

May 8, 2026

2026 Summer Reading Assignments

Summer Break is a time to rest, recharge, and explore. This year's Summer Reading selections are designed to spark curiosity while helping students stay engaged and prepared for the fall. Our teachers carefully select texts that will challenge and inspire students throughout the summer.

Please visit the [Episcopal website](#) for:

- Required reading assignments for each class
- Optional enrichment opportunities
- Teacher previews and additional details about the selected texts

If you have any questions about Summer Reading, please reach out. We look forward to seeing students back on campus in August!

Kathleen F. House, Ed.D.
Academic Dean

Yearbook Orders & Availability

Yearbooks were distributed this week across all three divisions. If your student did not originally order one, but wants one now, parents must reach out to Yearbook Adviser, Madeline Balgavy. Email mbalgavy@episcopalcollegiate.org Quantities are limited.

Concessions and Gate

Thanks so much to all of our volunteers for Gate/Concessions in April and May! We are so grateful for your help!

Gabrielle Mangum, Mary-Margaret Marks, Pamela Mobley-Frazier, Jessie McLarty, Amber Bagley, Amanda Groce, Tonya Franzetti, Mollie Campbell, Liza Wright, Amanda Daugherty, Holly Larkin, Amy Brantley, Theresa Glover, Amber Read-Zamilpa, Sarah Smart, Chase & Margaret Crocker, Karen Lammers, Allison Hester and Renee McGraw.

Laura Schnackenberg and Mary Margaret Wippo

Education Freedom Account Update

4th Quarter Voucher Payment Now Due: The 4th 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

This will be a busy and exciting week in the Lower School as we celebrate the last full week of school with several special events and traditions! Please see the reminders below so your family is prepared for all the fun.

On Wednesday, all students should wear their dress uniforms with tennis shoes for our final Eucharist celebration of the school year. Please note that Community Chapel will end later than usual that day, at 8:45 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m.

Then on Thursday, all students are invited to wear pajamas to celebrate collecting 2,024 books during our recent Book Drive supporting Project Transformation! Please make sure pajamas are school-appropriate and that students wear tennis shoes. No slippers, please.

Friday will be a regular Spirit Day. We will kick off the morning with Wildcat Walkup at 8:45 a.m., when students will visit the next grade level to learn more about the upcoming school year. Please be sure students arrive on time so they don't miss this special opportunity.

Finally, thank you to Catherine Love and our Teacher Appreciation Committee for spoiling our teachers with treats all week long. We are so grateful for the many ways parents support and celebrate our faculty. A special thank you as well to Mrs. Linder and all of our Book Fair volunteers for creating such a fun and successful Book Fair. It truly was top-notch, matey!

Enjoy this beautiful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

May Wildcat Wow Award Recipients!



Field Day Information

We can't wait for you to join us on Wednesday, May 20 for Field Day! All parents will receive an email on Monday with more details, but I wanted to provide the times for each grade level along with items parents should bring for your planning purposes. Dismissal for all students is at 11:45am that day and there is no Wildcat Club.

Field Times:

- PreK - 1st: 8:00am-9:30am
- 2nd-5th: 9:30-11:45am



Chapel News

In Community Chapel this week we enjoyed a performance by Ms. White's Theater Supersession. Next week will be our last chapel of the year. In Community Chapel, we will celebrate our final Holy Eucharist of the school year. Please note that Chapel will end at 8:45am rather than 8:30am. In all other chapels we'll listen to the book, Be You by Peter H. Reynolds.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on May 13:

- 1st-5th: 8:00-8:45am, Erwin Performance Hall & Gymnasium
- PreK 3: 9:00-9:10am, 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 13, 2026:

Procession:

- Cross: Sadie Prater
- Candle: Ace Blake
- Candle: Evie Peek
- Assist with Eucharist: George Wright
- Assist with Eucharist: Parker Easley

Readers:

- Barrett Robinson
- Kennedy Smith
- Vivian Kalkbrenner

Cantors:

- Jasmine Jones
- Scarlett Ray
- Willa Dalvi
- Louisa Young
- Charlotte Davis

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore
Lower School Chaplain

Pride Patrol - May 11-15

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:

- Jack Chatham
- Kenzie Cook
- Carter Cummings

- Magnolia Cunningham
- Henry Dake
- Willa Dalvi
- Ellie Daniel
- Rachel Davis

Mark Your Calendars

- 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,

This week we participated in the bittersweet Handshake Farewell ceremony, which was made more bitter for me as I had to shake hands/hug my senior daughter. As a parent, I can say that I have been very pleased with the depth and breadth of her high school experience, which has set her up for continued success in college and beyond. At today’s morning meeting, members of the boys’ and girls’ varsity lacrosse teams came and encouraged middle school students to participate in a “Try Lacrosse” event during activity time, and Ms. Melissa talked about upcoming student government elections.

