

# May 1, 2026

## Education Freedom Account Update

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Voucher Payment Now Due: The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Education Freedom Account funds are in your EFA account and payment is now due. It is important to know that the school does not receive the tuition voucher funds directly from the Department of Education. The school only receives payment when you authorize your tuition voucher funds to be used to pay Episcopal Collegiate School via ClassWallet.

*This video walkthrough will show how to respond to a payment request in ClassWallet:*

### [ClassWallet Payment Request](#)

EFA Renewals for 2026/27 Deadline June 1: The application window for Education Freedom Accounts (Tuition Vouchers) for the 2026/27 school year will remain open only through June 1, 2026. *The Department of Education is encouraging families to complete the renewal process as soon as possible to help ensure their place in the program for the upcoming school year.*

**Students that participated this year:** Renew by completing a survey through your ClassWallet account. Completing the survey will renew your Education Freedom Account for next year.

**Students that are new to the program** will complete their application at <http://arkansasefa.com>.

## 2026-2027 Planning Calendar Update

The updated 2026–2027 Master Calendar is [linked here](#) for easy reference. Please note that while this calendar reflects the most current schedule, dates are subject to change as school programs, activities, and events continue to develop throughout the year. We encourage families to refer back to the calendar periodically for the latest updates.

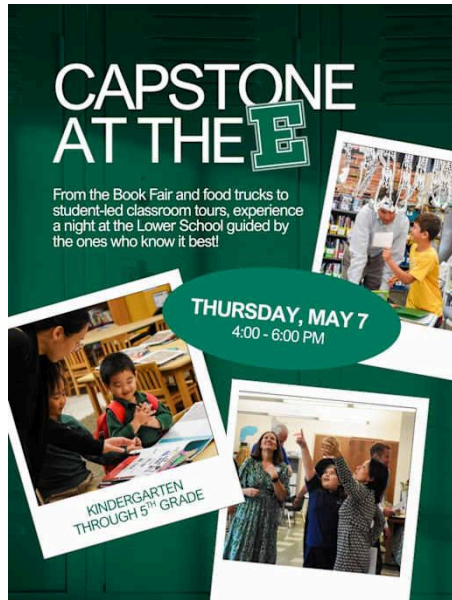
## A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

Happy May 1st! It's hard to believe we're in the final stretch of the school year.

The Book Fair runs Monday through Friday—see details below for class shopping times and volunteer opportunities. Capstone Night is this Thursday at 4:00 p.m., and it's one of our favorite Lower School traditions. All Kindergarten–5th grade families are invited to this interactive event, where students will guide you through their homerooms and co-curricular classes to showcase their learning and share hands-on experiences. Food trucks will be on site to make your family dinner easy! Teacher Appreciation Week is also next week. Thank you in advance for the many ways you support and celebrate our teachers. On Wednesday, May 6, the committee will provide a special lunch from Tamalcalli's taco truck. As an extra treat, we like to offer coverage for teachers on this day so they can enjoy a well-deserved kid-free lunch. Please sign up to cover a class during lunch. It truly means so much to our teachers! [Sign up here!](#)

Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher  
Head of Lower School



### Ahoy Mateys - Book Fair Information!

The Treasured Tales Book Fair will be May 4-8, 2026 in the Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Lower School Library. The [class schedule is here](#) and grown ups are welcome to attend during their students' class visit. The book fair will also be open during Capstone the E on Thursday, May 7 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Our [online fair](#) is now open and families are welcome to shop between now and May 8, 2026. All orders will be shipped to the school at the end of the book fair and delivered to your student(s). You can also purchase many of your [Summer Reading books](#) through our online fair. These purchases all benefit the library!



[Online Teacher Wish Lists](#) are also available. These books go directly to your student(s) classroom libraries. All books purchased online will be delivered to the school at the conclusion of the book fair. There will also be an in person Teacher Wish List, but there are many more options that teachers "wish" to have online.

Thanks so much to those of you who have helped Mrs. Linder prepare craft items and those that have signed up to help with decorations. Now we are in need of volunteers to help with the daily operation of the book fair the week of May 4-8! [Click here to sign up!](#)

### Thank you, First Responders!

Wildcat Chorale honored our first responders in Chapel. They celebrated them in song and with the inspiring video [linked here!](#) Students in all grades created cards to thank our first responders for all they do for our community. We are grateful to everyone who participated in this event.

