



Community Handbook Upper and Middle Schools 2026-2027

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SCHOOL PRINCIPLES

Our Mission

Episcopal Collegiate School prepares students to live principled and fulfilling lives of leadership and service through the pursuit of academic and personal excellence in a challenging and supportive environment.

Our Vision

To inspire lifelong learning, citizenship, and excellence.

Our Values

Respect, Reverence, Responsibility

Rooted in the Episcopal tradition and affirming people of all faiths, Episcopal Collegiate strives to develop in its students a respect for all persons, a reverence of God, and a sense of moral responsibility.

Our Educational Philosophy

Our Educational Philosophy is guided by two connected principles: a press toward academic achievement and a culture of care and support.

Our Guiding Principles

Through a vibrant student body, rich in diversity, students learn to live and honor the School's core values of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility and are inspired to carry those values beyond the School community into their futures.

Through the pursuit of excellence in academics, fine arts, and athletics, students develop the skills and understandings essential to leadership, service, and success:

- depth of knowledge in the arts, sciences, and humanities
- strong skills of analysis and expression
- critical, creative, and independent thinking
- intellectual curiosity and joy in learning
- cultural competencies and global understandings
- strength of body, mind, and character
- discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship
- self-awareness and self-efficacy

Our Episcopal Identity

Episcopal schools have been established not solely as communities for Christians, like a parish church, but as ecumenical and diverse ministries of educational and human formation for people

of all faiths and backgrounds. Episcopal schools are populated by a rich variety of human beings, from diverse religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds. In fact, the intentional pluralism of Episcopal Schools is a hallmark of the mission. It is also a distinguishing characteristic of this School to integrate religious and spiritual formation into the overall curriculum and life of our school community. Episcopal schools are clear, yet graceful, about how they articulate and express their basic identities, especially in their religious curricula and traditions. They invite all who attend and work in them—Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians, Christians and non-Christians, people of no faith tradition—both to seek clarity about their own beliefs and religions and to honor those traditions more fully and faithfully in their own lives. Above all, Episcopal schools exist not merely to educate, but to demonstrate and proclaim the unique worth and beauty of all human beings as creations of a loving, empowering God.*

Our Episcopal Identity is, in practice, expressed through:

School Worship that is creative, inclusive, draws fully upon the liturgical resources of The Episcopal Church, and is a regular part of school life for all faculty and students.

Community Life, in which reflection, prayer, and matters of the spirit are honored and cultivated and the physical, mental, and emotional health of all are supported and nurtured.

Religious Formation and Study that is meaningful, academically substantive, and age-appropriate; and in teaching the Christian tradition, fosters dialogue with other faith traditions.

Social Justice, which is the integration of the ideals and concepts of equity, justice, and a just society throughout the life of the school; the embracing and honoring of diversity; and the inclusion of community service and service-learning as an integral part of the life of the school. *

* From National Association of Episcopal Schools

Our Prayer

Almighty God, be with the Episcopal Collegiate community as we begin this new day of teaching and learning. Keep us ever mindful of the honor of our callings so that we act with integrity. Turn our eyes inward to focus on the spirit and outward to see our obligations in the world. And bring us to the end of this day with a sense of fulfillment in our tasks well done. Amen.

Our Philosophy on Religion

In keeping with the long-standing Episcopal school tradition of pursuing academic excellence while embracing diversity, Episcopal Collegiate School serves a wide range of religious, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. At Episcopal Collegiate, we honor each person as an individual

and respect his or her spiritual journey and background. The religious element of campus life, be it in the classroom or in worship, is intended to complement one's religious life outside of the School. In other words, we invite all to seek clarity about their own lives. We affirm all students as children of a loving God, and we challenge them to realize this more fully in their own lives and to share it with others.

Non-Discrimination

Episcopal Collegiate School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Independent School

Episcopal Collegiate School is an independent school. As a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) and the Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES), and the Serving & Accrediting Independent Schools (SAIS), Episcopal Collegiate takes its place among the nation's leading college preparatory schools. The term "independent" refers to schools that are NAIS members: non-profit organizations, governed by self-perpetuating boards of trustees that represent no particular interest group, other than the school itself. Episcopal Collegiate School is independent of control by any government or church agency, and, therefore, is not a parochial school. Independent schools are free to choose excellence, establish their own goals, and select curricula, teachers, and students that align with their unique mission. NAIS membership is a privilege accorded only to schools meeting specific standards of governance, inclusion, accreditation, and operation. Members of NAIS pledge to follow detailed Principles of Good Practice (see NAIS.org) and are non-discriminatory in their hiring of faculty and staff, their admission of students, and their administration of programs.

NAIS schools pursue excellence in a number of ways. Most importantly, they elect to offer smaller classes, excellent teaching, and academics appropriate to the school's mission. Episcopal Collegiate defines its mission in terms of educating in the Episcopal tradition college-bound students. Episcopal Collegiate strives to be an educational leader, embracing both innovative and traditional programs and respecting intellectual challenge and the full development of each child. NAIS schools carry accreditation from approved regional accrediting organizations. Episcopal Collegiate is accredited by the Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES), the Serving & Accrediting Independent Schools (SAIS), and the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (ANSAA). Accreditation requires a school to undergo detailed and in-depth self-evaluations of curriculum, programs, employee procedures, facilities, and finances. Every five

years, SAES and SAIS schools are subject to evaluative scrutiny by peer educators to ensure they follow prescribed standards of good practice in administration and operation. Regular interim reports and updates are further required of each accrediting body to ensure ongoing dedication to the stated mission and compliance with the standards established by the School and accrediting bodies.

Governance

Episcopal Collegiate School is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. A voluntary, self-perpetuating Board of Trustees includes members nominated by the Board's Committee on Trustees and elected by the Board of Trustees. The Head of School serves as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Board. Trustees are elected for three-year terms and normally may not serve more than two consecutive terms. According to the NAIS Principles of Good Practice, "The board is the guardian of the school's mission. It is the board's responsibility to ensure that the mission is relevant and vital to the community it serves and to monitor the success of the school in fulfilling its mission."

