

## January 23, 2026

### Winter Weather Update and Next Steps

#### Today- Friday, January 23

Based on the current forecast, we will hold a full day of classes today, Friday, January 23. However, there will be no Wildcat Club or aftercare, and all after-school activities and athletic practices will conclude by 5:00 p.m. Campus will close shortly thereafter. Given the forecast for continued hazardous conditions into next week, Middle and Upper School students should bring home their books and any needed materials in case we move to assigned work completed online. Fourth- and fifth-grade students should also bring home their Chromebooks and chargers.

#### Looking Ahead to Monday, January 26

If weather conditions prevent us from safely opening campus on Monday, the day will be observed as a traditional snow day, with no remote coursework required. We will provide further updates on Monday regarding any potential online assignments or learning plans for subsequent days.

We will continue to monitor conditions closely and we will communicate any updates promptly via email, the school website, and social media channels. Thank you for your flexibility and please stay safe and warm!

### 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](#).

### Parent Programming- February 10, 2026, from 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](#).

### February 12- Parent Roundtable: Rebecca Webber of the Wolfe Street Foundation

Our next Parent Roundtable on Thursday February 12, 2026, will feature Rebecca Webber of the Wolfe Street Foundation and will focus on how parents can help manage high-dopamine influences such as social media, substances, gaming, and gambling. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how to continue conversations with your students who have been doing drug and alcohol education this month. This event will take place at 8:00 am on the 12th in the Middle School Erwin Library. [Please RSVP here](#).

### **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' Auxiliary Meeting- Friday, February 20, at 8:00 am**

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend our next Parents' Auxiliary Meeting on Friday, February 20, at 8:00 am, in the Upper School Simpson Library.

### **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 hope you all stay safe, warm, and cozy this weekend! Due to the weather, all PSL games scheduled for Saturday, January 24, have been canceled. With frigid temperatures expected to continue into next week, please remember to send students to school with outerwear that is labeled clearly. If your child is missing any items, our Lost and Found is located in the Parents' Auxiliary used uniform room.

Stay warm!

Catherine Schuhmacher

Head of Lower School

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

**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.

**5th Grade Serve at the Arkansas Food Bank**

We are so proud of our 5th grade students. Last week, the kids bagged and boxed 2,000 bags of food for backpack programs across the state! Enjoy [the pictures from their trip!](#)

**Chapel News**

In Community Chapel this week we heard from storyteller, educator, philanthropist, and trailblazer, Dr Sybil Hampton about the importance of being kind to everyone. In PreK and Kinder chapels we read Who is My Neighbor? by Amy-Jane Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. Next week in Community Chapel we will hear from guest speaker, Rev. Hannah Hooker from Christ Episcopal Church. In PreK and Kinder chapels next week, we'll read The Precious Pearl by Bob Hartman.



We hope you can join us for Chapel on January 28:

- 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 28, 2026:

Procession:

- Cross: June Querdibitty
- Candle: Brinkley Mitchell
- Candle: Evie Peek

Readers:

- John Allen
- Kenzie Cook

Cantors:

- Emma K Baker
- Landry Rolston
- Darina Dementyeva

#### 1st Grade Partners:

- Bonnie McCauley
- Rachel Davis
- Sadie Prater
- Theo Howell
- Townley Steadman
- Willa Dalvi

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 - January 26 through 30**

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:

- James Kemp
- Mykenna Kloske
- Clayton Lee
- Jett Ludwig
- Stella Mangum
- Will Marshall

\*Please note that if temperatures are below freezing, students are not expected to do Pride Patrol that day.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- 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,

This week, we re-visited the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through doing different activities in advisory, and in a different vein, our student government sponsored a game, “The Soda Challenge,” at Thursday’s Morning Meeting. One teacher and one student from each grade were selected to participate in a three- round challenge. The first round involved guessing either Sprite or 7-UP, the second round included choosing between Dr. Pepper and Diet Dr. Pepper, and the third round had contestants selecting from Coke, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, and Pepsi. Coach Friedel, representing seventh grade, won the faculty side of the challenge by guessing all eight correctly, and eighth grader Andre Bernard won the student challenge! Everyone had fun and we will try to incorporate a monthly challenge of some sort into future morning meetings.

