

## January 16, 2026

### **Parent Programming- February 10, 2026, 6:30 to 7:30 pm: The Science of Motivating Young People**

Young people have an innate need to be respected and admired. But few parents understand how to harness it. David Yeager can help. An expert on the psychology of grit and persistence, Yeager has spent years researching how to motivate and equip young people for success. He can show us why our conventional methods of communicating with young people aged 10 to 25 tend to leave everyone frustrated, and he can teach us a better way of ensuring the younger generation feels inspired, enthusiastic, and empowered to do their best work. Learn how to adopt what he calls the “mentor mindset,” a leadership style that taps into young people’s desire for respect. He offers highly effective and surprisingly easy-to-learn practices: like being transparent about your goals rather than expecting your children to read your mind or holding them to high standards rather than coddling them. This is crucial for anyone who wants to be a more effective parent.

Signup for this virtual event [using this link](#).

### **Pancake Supper (Support the Class of 2027) - Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

The Junior Class is gearing up for the annual Pancake Supper! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased from any 11th grader or from [this Google Form](#). The event will take place in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall. Looking forward to fellowship and flapjacks!

### **Parents' Night Out Junior Class Fundraiser- Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

Enjoy a night out while the Junior Class hosts a fun-filled event for kindergarten through 5th grade Lower School students! Juniors will be actively involved in leading and assisting with all activities, including games, crafts, a movie, and pizza. All proceeds will go directly toward funding this year’s prom. Sign up in Homeroom or by [clicking this link](#).

### **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.

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

We had a great first full week in the Lower School! With the colder temperatures, please make sure you label all of your child’s outerwear. Our Lost and Found grows exponentially each winter, and we’d love to return these items to you!

Good luck to our ChessCats at the CPR & LR Knights Chess Tournament and to our PSL basketball players competing this Saturday!

Go, Wildcats!

Catherine Schuhmacher  
Head of Lower School

### **Winter Spirit Week - February 2-6**

We will celebrate our Winter Spirit Week with daily dress-up themes and an all-school pep rally on Friday, February 6. Students are invited to dress for each day's theme or wear their regular school uniform. Please make sure students are dressed appropriately for school and wear tennis shoes to participate in PE and recess.

- Monday: Pajama Day, no slippers
- Tuesday: Jersey Day
- Wednesday: Beach/Tropical Day
- Thursday: Color Wars - Please note \*these match last year's Field Day shirt colors by grade level—hopefully making planning a little easier.
  - PreK 3 - White
  - PreK 4 - Orange
  - Kinder - Light Blue
  - 1st Grade - Green
  - 2nd Grade - Yellow
  - 3rd Grade - Red
  - 4th Grade - Purple
  - 5th Grade - Navy
- Friday: Sock Hop or Spirit Day

### **4th Grade Food Bank Field Trip**

The 4th Grade volunteered at the Food Bank on Tuesday, January 13, helping to sort and box cans and cereal items to help those in need within our community. Each student displayed great teamwork throughout their entire volunteer shift. Their combined efforts led to packing over 11,000 servings of cereal and over 4,000 units of corn. Way to go, Wildcats!



## **Attention 5th Grade Parents - Picture Needs**

We need two pictures for upcoming projects involving our 5th grade students. The deadline to submit these pictures is Friday, January 30. Please read the letter [linked here](#) for specific details about what is needed.

## **Chapel News**

In Community Chapel this week we heard from Mrs. Abbott about starting the new year off on the right foot. In PreK and Kinder chapels we had a guest speaker, Emma Mitchell, share about the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Next week in Community Chapel we will hear from storyteller, educator, philanthropist, and trailblazer, Dr Sybil Hampton. In PreK and Kinder chapels next week, we'll read Who is My Neighbor? by Amy-Jane Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on January 21:

- 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 21, 2026:

### Procession

- Cross: Magnolia Cunningham
- Candle: Annie Smith
- Candle: Bradley Suffridge

### Readers

- Ace Blake
- Frankie Patton

### Cantors

- Kennedy Smith
- Mykenna Kloske
- Scarlett Ray

### 1st Grade Partners

- Aaron Virani
- Brinkley Mitchell
- Channing Chase
- Eva McNally
- Emma K Baker
- George Wright

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: 1/20-1/23**

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:

### **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 Middle School Families,

This week, we were visited by our long-time educational partner, Mr. Rodney Poole, who met with all of our students, as well as parents, regarding making healthy choices. Please see [this note](#) from Catherine Radtke regarding Rodney and his mission. Another partnership that is significantly newer is one that the middle school now enjoys with the Episcopal Writing Center. Since its inception several years ago, the center has been based in the Upper School, though Middle School students have always been welcome to make appointments with writing tutors. This year, the Writing Center has established a once-weekly “satellite office” in the Middle School’s Erwin Library. Please see this awesome note from two of the Upper School students overseeing this initiative to the MS Faculty:

*Hello Middle School Teachers!*

*As you all know, every Tuesday several writing fellows are staffing the Middle School library and providing tutoring for any Middle Schooler that may need assistance. This semester, Emily and I would like to establish a*

*more communicative relationship with the MS faculty. We started this program to help Middle School students become more comfortable asking for help from a Writing Fellow. The Satellite Office, which we are rebranding as "Writing Center on Wheels," should not replace a formal Writing Center appointment, but we hope that students who utilize this program may feel more comfortable and less anxious scheduling official Writing Center appointments in the future. This being said, we would love for Middle School teachers to help us promote this resource to your students! A couple of ways you all could help us out include recommending us to your students and letting us know when you assign writing projects to your students. This way, we can be more prepared in case we need to staff the library more than usual.*

*If you have any questions or suggestions for our program, please email Emily or me! We look forward to working more closely with all of you this year!*

### Middle School Athlete of the Week - 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Player, Charlie Marks

This week's Athlete of the Week is Charlie Marks. Charlie continues to show what it means to be a complete teammate. He brings consistent effort in practice, competes on both ends of the floor, and always plays with great energy.