The Board of Trustees is charged with the responsibility of the long-term health and stability of the school, including adopting a clear statement of the School's mission, vision, strategic goals, and establishing policies and plans consistent with these statements. The board is responsible for hiring and publicly supporting the Head of School and reviewing his or her performance, overseeing effective organizational planning, ensuring adequate financial resources, and enhancing the School's public image through the support of its people and programs. Much of the Board's work is done at the committee level where issues and initiatives can be analyzed comprehensively. Because the Board's work is focused on strategic issues and policies, it is *not* involved in daily operational matters regarding specific management, personnel, disciplinary, or curricular issues. Trustees separate the interests of the school from the specific needs of any particular child or constituency. The Board, however, is kept apprised of current operations and major issues by the Head of School. (Excerpts from the NAIS PGP's).

Families and the School

As members of the Episcopal Collegiate School community, families should know, understand, and support the school's Mission, expectations, and policies as outlined in the Community Handbook. As a community, each family should engage other constituencies with the same decorum and respect they would expect to be accorded. Families should refrain from discussing other students or involving other families by any communication or conversation device when they have a concern particular to their own child/ren or their relationship with the School. As a close-knit, family-focused school, Episcopal Collegiate seeks to protect the family atmosphere that each employee and family have come to expect and enjoy, so families with any concerns,

questions, or issues should speak directly with the appropriate teaching or administrative faculty member closest to the matter and as outlined below.

As a rule, Episcopal Collegiate School maintains an “open door” policy. Families may contact faculty and staff by telephone, email, or scheduled in-person meetings; please refrain from texting. Families can expect a reply to email and phone calls within 24 hours of receipt. If an urgent matter arises, it is best to contact the appropriate Division Head to seek an immediate appointment. Please understand that school personnel, like families, have many responsibilities, and as a result, are usually unavailable for “walk-in” meetings. Arriving at school unannounced or without an appointment is often a disruption and fails to allow proper planning to address concerns or issues. When parents visit the School, however, they must check in and out at the appropriate Division Office and wear a visitor’s badge during their stay on campus.

Scheduled parent-teacher conferences are held twice each year for Pre-Kindergarten through grade twelve. If parents would like to request a conference at any other time, they should contact the teacher directly. The teacher will then set up an appointment for a personal conference at a mutually convenient time. Appointments are necessary in order to make the best use of time for all concerned.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of School, *ex officio*

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The **Head of School** is responsible to the Board of Trustees for good order and daily operation of the School. The Board of Trustees, acting solely as a unified whole, oversee the mission of the School and broad policy issues, but have no individual oversight nor any group oversight of the daily operation of the School, which is delegated to the Head of School and his representatives on the Senior Leadership Team, which is made up of members of the faculty whose duties transcend the traditional role of classroom faculty. The Senior Leadership Team for 2025 - 2026 includes:

The **Assistant Head of School** is responsible to the Head of School for overseeing all aspects associated with school enrollment, strategic initiatives and planning, and working closely in partnership with the Division Heads.

The **Director of Finance and Operations** is responsible to the Head for administering the School's accounts, maintaining the School's physical plant, overseeing Institutional Technology, Dining Services, and for safety and security. He is assisted by the Controller, Assistant Controller, grounds, security, and housekeeping personnel.

The **Division Heads** (Head of Lower School, Head of Middle School, Head of Upper School) are responsible to the Head for the general behavior and morale of the student body and for the support and development of teaching faculty. In this role, they handle all academic matters and discipline in their respective division. Division Heads assume designated oversight of their respective areas of campus knowing they are a part of the singular whole of Episcopal Collegiate School.

Division Heads oversee the daily academic operation of the school and are responsible to the Head for the academic direction of the School. In this role, they work closely with Department Chairs, the MS/US Academic Dean, and the Head in the appointment of new faculty, the supervision and evaluation of existing faculty, and direction of the School's curriculum and course of study. Division Heads in collaboration with the MS/US Academic Dean oversee and direct the Department Chairs in the supervision of their respective departments, maintain good behavior in their respective buildings, and oversee the academic honesty and integrity of the School in conjunction with the Head. They serve as the primary liaison in academic matters with students and parents in matters that transcend usual classroom issues.

The **Director of Development** is responsible to the Head of School for administering all aspects of development-- fundraising, donor stewardship, alumni relations, Parents' Auxiliary, and special events related to fundraising.

The **Director of Marketing and Community Outreach** is responsible to the Head of School for coordinating and communicating messaging and marketing efforts specifically designed to enhance the reputation and appeal of the School, increase prospective student/family interest, and leverage that interest into inquiries, applications, and enrolled students.

The **Director of Admissions** is responsible to the Head of School for overseeing all aspects of the admissions process for prospective and returning families.

The **Director of Athletics** is responsible to the Head of School for the direction of all athletics, health and wellness, and physical education programs of the School PK-12. He or she appoints all coaches, supervises their coaching, and schedules all practices and matches. He or she directs the students' athletic participation and is responsible for student behavior in the Athletic Center and on the field.

The **Director of Student Support Services** is responsible to the Head of School for the oversight of School Counselors, the Academic Achievement Center, internal and external tutors, and documented, Mission-appropriate accommodation and support coordinated with Division Heads and classroom teachers.

The **Director of Technology** is responsible to the Head of School for the oversight of all instructional and institutional technology needs of the school, technology integration in the curriculum, the Middle School Design Lab, and research, planning, and implementation of educational innovations that will enhance the school's academic rigor while preparing students for the expectation of college and life beyond.

The **Director of Entrepreneurial Studies** leads the design, development, improvement, and implementation of curriculum and instruction in business and social entrepreneurship and associated experiential education opportunities.

The **Academic Dean** works to support the work of the Head of School and Division Heads to cultivate a robust academic environment in grades Pk-12 and to maintain congruence between the mission of the school and the academic activities in those grades.

The **Head Chaplain** is responsible to the Head of School for the spiritual life and well-being of the community, its faculty, staff, and students. The Chaplain oversees and safeguards all elements of the School's Episcopal Identity within the Mission and in consultation with the other Chaplains and the Religious Studies Department

HISTORY OF EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

In 1996, a group of dedicated parents and community leaders spearheaded an effort to establish a new middle school with a similar Episcopal educational experience as The Cathedral School, K-6. As a result of this effort, The Cathedral Middle School was established in 1997 as an independent and separately incorporated school.

