

## January 9, 2026

### **Parent Webinar Series- Elevating Discipline with the Brain in Mind**

We are excited that the 3rd ISACS Parent Webinar Series will be available on Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30 P.M. with Tina Payne Bryson: Elevating Discipline with the Brain in Mind. Dr. Bryson is the best-selling author of *The Whole Brain Child* and *No-Drama Discipline*. 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.

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

Join us for a night outdoors full of delicious food, live music with the band Dial Up, and even better company on March 14, 2026, for the Wild Game Dinner! Every other year, the Episcopal Collegiate community gathers for this fun and casual event to raise money to support enhancements for the School's outstanding fine arts and athletic programs.

### **Attention PSL Basketball Teams**

We are wanting to showcase our outstanding basketball Wildcats at halftime during our upcoming varsity games. Each grade will divide up and scrimmage each other during halftime. The girls' teams will play during the girls' halftime, and the boys will play during the boys' halftime. Girls' teams should be dressed and ready by 6:15 pm and the boys' teams by 7:15 pm. Please have all players in uniform with the TEAM ROSTER so we can announce their names. Grade levels are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to attend and cheer your Wildcat classmates on!

The schedule is as follows:

- Friday, 1/9 - 4th grade
- Friday, 1/16 - 6th grade
- Tuesday, 1/20 - 5th grade
- Friday, 1/23 - 3rd grade

Go Wildcats!

Coach Marsh

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

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday break and is excited to kick off the second semester.

Our 4th grade PSL basketball teams will be scrimmaging tonight during halftime of the girls' and boys' Varsity games in Championship Gym. The girls should be ready at 6:15 PM, and the boys at 7:15 PM. We'd love for you to come out and show your support for our 4th grade athletes as well as our Varsity teams.

Go Wildcats!

Catherine Schuhmacher  
Head of Lower School

## **Chapel News**

In our first chapels of the new year we talked about Epiphany and why it's celebrated. Next week in Community Chapel we'll hear from Mrs. Abbott about new year resolutions. In PreK and Kindergarten chapels we'll talk about the parable of The Good Shepherd.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on January 14:

- 1st-5th: 8:00-8:30am, 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, January 14, 2026:

### Procession

- Cross: Jett Ludwig
- Candle: Annalise Hargrave
- Candle: Eva McNally

### Readers

- Ford Fontes
- Max Gutierrez

### Cantors

- George Wright
- Kayleigh Dillet
- Rush Jones

### 1st Grade Partners

- Jack Chatham
- Kenzie Cook
- Landry Rolston
- Magnolia Cunningham
- Mykenna Kloske
- Vivian Rudofsky

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: 1/12-1/16**

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:

- Henry Dake
- Willa Dalvi
- Ellie Daniel
- Rachel Davis
- Kayleigh Dillet
- Parker Easley

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- January 19 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School
- February 13-16 | Mid-Winter Break, No School
- March 6 | 3rd Quarter Ends
- March 13 | Parent/Teacher Conference Day, No School
- March 23-27 | Spring Break, No School

Helpful Links

[Lower School Live Morning News](#)

[Wildcat Parent Hub](#)

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

Dear Families,

I hope that all had some time to be with family and friends and relax over the past two weeks, and on behalf of our faculty and staff-Happy 2026! This week, students started new elective classes and reviewed their exams with teachers in their year-long classes. We emphasize to our students that these exam autopsies can provide helpful information and insight into how one prepared and allow them the opportunity to consider what they might do differently during the next exam cycle. We also returned to athletics, rehearsals for the middle school play, and kicked off the second semester advisory program with the always-popular advisory dodgeball tournament!

Next week, we invite Mr. Rodney Poole to join us to discuss alcohol and drug awareness. We have partnered with Mr. Poole for more than 10 years in providing this education to students and families. Please see [the note](#) that Mrs. Radtke and Mrs. Hargrave sent out to middle school families earlier this week.

### Artists Recognized

Earlier this week, Mrs. Higgins, our art teacher, got word that a number of our students have been recognized for their artwork. Here is an excerpt of that message:

*"I am thrilled to share some wonderful news with you all, your artwork has been officially selected for publication in the upcoming edition of Celebrating Art!*

*This is a national publication, and the selection process is highly competitive. Your hard work, creativity, and unique artistic voice truly stood out. Seeing your work recognized at this level is a huge accomplishment, and you should be incredibly proud of yourself.*

*Being a published artist is a milestone that few achieve so early. Keep creating, keep exploring, and keep sharing your vision with the world.*

*Congratulations once again! I can't wait to see your work in print."*

The following students' artwork is being recognized: Sixth graders Briggs Leath, Charlotte Hogate, Hamilton Fitzgerald, Emma Young, Landon Rodgers, Peyton McMillian, and Windsor Hunjan; Seventh graders Carla Biris, Celine Boyd, Clark Irwin, Hunter Turner, Liam McRae, Madison Walsh, Matsy Leacock, Marcey Agee, Rayna Fitzgerald, Ryan Harrelson, and Sara Dalvi; Eighth graders Amelia Clark, Bryce Blackshaw, Carter Johnson, Delaney Weirich, Henry Oberste, Lottie Davis, Mabel Whitley, Nora Lancaster, Pierce Gaillard, and Winters McGeorge.