This fall the National Junior Classical League hosted the National Classical Etymology Exam. It is a national exam designed to test a student's ability to handle both Latin and Greek derivatives and their use in English. We have 6 winners in the middle grades this year that we're happy to recognize.

The Novice Division (Grades 7 and 8)

- Bronze Medal Winners
 - Mabel Whitley
 - Steven Liu
 - Anna Lammers
 - Francis Maingi
 - Parker Rownd
 - Matsy Leacock

Semester Exam Preparation

[This](#) is a very helpful guide that Catherine Radtke, our Director of Learning Support Services, sent out to all students recently regarding exam prep. I am also including the text of her second and third week instructions here.

Week of May 4 – 8: STUDY IN SECTIONS (CHUNK & SPACE YOUR PRACTICE)

Now that everything is organized, break the content into manageable chunks and spread your review across days.

- Look at the number of units in each subject and decide how to chunk them. Because History and World Language exams are first (May 14), plan to cover at least one full unit from each of those subjects early in the week, then switch between subjects each night.
- Each night, tackle one chunk from two (or at most three) subjects—switching between subjects this way helps you better tell similar concepts apart on the exam.
- Review old study guides, quizzes, homework, Canvas videos, PowerPoints, and Flipgrids using active techniques: summarize each chunk in your own words, draw quick concept maps, or explain it aloud as if teaching a friend (elaboration).
- Complete the provided study guides. Have your teacher check them so you're focusing on the right material.
- Attend any extra-help sessions—asking questions during this phase is highly effective.
- Follow your nightly study schedule, but build in distributed practice: revisit the same unit on at least two different days rather than trying to finish it in one sitting.
- Use short, focused sessions (e.g., Pomodoro: 25 minutes of work + 5-minute break) to stay sharp.

Week of May 11 – 15: TEST YOURSELF (RETRIEVAL PRACTICE & TARGET WEAKNESSES)

You've done the heavy lifting, now see what you really know. This is the highest-impact week because retrieval practice strengthens memory far more than re-reading notes.

- Create and take practice tests: turn study-guide questions into Quizlet sets, make your own blank tests, or use past quizzes without looking at answers first.
- After testing, you'll clearly see what you don't know. Highlight and label those sections in your notes so you can find them quickly later.
- Recall is different from recognition. Don't fall into the trap of thinking "this looks familiar, so I know it." Force yourself to retrieve the information without cues.
- We remember things most effectively when we attach meaning and make connections. For every fact you review, ask "Why does this matter?" or "How does it connect to the bigger idea/unit?" This elaboration is proven to create stronger long-term memory pathways.
- If you are allowed a notecard (or formula sheet), create it after you have tested yourself—only include the things you actually struggled to recall.
- For subjects testing later in the week (Math on the 18th, English on the 19th, Science on the 20th), keep doing quick retrieval checks even after May 14 so the information stays fresh.

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. If your child will be receiving an award, you should have been notified by their advisor or teacher. Please do not share this information with your

student, as we would like to keep this a surprise! Students must wear formal dress uniform for this event. The program begins at 8:30am, and parents are welcome to attend. The program should conclude by 11am, and students may depart campus at this time. Teachers will host office hours for students following the program until 12 noon.

Exam Week

As per usual, students will report to take their exams, then need to depart campus unless they are meeting with a teacher. Lunch is not provided except for students taking a world language exam on Thursday, May 14. Students must return their chromebooks and chargers following their last exam on Wednesday, May 20. Please see the below schedule for exam start and end times.

Exam Schedule

Spring 2026 Semester Exams	
Thursday, May 14, 2026	
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
Monday, May 18	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	Math
TBD	Conflicts
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 - 10:30	English

TBD	Conflicts
Wednesday, May 20, 2026	
8:00 - 8:30	MS Advisory
8:30 – 10:30	Science
TBD	Conflicts

A Note from Dr. Graham

May is an exciting and poignant time in Upper School.

On Wednesday, we held our annual Handshake Farewell Ceremony. Middle and Upper School students, faculty, and staff bid an unofficial farewell to the Class of '26, by forming a winding processional line through which the seniors walked and offered hand shakes, fist bumps, and hugs.