In the fall of 1998, The Cathedral Middle School opened its doors at a temporary location at the Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church at 1601 South Louisiana. Shortly thereafter, The Cathedral Middle School Board of Trustees purchased 31 acres at 1701 Cantrell Road to build a middle school with a vision to expand to an upper school. In the fall of 2000, the doors opened for grades six through nine at the newly-named Jackson T. Stephens Campus. The campus was named in honor of Jackson T. Stephens for his lifelong support of education and his significant role in making The Cathedral Middle School a reality.

The Middle School was dedicated on November 3, 2000. Construction of the Upper School began shortly thereafter and was completed and dedicated on December 7, 2001. In July 2003, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to change the name of The Cathedral Middle and High Schools to Episcopal Collegiate School to better reflect the heritage, identity, and mission of the School.

On May 11, 2004, Warren A. Stephens, President of the Episcopal Collegiate School Foundation, announced that his father, Jackson T. Stephens, along with he and his wife, Harriet Stephens, President of the Board of Trustees, made a gift of \$30 million to establish a permanent endowment for the Episcopal Collegiate School Foundation, which will assure the School's financial security in perpetuity. Additionally, Harriet and Warren Stephens made gifts in 2007 and 2013 during times of important growth for the School.

In December 2006, the Board of Trustees voted to expand the program of Episcopal Collegiate School by constructing and developing a Lower School Division on the Jackson T. Stephens Campus. This exciting new addition to the School provides a cohesive Pre-Kindergarten through 12th-grade program on one campus. Episcopal Collegiate School's Lower School Division opened in August 2009.

The Run Wild Capital Campaign was initiated in the Fall of 2018 to fund significant enhancements to the athletic facilities. The Smith Family Track and Blass Field athletic complex opened in August 2021 and the Mourot Stadium in August 2023.

On August 17, 2023, a special Founders' Day Chapel was held to commemorate the official 25th anniversary of the School's establishment. In concert with Founders' Day and to advance the School's mission for future generations, the Harriet and Warren Stephens Family Foundation generously gifted \$25 million to the Episcopal Collegiate Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stephens wanted to honor and thank those "leap-of-faith" families and faculty members who have wholeheartedly devoted their time, energy, and resources to the School.

The vision of Episcopal Collegiate School is to have not only first-class facilities, but also the finest faculty and administration, the best and broadest curriculum, and to make this education available to a diverse population of students.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

The financial policies of Episcopal Collegiate School are outlined below. Your cooperation in adhering to these policies is appreciated. Any questions concerning these policies should be directed to the School's Business Office.

Billing and Payments

Episcopal Collegiate School uses FACTS Management Company for billing and payment processing services. Each family will have an account with FACTS that they can access online using the username and password provided. New families will have a username and password provided via email. FACTS allows families the convenience of checking the status of their account and making payments online at any time. Families with multiple students will have a single FACTS account, but charges for each student will be identified and billed separately within the family's account.

Each family account will have separate sections:

Tuition and Fees: Tuition (net of the enrollment reservation deposit) and New Student Fees are set up in FACTS and each family is required to establish a payment plan for the year by selecting one of the following options.

- Single payment – The full balance is due by July 31, 2026.
- Semester Payment – Payable in two equal installments. The first installment is due July 31, 2026. The second installment is due December 31, 2026.*
- Monthly Payment - Payable in 10 monthly installments from July 2026 through April 2027. Monthly payments are due by the end of the month and families can determine which day of the month the payment will be processed. *
- Semester Payment and Monthly Payment options incorporate a small cost of funds fee in addition to the base tuition charge. These charges are reflected in amounts shown on the published tuition

and fee schedule and will appear as a monthly pay option fee or a semester pay option fee when establishing your payment plan in FACTS.

- Payment can be made via automated bank draft or credit card. A small “convenience charge” is applied for credit card transactions. Also, please be aware that FACTS will apply a charge for non-sufficient fund (NSF) situations. The School does not receive either of these fees.

All Other Charges: Charges for any items other than the tuition and fees covered by the family’s payment plan will be billed through FACTS monthly as they are incurred and will typically be due within 30 days. An email notification will be sent any time an invoice is charged to a student’s account. Payment can be made via automated bank draft or credit card.

Families may choose an “auto pay” option, where these incidental charges are automatically paid on the due date. Families that do not take advantage of this option will need to log in to the online account and authorize payment for each invoice received.

Examples of these other incidental charges include such items as:

- Non-Refundable Enrollment Deposits: Enrollment deposits are billed through FACTS and are due by April 30, or 10 days after being invoiced in the case of late-season enrollment. The Enrollment Agreement, which is executed through the online enrollment process, and this enrollment deposit secure that student’s place at the School.
- Dining Hall Charges: Students that participate in the lunch program will have the monthly fee billed to their family’s account through FACTS.
- After School Care: After school care charges are billed monthly.
- All Other Incidental Items: The School’s administration attempts to centralize and automate all billing. As a result, charges for such incidental items as athletic wear, field trips, t-shirts for certain events, purchases from the Wildcat Warehouse (school store), etc. are billed on a monthly basis as incurred.

Tuition Protection Coverage (TPC)

The Enrollment Agreement with Episcopal Collegiate School is a legally binding contract that financially obligates families to pay tuition for the upcoming school year after certain dates.

The School must enforce this financial obligation because enrollment numbers drive School staffing needs, as well as other preparatory commitments that the School must make well in advance of the beginning of the school year. The School makes these financial commitments based on student enrollment and the assurance that family tuition payments will support the financial commitment that the School must make.

Tuition Protection Coverage (TPC) offers families the option of minimizing the financial risk associated with executing the Enrollment Agreement. Families that elect to take advantage of the TPC will be relieved of all or part of the remaining (prorated) tuition obligation should they elect to withdraw a student from the School. Depending on the reason for the student withdrawal, TPC will cover either 100%, 75% or 50% of the remaining obligation.