### 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**

Welcome back to School and to the third quarter. This week in Upper School, we have intentionally focused on helping our students get back into their school routines. After two weeks away, and with so much illness flying around, it's important that our kids get enough sleep, eat good foods, stay hydrated, and exercise daily. Those healthy habits set the table for academic learning and growth.

11th grade parents, please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 31st, when we will host our College Admissions Case Studies Workshop from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm here on campus. This is a required event for all 11th graders and at least one parent or guardian. Admission deans from American University, Auburn University, Connecticut College, University of Tulsa, and Vanderbilt University will bring their expertise and wisdom of the college admission process to our campus, with a mock college application committee review and breakout sessions on various college admission topics. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. I will email you more information about this event next week.

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

See you out there,

Kellen

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

#### 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 (jbalcom@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.

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

### College Counseling

Winter Break College Trip Meetings - (required for students attending and parents) are Monday, January 12th at 5:30 PM. NY Trip meets in US 215. CA Trip meets in US 207 (Dr. Hall's room). Students: you will pick your roommate at that time. Parents: we will ask you to fill out information on the medications your students will bring on the trip. Please be prepared to list medications.

California students- you will choose whether you wish to tour: [Claremont-McKenna](#), [Harvey Mudd](#), [Pitzer](#), or [Pomona](#) on Thursday, February 12.

NY students- you will choose whether you wish to tour: [Columbia](#) or [Barnard](#) on Saturday, February 14.

### 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.

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

#### Add/Drop Deadline

Friday, January 16 is the last day for students to add or drop semester courses. Students who wish to add or drop a course should communicate directly with their classroom teacher(s) and Advisor.

### Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 1/12 - Brewer Erb '26
- Tuesday, 1/13 - Clark Blackmon '26
- Wednesday, 1/14 - Ava Beth Moore '26
- Thursday, 1/15 - 6th Grade Religion Performance
- Friday, 1/16 - Addison Smith '26

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

- MLK Day (No School) - Monday, January 19

- Family Night - Wednesday, January 28
- College Admissions Case Studies Workshop - Saturday, January 31
- Winter Spirit Week - Monday, February 2 - Friday, February 6
- Winter Dance - Saturday, February 7
- College Trips (to New York & Los Angeles) - Wednesday, February 11 - Saturday, Feb. 14
- Class of '26 Valentine's Day Lunch - Thursday, February 12
- Mid-Winter Break (No School) - Friday, February 13 - Monday, February 16
- Pancake Supper (sponsored by Class of '27) - Tuesday, February 17
- Choir/Orchestra Concert - Monday, March 2
- End of Quarter 3 - Friday, March 6
- Spring Conference Day (No Classes) - Friday, March 13

### **Athletics Schedule and Notes**

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

### **Attention PSL Basketball Teams**

We are wanting to showcase our outstanding basketball Wildcats at halftime during our upcoming varsity games. Each grade will divide up and scrimmage each other during halftime. The girls' teams will play during the girls' halftime, and the boys will play during the boys' halftime. Girls' teams should be dressed and ready by 6:15 pm and the boys' teams by 7:15 pm. Please have all players in uniform with the TEAM ROSTER so we can announce their names. Grade levels are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to attend and cheer your Wildcat classmates on!

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Go Wildcats!

Coach Marsh

### **Concessions**

Parents, please check the sign up and grab your spot(s) to help support our winter sports. We still have lots of opportunities to volunteer for gate or concessions that we would love to fill. If your middle or high schooler needs service hours, bring them along. Thank you in advance! Also, a huge thank you to all of our December volunteers! (**Volunteer Sign-up**)

Thank you.

Laura Schnackenberg and Mary Margaret Wippo

### **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.

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.

Go, Wildcats!

### **Summer at the E**

The countdown to Summer 2026 has officially begun! Enrollment opens on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, so be on the lookout for our exciting summer offerings coming your way soon.

## Coming Up Next Week

- STEAM :
  - Make Your Own Snow - PK-K
  - Make Your Own Ice Cream In a Bag - 2nd-5th
- Fun Friday:
  - BIG SUPRISE!!

## 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.