Have a great weekend, and stay safe!

Chuck McCormick

### New Student-Led Breakfast & Snack Shop: The Den

Grand Opening - Friday, January 30 | Regular Schedule - Tuesdays & Fridays, 7:15–8:00 a.m.

Location: Second Concession Window- Championship Gym

Seniors Catherine Crow and Leslie Wallace are launching The Den, a student-run breakfast and snack shop created as part of their entrepreneurial capstone project. The Den will offer staple breakfast and snack items on Tuesdays, with rotating specials on Fridays.

The official launch on Friday, January 30 will feature Chick-fil-A chicken minis (first come, first served), along with additional menu options. Cash, card, and Apple Pay will be accepted.

This semester serves as a pilot, with plans for the program to grow based on student engagement and feedback. Future goals include expanded offerings and leadership opportunities for students.

Allergy Notice: Menu items will rotate. Families are encouraged to ensure students are aware of their dietary needs and food allergies.

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

As Dr. Griffin mentioned in his note, we will keep you posted ASAP about potential changes to next week's school schedule. We are encouraging students to bring home their books and school materials in case we are out of school for a few days next week. I'm hopeful that the weather is tame enough for everyone to stay safe and warm at home. Snow days make for great reading days!

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

See you out there,

Kellen

### Updates, Reminders, and Action Items

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#### Winter Spirit Week - Special Dress Days (February 2 through February 6)

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.

#### 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](#).

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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 today, 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...**

#### Drug & Alcohol Awareness Week

Next week is our Drug and Alcohol Awareness week, and I'm excited to announce that this year the Upper School is once again partnering with the [Wolfe Street Foundation](#) for this programming.

Our friends at Wolfe Street have developed a comprehensive drug prevention program called "Youth Empowerment Project" (YEP). Next week during FLEX, each grade-level will meet with an addiction specialist for education on the science of addiction, positive decision making, value development and other prevention strategies.

#### Family Night

Our next Family Night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28th.

#### Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 1/26 - Wolfe Street Foundation
- Tuesday, 1/27 - Turner Harbour '26
- Wednesday, 1/28 - Father Rob
- Thursday, 1/29 - Middle School Theater Preview
- Friday, 1/30 - McKenzie Riley '26

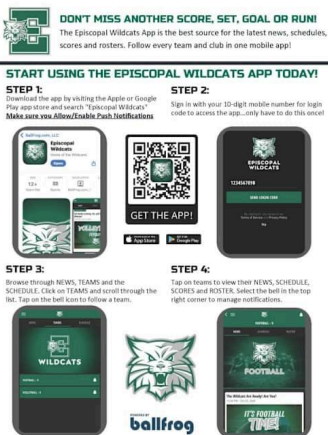
### **Beyond Next Week...**

- 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 and Notes** [Athletics Schedule](#)

**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.



### 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

### 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](#)

The Hudl Fan App is supported by Roku TV, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, and Android TV.

### **No Aftercare, Today- January 23**

Today- Friday, January 23

Based on the current forecast, we will hold a full day of classes today, Friday, January 23. However, there will be no Wildcat Club or aftercare, and all after-school activities and athletic practices will conclude by 5:00 p.m. Campus will close shortly thereafter.

### **Winter Break Update- February 13 and February 16**

Wildcat Club will be open and providing childcare on Friday, February 13, and Monday, February 16, of the Winter Break for those families enrolled in Episcopal's 12-month program.

### **Summer at the E**

The countdown to Summer 2026 has officially begun! Enrollment opened on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Please head to our [Summer at the E webpage](#) for additional information.

### **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.