Education Freedom Account (EFA) Tuition Vouchers

The LEARNS Act, which became Arkansas law in 2023, authorizes state funded Education Freedom Accounts that qualified and approved parents may use to help pay tuition at private schools, including Episcopal Collegiate School. All students in grades K–12 are eligible for Education Freedom Accounts, valued at \$7,208 for the 2026/27 school year. The EFA reduces your out-of-pocket cost for tuition by that amount.

Parents must apply through the Arkansas Department of Education and meet certain criteria to be approved for and receive a voucher. The tuition vouchers are in the name of the student/family, rather than the School. Receipt of voucher funding does not in any way reduce the parent's responsibility for their tuition obligation, but rather, parents can use the voucher funding to pay a part of their tuition obligation.

Your FACTS account is credited at the beginning of the school year for the full value of the Education Freedom Account. The School does this so that your payment plan in FACTS is based on the lower amount of tuition net of the EFA amount and not the full amount of tuition.

Funds are deposited into parents' Education Freedom Accounts quarterly. Parents must log into their ClassWallet account and respond to the Payment Request for each individual student to direct payment to Episcopal Collegiate School. *With such a large portion of the School's tuition revenue impacted, your prompt response is expected and appreciated.*

Questions and support for your EFA is provided by ClassWallet.

ClassWallet Support – help@classwallet.com or 877-969-5536

Parents must reapply each year to receive voucher funding in subsequent years.

Past Due Accounts

Accounts that are still outstanding past their due date are considered delinquent.

- A late fee of 1.5% of any past due balance will be applied monthly to any account that is considered delinquent as of the end of each month.
- The School will not release grades or transcripts for any student whose account is delinquent.

- Any student whose account is delinquent will not be allowed to re-enroll for the subsequent year until the account is brought to current status.
- Any student whose account is delinquent and is receiving financial aid is not eligible to receive financial aid for subsequent years. Further, they are at risk of having financial aid for the current year rescinded.
- The Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) bylaws state that any student whose account is more than 60 days past due is to be removed from eligibility. Therefore, any student whose account is greater than 60 days past due is not eligible to participate in any AAA-sanctioned interscholastic athletic competition.
- Families that may be having difficulty meeting their financial obligation are encouraged to contact the School's Business Office.

School Property

Families will be held responsible for the financial cost of damaged or missing school property. This includes school facilities and equipment as well as library books, laptops, and laptop equipment.

Confidentiality

All financial transactions with the School are considered confidential and will be discussed only with the person or persons identified as financially responsible on the student's Enrollment Agreement.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Episcopal Collegiate offers its students the opportunity to become independent learners by providing a curriculum based on high expectations, academic achievement, personal responsibility, and spiritual development. Our students are expected to participate actively in discovering and creating their own solutions to problems, to think critically, and to write analytically. They develop personal responsibility, values for engaged citizenship, a healthy regard for human worth and dignity, tolerance of ideas and experiences different from their own, empathy for those around them, and an appreciation for human diversity. The spiritual foundation of Episcopal Collegiate encourages students and faculty to value each other as children of God worthy of dignity and respect.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Classroom and Course Placement

As a rule, Episcopal Collegiate neither encourages nor accepts parental requests for or expectations of particular faculty or friend cohorts when scheduling students, or assigning teachers or advisors. Parents may express to their division heads key elements of their own child's learning styles, personalities, and any other personal concern for use by the School when making

the final determination for all such assignments. This policy is recognized as a “best practice” in education, respects the professionalism of the faculty in making the best educational decision possible, and helps to ensure a positive and effective learning climate within each classroom.

Knowing the importance of diversity in the social development of children, the School endeavors to distribute pupils across respective grade levels to create heterogeneous groups on the basis of gender, past academic performance, personality, social skills, and work habits. Consideration is given to the needs of students who will benefit from being together or from being separated.

The School maintains final authority in all decisions regarding teacher and classroom placements. Middle and Upper School course electives are contingent upon sufficient student enrollment.

Veracross and Canvas

Veracross and Canvas are password-protected, web-based student information systems that give parents and students access to real-time information including grades, attendance, detailed assignment descriptions, class bulletin boards, discussions, classroom resources, media, and more. Middle and Upper School Faculty will post information about upcoming events, tests, and assignments on a weekly basis in Canvas. Grades for students in grades 6 through 12 will be updated regularly in Canvas as assignments are completed and graded. By using a password, parents and students are able to log on to their individual accounts from any location where internet access is available. Quarter and semester grades are visible in Veracross.

Grading

Episcopal Collegiate uses a quarterly grading schedule. All individual assignment grades are posted in Canvas. Parent conferences will be held each spring and fall.

Academic and Graduation Requirements

Please refer to the School’s Course of Study for specific requirements and course offerings.

Middle School Course Requirements

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English	English	English
Mathematics or Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Algebra or Advanced Pre-Algebra	Algebra I or Advanced Algebra I
Life Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
World History 6: To 1500 CE	World History 7: 1500 CE to Present	History 8 • U.S. History • Arkansas History

Writing	World Language 7 (Choices Below):	World Language 8
Biblical Studies: Old Testament **	• French 7	• French
Physical Education **	• Latin 7	• Latin
Exploratory Design 6**	• Spanish 7	• Spanish
Intro to Romance Languages**	PE/Health 7 or Athletics 7*	Physical Education*
Creative Drama 6**	Elective Choices	Study Hall *
Instrumental Music 6**	• 3 Semesters	Elective Choices:
Choir 6**		• 2 Semesters
Art 6**		

* one semester only

** one nine-week session only

Upper School Graduation Requirements

Regardless of the number of credits earned in Middle School, the following credits must be earned in the Upper School. Please refer to the School's *Course of Study* for specific requirements and course offerings.

English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
History & Social Sciences	3
World Languages	2
Fine Arts	1
Religious Studies	1/2
Health	1/2
Physical Education	1/2
Additional Courses	4 or more

Students in the Middle School may receive Upper School placement for Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish, French, and Latin. Note, however, that even with mathematics and language credit earned in Middle School, the student still must take four years of mathematics and at least two consecutive years of the same world language in the Upper School. All students must complete the community service requirements and must present a chapel talk during his/her senior year to satisfy graduation requirements. All graduation requirements must be satisfied to participate in Commencement Exercises and receive a diploma from Episcopal Collegiate School. In the event that a senior has unsatisfied graduation requirements that can be fulfilled during the summer, he or she may be allowed to participate in Commencement Exercises with special permission from the Head of Upper School, but in no case will a student receive a diploma until all graduation requirements have been met.