Spirit Week Dress Themes: Spirit Week is February 2 through February 6. Here are the Middle School's dress themes which are slightly different than those in the other divisions:

- Monday: Pajama Day
- Tuesday: Jersey Day
- Wednesday: Beach/Tropical Day
- Thursday: Color Wars
- Friday: Spirit Day

### 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**

This was an excellent five-day week. Students, faculty, and staff took advantage of the unobstructed contact time, and we are fully in the groove of the second semester. On Wednesday during Advisory, our kids took a break from the books and played an Episco-themed version of the scattegories. The competition within Advisory groups was heated!

Take a look below at two upcoming fundraising events for the junior class. Pancake Supper and Parents' Night Out both benefit Prom. Pick one or the other (or both!) and get involved.

11th-grade parents, I look forward to seeing you here on campus on Saturday, January 31st for the College Admissions Cases Studies Workshop. Ms. Morgan and Ms. Byrd emailed you the details of that program earlier this week. Please reach out to us if you have questions.

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

See you out there,  
Kellen

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

### MLK Day

School is closed on Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

### Winter Spirit Week - Special Dress Days

The Upper School Student Council is excited to announce 'Winter Spirit Week: Sock Hop' a retro-inspired spirit week that is coming up the first week of February. Here are our spirit week dress up days:

- Monday, February 2: Rock'n'Roll Outta Bed (Pajama Day) Come to school in your pajamas or most comfortable clothes.
- Tuesday, February 3: Varsity Vibes (Jersey Day) Wear your jerseys, your varsity jackets, all things athletic!
- Wednesday, February 4: Surfin' USA (Tropical/Beach Day) Channel your inner Beach Boys with your tropical or beach themed attire.
- Thursday, February 5: Dream Job Jive (Career Day) Show off your professional aspirations by dressing in the garb of your dream career.
- Friday, February 6: Sock Hop Spirit (Spirit Day/Sock Hop Gear) Dust off those poodle skirts and leather jackets for the final day of spirit week. Come in your best sock hop 50s themed outfit or wear your typical Friday Wildcat spirit day gear.

### 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.

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### **College Counseling:**

#### Junior Case Studies Workshop

Dear Junior Students and Parents,

On Saturday, January 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Episcopal Collegiate School will welcome admission deans from American University, Auburn University, Connecticut College, the University of Tulsa, and Vanderbilt University for a College Admissions Case Studies Workshop designed for Episcopal Collegiate juniors and their families.

In a mock college application review, the admission deans will lead small committees through the process of admitting, denying, and waitlisting “applicants.” They will discuss what colleges look for in an applicant and whether that is a fit for their university. Students will learn first-hand how they will be evaluated, helping them to picture the qualities and strengths they bring and how to prepare for the application process.

In the afternoon, the deans will lead breakout sessions on various college admission topics, such as standing out to highly selective colleges, playing athletics in college, attaining scholarships & financial aid, and how to best show personality through essays.

We look forward to seeing you there! [Please RSVP by Friday, January 23, by using this link.](#)

#### 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.

#### 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...**

#### Chapel Schedule

- Tuesday, 1/20 - Savvy Stephenson '26
- Wednesday, 1/21 - Kellen Graham
- Thursday, 1/22 - Father Rob
- Friday, 1/23 - Gloria Calhoun

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

- 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** - Let's go, Wildcats!

### **New Athletics App!**

We're excited to introduce our new Athletics App, a convenient, mobile-friendly way to stay connected to Wildcat athletics. Designed to complement our website and existing communications, the app puts schedules, scores, team information, and athletics news all in one place. Users can also opt in to push notifications for weather delays, game changes, and important reminders—so you never miss a moment.

We encourage all athletes, parents, and community members to download the app and start using it today. Instructions are included below.

Go Wildcats!



**DON'T MISS ANOTHER SCORE, SET, GOAL OR RUN!**  
The Episcopal Wildcats App is the best source for the latest news, schedules, scores and rosters. Follow every team and club in one mobile app!

**START USING THE EPISCOPAL WILDCATS APP TODAY!**

**STEP 1:** Download the app by visiting the Apple or Google Play app store and search "Episcopal Wildcats". **Make sure you allow/enable push notifications**



**STEP 2:** Sign in with your 10-digit mobile number for login code to access the app...only have to do this once!

**STEP 3:** Browse through NEWS, TEAMS and the SCHEDULE. Click on TEAMS and scroll through the list. Tap on the bell icon to follow a team.



**STEP 4:** Tap on teams to view their NEWS, SCHEDULE, SCORES and ROSTER. Select the bell in the top right corner to manage notifications.



**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

**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.

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](#)

### **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.

### **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.