

December 12, 2025

Angel Tree Raffle



Concessions and Gate

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

Next week is an exciting one in the Lower School! Students have earned a pajama day for meeting their goal in the ArCANSas Food Drive. They may wear pajamas on Monday, December 15. Please remember to wear tennis shoes—no slippers.

Our Christmas Programs will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Doors will open 45 minutes before each performance.

We also hope you'll join us on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the gym for our school-wide Sing-Along. Classroom parties will follow, and students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. Please note that there will be no Wildcat Club that day.

Merry, Merry!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

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. The Sing-Along 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.

ArCaNsas Food Drive a Success!

This year's ArCaNsas Food Drive was a huge success for our school. The Lower School collected over 2,100 items to support our fellow Arkansans in need.

This achievement would not have been possible without the leadership role played by 4th and 5th grade students in helping to make this project run smoothly. Whether making signs advertising the Drive, holding those signs in carpool lines, carrying boxes or counting items they showed dedication and a strong sense of teamwork, volunteering willingly and enthusiastically to take part in this effort.

Our support of the Food Bank will continue in January as all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will participate in volunteer shifts at the Food Bank warehouse - helping to pack and sort items that will go out to help friends and neighbors in need. Way to go, Wildcats!

Chapel News

This week in Community Chapel we enjoyed the Christmas performance from Wildcat Chorale in our final Community Chapel of the semester. In PreK and Kinder chapels we listened to a video lesson on the story of Christmas. There will be no chapel next Wednesday, December 17 due to the Christmas programs.

You can view the schedule of chapel duties for 4th and 5th graders for the second semester using the link [here](#) or on the Godly Play Canvas page.

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore
Lower School Chaplain

Pride Patrol: 12/15-12/18

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:

- Hank Adams
- John Allen
- Ace Blake
- Jack Chatham
- Kenzie Cook
- Carter Cummings
- Magnolia Cunningham

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 have had a wonderful final week of the second quarter/first semester, balancing exam review and holiday cheer, featuring our iconic and beautiful Lessons and Carols chapel on Wednesday! That is one of my favorite

traditions at Episcopal and one that I look forward to every year. [Here](#) is a note with some reminders about next week's Semester Exams that was sent to families new to Episcopal Middle School, and below are some tips for this final weekend and exam week from Catherine Radtke:

Weekend of Dec. 12th-14th: TEST YOURSELF

- This is the perfect time to take quizlets, make a practice test out of the study guide, etc. Now that you know what you don't know, you know where to focus your remaining study time during exam week. Make sure you have highlighted and labeled your notes so you can find the material you need.
- Recall is different from recognition. Don't fall into the trap of thinking you know something because it looks familiar. Test yourself to check for your ability to retrieve the information.
- We remember things most effectively when we attach meaning to them and make connections. Don't just memorize facts- understand the connections between the facts! This is how information gets stored in long-term memory more effectively.

Exams (Dec. 15-18th)

Exam week! Review in the afternoon, take a nice break to relax and recharge, and get to bed early so you are well-rested! Eat a healthy breakfast and consider a mindfulness practice!

Sixth Grade Top Cats

During Monday Morning's Meeting, sixth grade teachers conferred awards for the month of November on students who demonstrated exemplary effort, perseverance, self-advocacy, "taking care of business on their own," and teamwork. Below please find the names of those recognized, as well as some specific blurbs about how they performed. Congratulations to all!