We believe that in addition to academic preparation, the social and emotional developments that take place during high school are important for a successful post-secondary career; therefore, once students enter grade 9, they must complete four years of high school education in order to earn a diploma, regardless of the number of credits earned or courses taken. Once enrolled at Episcopal Collegiate School, a student can advance no more than one grade level each academic year.

Signature Programs

Entrepreneurial Studies

Entrepreneurism is a journey of passion, creativity, and resilience. The rewards can be both personal and societal, driving innovation, economic growth, and positive change. While concepts and entrepreneurial thinking are incorporated into curriculum school-wide, upper school students have the opportunity to be a part of a four-year program that leverages coursework in design thinking, civics and social entrepreneurship, marketing and communications, and business and economics that prepares them to effectively engage innovative immersion and capstone experiences working with real business and social entrepreneurs.

Certificate of Distinction in the Arts

This program is designed to encourage students' interests across various arts disciplines, applaud their talent and dedication, and cultivate a lifelong involvement and appreciation for the arts. The Certificate of Distinction acknowledges graduating seniors who demonstrate a true emphasis through advanced studies, serve in leadership positions within the arts community on or off-campus, complete a minimum of fifteen hours during junior and senior year in pre-approved internship or practicum opportunities, and actively participate in school-recognized visual and performing arts events, performances, or competitions.

Advanced Placement®

Episcopal Collegiate School currently offers 18 Advanced Placement® (AP®) courses, the descriptions of which are included in the School's *Course of Study*, which is available on the School's website.

Many factors affect the readiness of a student to be successful in advanced coursework. In considering student requests for advanced courses for the following school year, the School uses a holistic approach that brings together the perspectives of the student's advisor, his or her current teacher, the anticipated teachers of the advanced course or courses being requested, and the Department Chair. These conversations may also include the Academic Dean, faculty from the Academic Achievement Center, College Counselors, and the Division Head.

When considering student requests for advanced courses, the School typically includes the following factors in an effort to make sure that each student is appropriately challenged.

- a demonstrated interest in the subject area
- performance in prerequisite and/or comparable courses (typically B+ or higher)
- standardized test scores, when available and appropriate for the course being considered
- history of completing work consistently and on time
- a demonstrated willingness to seek extra help when needed
- the anticipated workload of the overall requested schedule of academic courses, relative to the current year
- intended area(s) of study in college or other post-graduation plans
- time for participation in school activities outside of coursework, including athletics, fine art, clubs, and/or service

The School reserves the right to restrict access after a careful review of the overall course load of a student.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances determined by the Division Head, a student who takes an Advanced Placement® course is expected to take the corresponding AP® exam in May. Any student enrolled in an AP® course and who sits for the AP® exam is exempt from the final course exam. Fees associated with each AP® exam will be charged to the student's FACTS account. A list of the fees charged for AP® exams by the College Board is available on their website.

A student may drop an AP® or advanced-level course during the add/drop period or at the recommendation of the teacher.

Middle and Upper School

Report cards and interim reports will communicate academic grades for each individual class using the following grading scale.

A+/-	100-90	Superior Achievement
B+/-	89-80	High Achievement
C+/-	79-70	Satisfactory
D+/-	69-60	Unsatisfactory
F	Below 60	Failing

Major assignments and projects turned in after the designated due date may be penalized at a rate of 10% per day up to 5 days. Students receiving an unexcused absence will be assigned grades no higher than 50%.

Responsibility for obtaining missed work rests with the student. The general guideline for completing work following an excused absence for illness is one day for every day absent. Students with Planned Absences will discuss makeup work with their teachers and confirm specific plans and due dates for make-up work.

Any student who receives an Incomplete grade for a marking period must collaborate with his or her teacher(s) to create a timely makeup plan and a deadline for outstanding work. All Incomplete makeup plans must be approved by the Division Head.

Seniors must have all courses complete and grades submitted to receive a diploma and participate in commencement exercises. Any exceptions must be approved by the appropriate Division Head.

Semester Examinations

Middle School

All courses in Middle School may have a written semester examination or equivalent as determined by the School. Eighth-grade exams shall count 16% of the semester average with each quarterly grade counting 42% of the semester average. Seventh-grade exams shall count 14% of the semester average with each quarterly grade counting 43% of the semester average. Sixth-grade exams shall count 12% of the semester average with each quarterly grade counting 44% of the semester average. Exams are administered at the end of each semester.

As a rule, the School will neither amend nor adjust the exam schedule for any reason. A conflict or make-up session is scheduled at the end of each exam week for those with conflicts or a

legitimate excused absence from an exam earlier in the week. All questions regarding exams should be made to the appropriate Division Head.

Upper School

All courses in the Upper School may have a written semester examination or equivalent as determined by the School, which shall count 20% of the semester average. Each quarterly grade will count as 40% of the semester average. Exams are administered at the end of each semester.

As a rule, the School will neither amend nor adjust the exam schedule for any reason. A conflict or make-up session is scheduled at the end of each exam week for those with conflicts or a legitimate excused absence from an exam earlier in the week. All questions regarding exams should be made to the appropriate Division Head.

Senior Exam Exemption

Any second semester senior who has no unexcused absences and no more than three tardies to school during the third or fourth quarter has completed the community service requirements by the deadline, has earned a course grade of 85% or better may be exempted from the second-semester course exam. The exemption will be granted per course on the last day of the second semester of classes. A qualified student may choose not to use the exam exemption. Any student enrolled in an AP® course and who sits for the Advanced Placement® Examination is exempt from the final course exam.