The Yearbook was released earlier this week, and our kids have enjoyed reading it and swapping signatures. AP exams started on Monday, and our test-takers have done a great job so far. On Wednesday, Advisories hosted farewell parties, and this afternoon we start in-class review for semester exams.

Big shoutout to our Girls Varsity Lacrosse team for winning the state championship!

Looking Ahead to next week...

The Class of '27 will be “commissioned” as Seniors on Tuesday afternoon at the Senior Blazer Ceremony. Wednesday is Reading Day: US students may choose whether to study in school or at home on Wednesday. Our combined Middle/Upper School Class Day Ceremony is set for Friday morning at 8:30 am in the Championship gym, and Commencement for the Class of '26 will take place on Saturday at 9:30 am in the Championship Gym.

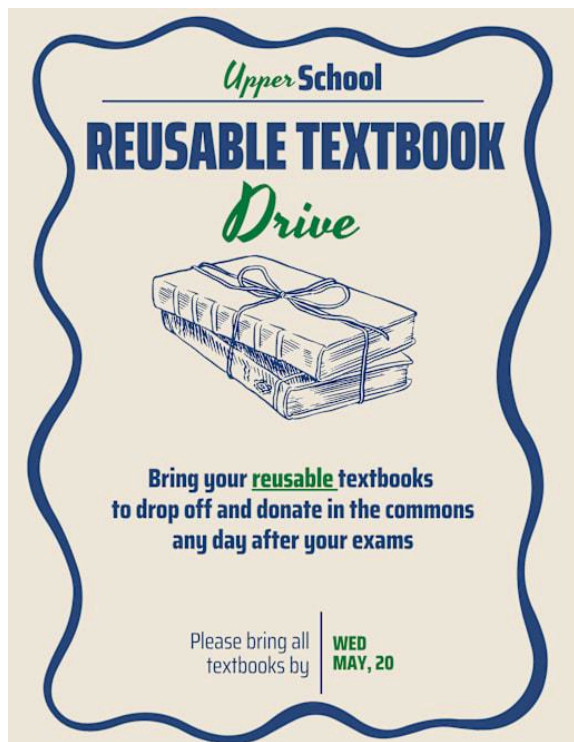
Please keep reading to learn more about what’s happening in Upper School.

See you out there.

Kellen

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

Reusable Textbook Drive



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.

Spring 2026 AP Exam Schedule

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

SAT Test Prep- TODAY, MAY 8 IS THE FINAL DAY TO REGISTER

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- TODAY, MAY 8 IS FINAL DAY TO REGISTER.

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 **TODAY, Friday, May 8.**

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.

Senior Blazer Ceremony (Class of 2027)

Starts at 2:35 pm in the Dining Hall. Parents and special friends of the Class of '27 are welcome to attend.

In-Class Review Days

Our faculty will lead in-class review sessions for semester exams today, Monday, and Tuesday. Students will review their study guides, preview exam formats, and discuss potential exam content.

Reading Day

Reading Day is on Wednesday, May 13th. Reading Day is a college-style review day; school attendance is optional for students. Teachers will be here, ready to offer extra help to students, and students are invited to come to school to read, study independently or in small groups, or meet with teachers.

End of 4th Quarter

The 4th quarter ends on Wednesday, May 13th.

History/World Language Semester Exams

Happening on Thursday. Please check out the schedule above.

Class Day

Starts at 8:30 pm on Friday, May 15th in the Championship Gym. Friday is a DRESS UNIFORM DAY for students.

Commencement (Class of 2026)

Starts at 9:30 am on Saturday, May 16th in the Championship Gym.

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 5/11 - Moving Up Ceremony
- Tuesday, 5/12 - Senior Blazer Ceremony (2:35 pm - Dining Hall)

Athletics Schedule

Let's go, Wildcats!

Beyond this Week...

- Semester Exams - Monday, May 18 - Wednesday, May 20
- Last Day of School for Students (9th, 10th, 11th Grades) - Wednesday, May 20

Rowing Summer Camp!

WILDCAT ROWING

SUMMER CAMPS!

Beginner & Intermediate
Sessions Available!

Beginner Intermediate
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: rowcoachjax@gmail.com

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 Notification.



STEP 2:

Sign in with your 10-digit mobile number for login.

Make sure you Allow/Enable Push Notification.

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.



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 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.

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.