## Chapel News

In Community Chapel this week we heard a wonderful performance and tribute to first responders from our Wildcat Chorale. Next week, we'll enjoy a performance by Ms. White's Theater Supersession.

### We hope you can join us for Chapel on May 6:

- 1st-5th: 8:00-8:45am, 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, May 6, 2026:

#### Procession:

- Cross: Helen Moyers
- Candle: Vivian Rudofsky
- Candle: Vivian Kalkbrenner

#### Readers:

- Channing Chase
- Henry Norwood

#### Cantors:

- Rachel Davis
- Sawyer Murphy
- Jane Bright
- Rush Jones

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 - May 4-8

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:

- Grayson Williams
- Willow Woolley
- Hank Adams
- John Allen
- Emma K Baker
- Ace Blake
- Chase Channing

## Teacher Appreciation Week: may 4-8

Please consider signing up to cover a Lower School classroom on Wednesday, May 6th, so our teachers can step away and enjoy lunch from the taco truck, we truly appreciate your support in making this possible! [Sign-Up/ Teacher Appreciation Sign -Up](#)

### Mark Your Calendars

- May 4-8 | Book Fair
- May 7 | Capstone Night @ the E! 4-6pm
- May 19 | 5th Grade Recognition Ceremony, 1:30pm
- May 20 | Field Day, 11:45am Dismissal, No Wildcat Club

### Helpful Links

[Lower School Live Morning News](#) [Wildcat Parent Hub](#)

### A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

We are getting ever closer to the end of the year and semester exams. [This](#) is a very helpful guide that Catherine Radtke, our Director of Learning Support Services, sent out to all students yesterday regarding exam prep. I am also including the text of the first week here:

Here is a week-to-week guide on preparing for your spring final exams. The schedule is built around the actual exam dates (History & World Language on May 14; Math on May 18; English on May 19; Science on May 20), so you can front-load review for the earlier exams while still spacing out your practice for the later ones.

### Key evidence-based principles woven throughout:

- **Distributed (spaced) practice beats cramming**—studying the same material across multiple days dramatically improves long-term retention.
- **Chunking** material into smaller units respects the limits of working memory and makes learning more manageable.
- **Retrieval practice:** Actively testing yourself is one of the most powerful techniques for strengthening memory.
- **Elaboration:** Connecting facts to meaning and making connections moves information from short-term to long-term memory far more effectively than rote memorization.
- **Interweaving** aka switching between subjects keeps your brain engaged and helps you better distinguish between similar ideas on the exam.

### Week of April 27 – May 3: GET ORGANIZED AND GET FAMILIAR WITH THE MATERIAL AGAIN

This week is all about lowering cognitive load so your brain can focus on learning instead of hunting for papers. Organization now pays off with clearer thinking later.

- Clean out all of your notebooks, folders, and digital files.
- Put notes, quizzes, tests, projects, and homework together by chapter/unit and clearly label them (use color-coding or folders for History/World Language first, since those exams come earliest).
- Print or download Google Slides, PowerPoints, and any reading guides.
- Skim quizzes, past study guides, and reading questions to “prime” your brain—research shows this quick familiarity pass makes later review 20–30% more efficient.
- Exam study guides will be available by May 5. Knock out the easy sections you can answer quickly from memory. This builds early confidence and shows you what you already know.

**MS Athletes of the Week:**

Even though the middle school soccer season ended a short while ago, we never had the opportunity to recognize a member (s) of that team as our athlete of the week. At today’s Morning Meeting, Assistant Coach Rob Leacock introduced the following two students as athletes of the week:

Fenley Wright - Fenley started the season without much soccer experience. She stayed humble and put in a great effort all season long. She showed a lot of determination on the field particularly in our last several matches.

Marco Gutierrez - Marco has been a great talent for the MS. A commanding presence in the midfield, Marco has been our most prolific goal scorer all season scoring in almost match he’s played in, including a hat trick in a match against Maumelle Charter.