Grade Point Average

Episcopal Collegiate, like many college preparatory schools, employs a GPA scale in the Upper School with enhanced grade-equivalent values to reflect the academically rigorous, college-preparatory nature of our course offerings. This weighting benefits all students, not just those enrolled in Advanced Placement® Courses. The following scale will be used when reporting grade point averages. Only grades earned at Episcopal Collegiate School will be used in the GPA calculation. Grades earned in approved courses from other institutions, including summer courses, will be noted on Episcopal's transcript but will not be used in calculating Episcopal's GPA.

Please be aware that many colleges and universities recalculate grade point averages using their own scale in an attempt to standardize grade point average scales.

A+	100-98	4.30
A	97-94	4.15
A-	93-90	4.00
B+	89-87	3.75
B	86-84	3.50

B-	83-80	3.15
C+	79-77	2.75
C	76-74	2.50
C-	73-70	2.15
D+	69-67	1.75
D	66-64	1.50
D-	63-60	1.15
F	< 60	0.00

A 0.5 weighting is added for AP® courses and advanced classes.

Class Rank

Except for determining the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Commencement, class rank is not published. A student must complete the last six semesters at Episcopal Collegiate School in order to be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors. Only grades earned at Episcopal Collegiate School will be used in the GPA calculation.

Homework

Episcopal defines homework as work that is assigned by the teacher to be completed outside of class time. Homework can include but is not limited to, written assignments, preparation for tests and quizzes, intermediate work on long-term projects or assignments, research, reading, or preparation for classroom discussions. Homework should be essential to the course of study. Assignments are posted on a weekly basis but may be adjusted as necessary.

There are many factors that may affect the time students spend on homework, including the specific course, personal learning styles, varying levels of focus and distraction, effectiveness of time management, demands of the school calendar, and student productivity during the academic day. If a student consistently struggles to balance the demands of homework, he or she should communicate with the classroom teacher or advisor to review good study practices with regard to the demands of the material, the forms of assessment, and other factors related to the specific course as well as the available space, distractions, and other factors to ensure the student has a conducive environment in which to study.

Homework may be assigned Monday through Friday in Middle and Upper Schools. In Upper School, no homework will be assigned on family nights or major holidays, except for long-term assignments, which may not be due within two days of return from any break. In Middle School, no homework will be assigned on family nights, over long weekends or holidays, except for long-term assignments, which may not be due within two days of return from any break.

It is important to note that for **Advanced or AP® classes**, the expectations will be higher including possible assignments over long weekends and holidays.

Teachers will work to understand the demands placed upon students across all classes. If concerns arise regarding assignments or quantity of homework, students should seek advice from the classroom teacher first. If there are concerns across multiple classes, seek advice from the Director of Student Support Services or the Division Head.

Academic Warning

The School reviews a student's academic standing on an ongoing basis to determine if his/her performance is meeting the academic standards of the School. Successful completion of all required courses is necessary to continue attending the School.

At the end of each semester, the Division Head and Dean of Students, with input from the faculty, will review students about whom they have concerns, either academic or behavioral. In some cases conditions will be established for continuation at Episcopal Collegiate School. A student can be asked to leave for behavioral reasons as well as academic reasons.

Students in serious academic difficulty will be placed on Academic Warning. Any student with two or more grades below C- at the end of a semester will automatically be placed on Academic Warning.

If the student is placed on Academic Warning after the first semester, this means generally that his/her enrollment agreement will be held until the end of the academic year. If the student is placed on Academic Warning at the end of the second semester, this means generally that their enrollment at the school will be reviewed after the first semester the following year.

The goal is to work closely with the student, teachers, parents, advisors, academic achievement center and outside support so that a student can meet with success and be removed from Academic Warning. However, if the student is placed for a second time on Academic Warning, he or she will seriously jeopardize his or her enrollment at Episcopal Collegiate School. In some cases the Division Head may determine that a student with strong faculty support but with grades below C- does not warrant placement on Academic Warning.

Online Courses

Episcopal Collegiate School recognizes that high-quality online programs offer its students unique learning opportunities which provide students with academic flexibility and supplement existing curricula.

All summer online or traditional coursework must be completed, and transcripts received by the school no later than August 1st; if a student does not believe that the course will be finished before the start of school, he/she must contact the appropriate Division Head.

Online course providers, participants, coursework, responsibilities, and credits must be assigned and approved by the Department Chair and the Division Head. The Division Head will make a determination of acceptance of credit on a situational basis. Online course grades from outside providers will not be included in the calculation of grade point averages. Additionally, students are fully responsible for any costs associated with online or in person courses.

As a general policy, students may take only two online courses from outside providers for credit during their high school career for program acceleration, independent study, and study abroad. All online courses available to students at Episcopal Collegiate School are expected to meet specific expectations to ensure high-quality learning experiences. The School will consider only online courses that meet the National Standards for Online Course Quality set forth by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). It is critical that the online course provider is regionally accredited, meets the iNACOL standards, and is approved by the School.

The School will allow students the option to enroll in online courses under the following four conditions:

For Grade Remediation

A student who receives a D or F grade may choose or be required to take an online course during the summer to demonstrate his/her development in that subject for purposes of advancement, high school graduation, and college admission. The grade reported for the online course will be placed on the student's transcript along with the student's original course grade. Students on academic probation may use online courses to meet the requirements necessary to remove the probationary status (see the section on Academic Warning). Students may not take online remediation for more than two semester courses in a given year.

Program acceleration

An advanced student who would like to accelerate an academic sequence may choose to take online courses during the summer. This opportunity would be available to especially able and ambitious students.

Independent study

An advanced student who wishes to take courses not offered at the School and who has exhausted the course offerings in his/her desired area(s) of study may work independently online. A faculty mentor will monitor the student's progress.

Study abroad

An advanced student who would like to both participate in an approved study abroad program for a semester or year and graduate with his/her current class may be approved to take online courses in order to fulfill the School's advancement requirements.

Study Abroad

If a student plans to study abroad, he/she should begin the process and notify the school at least a semester, but preferably a year, in advance. The School needs adequate time to analyze and approve or amend the student's proposed curriculum and credit. The Division Head will oversee this process and determine if additional coursework is required in order for the student to graduate with his/her class. Study abroad grades will be attached to the Episcopal transcript, but not calculated in the student's GPA.

It is recommended that students consult with the Office of College Counseling at least a semester in advance.