- English: Foster Jones, Caroline Carmichael - *Embrace ambiguity*
- Into to Romance Languages: Jackson McLarty, Collins Shively - *Take really good notes, use them, find them - reliable doing this*
- Science: Henry Hall, Claire Canada - *Hard work, dedication to learning, perseverance, kindness, willingness to grow*
- Social Studies: Mary Harmon Dickinson, Keller Lee - *In the cold, dreary months of winter, can fall into trap of academic hibernation - these students certainly did not*
- Writing: Elliott Smith, Peter Adkins - *Two students really hit their stride - two people who are writing their stories with imagination and have set a high bar*
- Math: Louise Clark, Baker Dare - *On top of assignments, and they have shown a great deal of growth over the course of the semester*

Middle School Spelling Bee

The Middle School hosted another riveting Spelling Bee with more than 40 spellers trying to be our representative at the Pulaski County Spelling Bee. Several spellers got knocked out by missing just one letter when trying to spell some very challenging words. After several rounds, three spellers were left to compete on Monday for the title. Evelyn Bumpass emerged as the victor, and Delaney Weirich was the runner-up. Congratulations to Evelyn and all of the spellers!

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.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

A Note from Dr. Graham

My teammates and I are proud of how your kids have “locked in” this week for exam review. Earlier this week, teachers led in-class review sessions, focusing on the relevant content on their exams and, more importantly, transferable study skills. Take one more look below at next week’s exam schedule. Encourage your child to eat breakfast at home each morning and to get enough sleep.

Shoutout to our student singers and musicians who performed at Monday night’s Christmas Concert at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Speaking of incredible music, Wednesday’s Lessons & Carols was a highlight of the week, as was seeing our boys and girls varsity basketball teams battle PA on Tuesday night.

As we near the end of the semester, my teammates and I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

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**.

Travel to Costa Rica! [Written by Ms. Jenni Balcom]

It's time to sign up for the Costa Rica trip! Come join us in creating memories and relationships, with both Episco-peeps and native Costa Ricans, that will last a lifetime: June 6-16th of 2026. The opportunity to challenge yourself in a supportive, well equipped environment, and come back with stronger language and life skills, is one that you don't want to miss! You can find more details and sign up [HERE](#). Flights and travel insurance details will be arranged once we have everyone signed up, but please reach out to Ms. Balcom (jbacom@episcopalcolleigate.org) if you have any questions. Sign-ups will close on Friday, January 16th.

Travel to Paris! [Written by Ms. Marly Gammill]

Madame Gammill is thrilled to announce an unforgettable opportunity for Upper School students, as well as 8th graders going into 9th grade, to experience the magic of Paris during Spring Break, March 2027!

This educational adventure will immerse travelers in the heart of French culture, history, art, and cuisine—all while creating lifelong memories.

Over the course of five spectacular days, students will:

- Tour iconic monuments including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, and the legendary Champs-Élysées, and many more!
- Journey to the breathtaking Palace of Versailles, exploring its royal gardens and grand architecture
- Taste marvelous French cuisine, from pastries to authentic bistro classics
- Discover why Paris is the fashion capital of the world, seeing world-famous designer districts and trends
- Enjoy time to shop, explore Parisian neighborhoods, and soak in the beauty of everyday French life
- Deepen their love of travel, world cultures, and global citizenship

This trip promises to be both educational and inspirational—an opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, build independence, and experience firsthand the culture they learn about in class.

A parent-traveler interest meeting will be held in January, 2026!

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please scan the QR code on this [flyer](#) or reach out to Marly Gammill (mgammill@episcopalcollegiate.org) for more details.

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. 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...

- Fall Semester Exams - Monday, December 15 - Thursday, December 18
- Christmas Break - Friday, December 19 - Monday, January 5
- Chapel Schedule - No Chapel services next week.

Athletics Schedule

Let's go, Wildcats!

Beyond Next Week...

- 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!

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. 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.

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.

Christmas Break Days:

Upcoming 12-Month Days for Christmas Break:

- Monday, December 29th
- Tuesday, December 30th.

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 :
 - Floating & Sinking Surprise! - Students will explore how everyday household liquids stack, float, or sink as they uncover the hidden density levels behind each one!
- Fun Friday:
 - Waffle Cone Christmas Trees! - Students will create a fun festive and tasty tree using icing, M&Ms, and waffle cones!

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:

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.