**Exam Schedule**

<b>Spring 2026 Semester Exams</b>	
<b>Thursday, May 14, 2026</b>	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	History
10:30 - 11:30	US Advisory/MS Advisory for World Language Students Taking Afternoon Exams
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch for World Language Students Taking Afternoon Exams
12:30 - 2:30	World Languages
<b>Monday, May 18</b>	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory

8:30 – 10:30	Math
TBD	Conflicts
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2026</b>	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 - 10:30	English
TBD	Conflicts
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2026</b>	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	Science
TBD	Conflicts

**Eighth Grade Recognition**

We will recognize our eighth graders passing to upper school in Chapel on Wednesday, May 13, and Chapel on this day begins at 9:45. All parents of eighth graders are invited to attend Chapel on this day.

**Class Day**

Class Day, a program in the Championship Gym that recognizes middle and upper school students in the various disciplines, is Friday, May 15, in the morning. Students must wear formal dress uniform for this event. The program begins at 8:30am, and parents are welcome to attend. If your child will be receiving an award, you should hear from their advisor in the next few days. Please do not share this information with your student, as we would like to keep this a surprise!

**Reminder: Procedure for Obtaining an Excused Absence**

If your child has to miss a full day of school or more, their adults need to email Dr. McCormick requesting the given time off and do so at least one week in advance. After this has been approved, the student will collect a Planned Absence Form from the Middle School Office, take it around to their teachers whose classes they will be missing for their signatures, and then bring it back to the Middle School office for Dr. McCormick’s signature. They will also be given a copy to take with them.

**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**

Another great week to be a Wildcat!

On Monday night, our lower, Middle, and Upper school choirs, along with MS/US orchestra, wowed a packed house in their annual Spring Concert.

On Tuesday and Thursday during special ceremonies, we inducted the newest members of our World Language and National Speech and Debate Honor Societies, and we held our Spring Sports Recognition. On Wednesday evening, we held Senior Night for our varsity soccer, track & field, and rowing teams.

Our students started their semester exam review in Advisory on Wednesday, reviewing study strategies with their Advisors. Next week is our last “regular” week of school, and in-class review days start on Friday.

My teammates and I are grateful to work with your awesome kids! Please keep reading to learn more about what’s happening in Upper School.

See you out there,  
Kellen

### **Updates, Reminders, & Action Items**

#### **SAT Test Prep This Summer**

The Princeton Review SAT Test Prep Workshop is offered for free to rising 11th and 12th grade students July 27-August 8 in preparation for the August 22 SAT. Over 22 hours of in-person instruction and three practice tests will be provided to students using Princeton Review SAT test preparation books and online practice problems in preparation for the digital SAT on August 22. Here is the [link to register](#) by Friday, May 8.

#### **Fall 2026 College Trip**

We are excited to announce our annual college trip for Fall Break 2026! This year, we are headed to tour colleges in the South Carolina area. This is a wonderful opportunity for rising 10th and 11th graders to see a variety of colleges and learn more about their college preferences. The trip will take place from Tuesday, October 6th - Friday, October 9th.

Colleges Included:

College of Charleston, University of South Carolina, Clemson University, Furman University, Wofford College, and Davidson College.

The trip is capped at 28 students, so please register ASAP [at this link](#) if interested. The deadline to register is Friday, May 8.

### **End-of-Semester Exam Support** [Written by Paige London, Upper School Learning Specialist]

Final exams are quickly approaching! To give students a strong game plan, I have put together an [Exam Prep Timeline](#) filled with practical, research-based tips such as breaking material into manageable chunks and spreading out study sessions across several days instead of cramming. Upper School students received this timeline on April 29th during a dedicated final exam prep Advisory, so they have a clear week-by-week breakdown tailored to the May exam schedule. Exam season is a great opportunity for students to flex those growing independence muscles and to attend extra help sessions. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's success.

### **AP Testing 2026:**

AP Testing will begin on Monday, May 4th, and conclude on Thursday, May 14th. ([Testing Calendar](#)).

Here is a [link to a calendar of testing dates and locations](#). Students who have an 8:00 AM test will need to be in the testing location no later than 7:45 AM. Students who have a 12:00 PM test, will need to be in the testing location no later than 11:45 AM. Students with afternoon tests will be able to eat in the cafeteria early before testing. Once testing has started, late students cannot be admitted to the room and will be required to take the test during the [late testing administration session](#) the week of May 18th.