Community Service Expectations

Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility are core values of Episcopal Collegiate School, and we strive to be exemplary neighbors to the broader Little Rock community. Service-learning and social justice issues are incorporated into the curriculum. Middle and Upper School students are required to perform community service hours as responsible citizens in our school community and beyond.

While service hours are required, the School seeks active and engaged citizens who look beyond requirements and hours in their work supporting the School and Greater Little Rock. While some hours may be completed on campus, they can amount to no more than 25% of the required service hours. The minimum total required community service hours per grade level are:

6th grade:	5 hours
7th grade:	5 hours
8th grade:	5 hours
9th grade:	10 hours
10th grade:	10 hours
11th grade:	15 hours
12th grade:	15 hours*

*Students who have completed 100 hours or more prior to senior year and who have met the minimum requirement for grades 9, 10, and 11 are exempt from the 15-hour minimum for grade 12.

In Middle School, hours are to be documented and signed by the organization's volunteer supervisor or the sponsor of the activity/event. Completed forms should be returned to the Middle School office. In the Upper School, students should submit information about their activities to the Upper School office. Hours will then be uploaded to Veracross. The School provides information about opportunities for service throughout the year, but students may also submit activities in which they are interested or with which they are already involved.

Any volunteer work, including but not limited to, work for political candidates or parties, singing in a church choir, ushering, acolyting and other liturgical activities, internships at Arkansas Children's Hospital or other non-profit organizations is generally acceptable. Internships with for-profit corporations may be submitted for review but are viewed differently from true service to the community and hours may be restricted or rejected.

Appropriate adjustments may be made for students entering Episcopal Collegiate after the school year begins. Hours are to be performed between June 1 and May 1 for each year for grades 6 – 11. Students who fail to complete their required hours prior to the end of the academic year will have exams held and incompletes entered for the year. Once the student completes their required hours no later than August 1, grades will be posted and the student promoted to the next grade.

Seniors must complete their hours by the beginning of the fourth quarter of their senior year in order to be exempt from second-semester exams. Because service hours are a graduation requirement, failure to complete them prior to the end of the academic year will result in failure to earn the diploma and/or to participate in Commencement.

Schedules

Assignments to classes are based on re-enrollment dates, available data, and the needs of each student. A student will receive his/her schedule ONLY after a tuition payment has been received. If errors or changes in student enrollment occur, the School will approve appropriate changes. Students may drop or add courses with proper approvals during the first full class cycle of each semester. Occasionally, circumstances may warrant adjustments to student schedules after the drop/add period. These special situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are completed only with the approval of the appropriate Division Head.

Textbooks and Supplies

Episcopal students may purchase new or used textbooks online, from WordsWorth Books in Little Rock, or from another student. Episcopal provides access to library books. Loss or destruction of school-owned books or other materials will result in payment to the School.

Standardized Testing and Assessments

The School's principal testing program for grades three through seven is the Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP-V) designed by the Educational Records Bureau. The CTP-V achievement testing is used by most of the nation's leading independent schools and by many public school systems. In grades eight, nine, ten, and eleven, the school uses the PSAT Series testing.

This type of testing serves two purposes: to understand the general abilities and needs of individual children and groups of children which are considered when designing curriculum and providing appropriate academic expectations, encouragement, and opportunities, and to check both the appropriateness of the curriculum and the effectiveness of instruction.

Occasionally, the School may suggest specialized testing, educational, medical, or psychological, for a particular child. This occurs when a child is experiencing difficulty in the educational programs and the School's regular testing is either insufficient or inappropriate for identifying the child's academic strengths or needs. Requests for such testing may be made to parents by the Division Head or the Director of Student Support Services. Sometimes parents may initiate professional testing. The School needs to be an informed participant with the parents and professional diagnosticians.

Tutoring / Help Sessions

All faculty members will provide extra help for their students when necessary. A teacher may require a student's attendance at a help session, which may take priority over any other activity in which the student may be involved. Students who have unexcused absences, or have been suspended should not expect teachers to re-teach content or material missed.

To avoid a conflict of interest, teachers may not accept any form of compensation for tutoring their own students during the academic year. Faculty may not tutor any students during the regular school day (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and outside those times must arrange tutoring through the Director of Student Support Services.

Students and their families may engage outside (non-employee) tutors for academic assistance, but these tutors should coordinate their efforts with the Director of Student Support Services and with individual teachers to make the tutor's work more effective.

Episcopal will work with all such professionals to meet the individual needs of students. It is recommended, when possible, that tutoring occurs before or after school and away from campus. When outside professionals tutor students on campus, the following procedures must be followed:

- Each professional shall schedule any such on-campus sessions(s) with the Director of Student Support. The Director will assign the professional a location in which to work with the student. Any changes to the tutoring schedule throughout the school year will go through the Director of Student Support Services.
- The professional must sign in at the School Office each time he/she is on campus and sign out when leaving.
- If it is necessary for the professional to observe the student in the classroom or when the student is with other students, the professional may not interact or have contact with the student without the permission of the teacher, and the professional may not interact or have contact with other students without written permission of the other students' parents.
- Outside tutors will be expected to communicate at a minimum on a monthly basis with the classroom teacher and/or the Director of Student Support Services to provide information about student progress.
- All outside professionals shall be required to abide by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Trustees. Episcopal reserves the right to impose reasonable restrictions on such outside personnel in order to further the educational mission of the School.

Academic Support

The Academic Achievement Center staff provides support to students with learning differences and to all students who may need help in achieving academic success. The AAC is available to any Episcopal student experiencing academic difficulty and who has been recommended to the Center as a result of discussions among Center staff, teachers, parents, and/or the appropriate division head. In order to receive accommodations, parents must meet with the AAC staff and submit a current psycho-educational evaluation. To be current, an evaluation must have been completed within the last three years.

