Arcade Games & Cotton Candy!

### **Faculty Members**

Want to meet this year's 2025-26 Wildcat Club Faculty Members? [Check out the full list right here!](#)

### **Reminders**

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. Please see the "Pickup Protocols" section below for additional information.

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!

### **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. (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.