Students should bring a **fully charged laptop, charger, and calculator (for math and science exams)** on testing days. Be in touch with Lauren Byrd if you have any questions!

### **Spring 2026 AP Exam Schedule**

Monday, May 4:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Biology & Latin
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - European History

Tuesday, May 5:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Chemistry
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - US Government

Wednesday, May 6:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - English Literature

Thursday, May 7:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Modern World History
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Statistics

Friday, May 8:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - United States History
- \*Digital Portfolios are due for AP Art & Design

Monday, May 11:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Calculus AB & BC
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Seminar & AP Music Theory

Tuesday, May 12:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - French

- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Psychology

Wednesday, May 13:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - English Language
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Physics C: Mechanics

Thursday, May 14:

- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Spanish Language

### **Spring 2026 Semester Exam Schedule**

Thursday, May 14:

- 8:30-10:30 am - History Exams
- 11:30 am-12:30 pm - Lunch (for students taking an afternoon World Language Exam)
- 12:30-2:30 pm - World Language Exams

Friday, May 15:

- \*No Exams - Middle School/Upper School Class Day

Monday, May 18:

- 8:30-10:30 am - Math Exams

Tuesday, May 19:

- 8:30-10:30 am - English Exams

Wednesday, May 20:

- 8:30-10:30 am - Science Exams

### **Thanksgiving Italy Trip** [From Ms. Self, US Dean of Students]

This November, students will travel to Rome for an immersive experience that brings history, art, and culture to life in unforgettable ways - from the Colosseum and the Vatican to day trips to Florence, Tivoli, and Ostia Antica. This trip is open to current 8th–11th graders. A few spots are still available! Check out [our website](#) for full details and registration information.

### **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 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 inform their teachers, coaches, and advisor of any known absences in advance.

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

#### **AP Exams**

Check out the schedule for AP exams posted above.

#### **Yearbooks**

Yearbooks will be distributed next week to seniors on Monday, May 4th and to juniors, sophomores, and freshman on Tuesday, May 5th.

## Handshake Farewell Ceremony

On Wednesday afternoon, our Seniors will participate in our beloved Handshake Farewell Ceremony, during which the entire Middle and Upper Schools will form a receiving line for our seniors. It's a chance for everyone to express their gratitude and appreciation for the Class of 2026, and a chance for the seniors to thank our community.

## Seniors Last Day

Seniors' last day of "regular" school is Wednesday, May 6th. Seniors who make sit for non-AP exams will be notified today by their respective teachers. Senior exams will be scheduled for Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th.

## Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 5/4 - Father Rob
- Tuesday, 5/5 - Reverie (Literary Magazine) Recognition
- Wednesday, 5/6 - Handshake Farewell Ceremony (3:00 pm)
- Thursday, 5/7 - 6th Grade Cantores Performance
- Friday, 5/8 - Ben Blackmon '26

## Athletics Schedule

Let's go, Wildcats!

## **Beyond this Week...**

- In-Class Exam Review Days - Monday, May 11 & Tuesday, May 12
- Rising Senior Blazer Ceremony - Tuesday, May 12
- End of Quarter 4 - Wednesday, May 13
- Reading Day - Wednesday, May 13
- Graduation Rehearsal - Wednesday, May 13
- End-of-Semester Exams - Thursday, May 14/Monday, May 18 - Wednesday, May 20
- Class Day - Friday, May 15
- Baccalaureate - Friday, May 15
- Last Day of School for Students (9th, 10th, 11th Grades) - Wednesday, May 20

## **Rowing Summer Camp!**

<b>WILDCAT ROWING</b>	<b>SUMMER CAMPS!</b>
Beginner & Intermediate Sessions Available!	
<u>Beginner</u> <u>Intermediate</u>	
June 22 - 25     June 29 - July 2	
July 20 - 23     July 27 - 30	
Monday - Thursday, 7:45 am to 10:00 am	
\$200/session, \$350 for 2 sessions	
	
Email for more info: <a href="mailto:rowcoachjax@gmail.com">rowcoachjax@gmail.com</a>	

## 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.

### 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](#))

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

**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.

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.

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.

## **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.*

## **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.**

## **New Spring Supersessions Now Available!!**

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.

## 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)

## 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.