Services provided by the AAC include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Assessment and interpretation of academic performance
- Assessment of standardized and diagnostic test results
- Academic monitoring
- Classroom observations
- Pre-screening for reading and language difficulties
- Consultation services for teachers and parents for the purpose of enhancing learning for those students who learn differently
- Assistance in the development and implementation of an AAP
- Coordination of on-campus tutors
- Regular communication with a student's support system (parents, faculty, tutors, administrators, diagnosticians, therapists, and counselors)
- Sourcing of tutors, therapists, and evaluators
- Sourcing of professional development resources for classroom teachers

STUDENT CONDUCT

Episcopal Collegiate School believes that every student has a right to study, to learn, and to enjoy all that the School offers each day free from behavior that is detrimental to that experience. The School's policy on discipline is based upon the understanding that students will treat the School, its physical property, all employees, and all students with dignity and respect at all times.

Student behavior that is deemed in any way detrimental to the best interests of the Episcopal Collegiate School community will be subject to disciplinary action by the School. It is incumbent upon students to report any and all abuses of the student code of conduct, even if they are not directly involved in the matter. Failure to report incidents in a timely manner may prevent the School from taking complete action.

The student code of conduct is based on the school's motto of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility as we seek to encourage self-discipline, self-respect, and constructive independence.

RESPECT: All members of the School community will treat others with respect at all times. Each student, employee, or visitor has the right to an environment of respect. Similarly, students are expected to act with respect towards their surroundings and physical resources.

REVERENCE: The School expects behavior consistent with the Episcopal traditions of hospitality and reverence for each person as individuals worthy of respect, regardless of their background: race, creed, and culture. This requires the exercise of acceptance and inclusion, the practices of forgiveness and redemption, and the rejection of all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

RESPONSIBILITY: Ultimately, the responsibility for respectful and reverential conduct lies with the individual; the highest form of self-discipline is that which is internalized and practiced gladly and freely of one's own volition.

In all cases, student conduct and the School's response will be interpreted and applied in an age-appropriate manner, and will be made only after full consideration of a student's entire record as a member of the community, and with the understanding that the philosophy outlined above is the guiding force. The Upper and Middle School Deans of Students are responsible for disciplinary matters in the Middle and Upper Schools, in partnership with the Division Heads and Head of School.

THE HONOR CODE AND THE HONOR COUNCIL

The Honor Code

Trust forms the foundation of a community that lives out the Episcopal Collegiate Honor Code, and this trust is built on the expectation that each member of the community strives to live a life of honor. The Honor Code is simple:

As members of the Episcopal Collegiate School community, we are dedicated to maintaining a bond of trust and committed to holding ourselves to the highest standards of personal honor and integrity.

The Honor Code represents the moral and ethical values of the school and creates a community of trust, integrity, and respect. All students and staff of the school pledge to uphold the Honor Code. The Honor Code demands that every member of the community acts and lives honorably. Upholding the code involves a daily, even moment by moment, choice to represent one's work, actions, and self with honesty; to be above reproach on matters of integrity; to avoid unauthorized and/or undocumented use of ideas, possessions, or property of others; to work towards strengthening our community of trust and honor by not accepting efforts of others that undermine this trust. Any violation of the Honor Code is a serious infraction of school rules. In all actions, the School urges students to use good, common sense before acting. If an action seems "wrong," chances are that it is "wrong."

Teaching and promoting academic honesty and personal integrity is a three-way partnership amongst and between the school, the family, and the student. Families are expected to support our unalterable position on all matters of academic and personal honor. All families, by signing their contract with the school, acknowledge that they understand and support the Honor Code, which will apply in an age-appropriate way to all grade levels. A statement of understanding and support of the Honor Code is read and signed by all students and faculty at the start of the academic year as a tangible sign of ongoing understanding of and support for the Honor Code.

Honor Pledge

I pledge that I will uphold the Honor Code with my mind, body, and spirit, produce my own work, always speak the truth, and respect the personal property of all people.

The words "I Pledge . . ." must be signed by the student and affixed to all major assignments or assessments completed or submitted for teacher review, grading, and/or credit.

Honor Infractions

Infractions of the Honor Code include any attempt to deceive in a school or school-related event. A student must not lie, cheat, steal, or act dishonorably. Any use of generative Artificial

Intelligence (A.I.) on assignments or assessments requires teacher permission as well as acknowledgement when signing the honor pledge. Presenting work created by **any** generative A.I. tool as one's own is considered a violation of the Honor Code.

****See Appendix for complete AI Philosophy and Policy.**

Middle School Procedures for Handling Honor Code Violations

The student who committed the violation, a student or family member who is aware of said violation, or the classroom teacher reports the alleged violation to the Dean of Students, in person or in writing. This must be done with full disclosure of the incident, those involved, and with the name of the person who reported the incident – the incident may not be reported anonymously.

The Dean or Division Head will investigate the matter with the assistance of classroom teachers, advisors, other members of the Leadership Team as appropriate, students, and families. Once an investigation has been completed, the Dean or Division Head will communicate any decision or action to the accused and his/her family.

Middle School Consequences for Honor Code Infractions

Examples of the consequences that may be applied to address an Honor Code infraction include, but are not limited to:

- School/Family/Student Conference
- Demerits
- Detentions
- Academic penalty
- Community service
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- Restitution as applicable
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Required Withdrawal
- Dismissal/Expulsion

Honor Council Process

The Honor Council receives reports of alleged Honor Code violations from the Dean of Students and hears from the student accused and/or other witnesses. The Dean of Students conducts the initial investigation and presents the case to the Council for deliberation. Witnesses, including the teacher or student who brings the case, may be called by the Council as needed, and testimony may be taken, but accused students do not have access to this testimony or these

witnesses for examination; written evidence may also be presented to the Council. In deliberating cases and recommending consequences, the Honor Council may consider aggravating and mitigating factors. The council seeks to determine each student's innocence or guilt and to recommend consequences to the Head of Upper School or Head of School.

The Honor Council is an elected student organization that exists to promote the Honor Code and adjudicate reports of Honor Code violations. The Honor Council is composed of four seniors, three juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen. These student-leaders are elected by their classmates. One or two Upper School faculty members serve as advisors to the Honor Council; the faculty advisors attend Honor Council hearings to ensure the integrity of the process outlined below. The faculty advisors do not investigate Honor Code violations or cast votes in Honor Council hearings.

An Honor Council hearing is not a trial, and an accused student may not be represented by an attorney or bring others (i.e., parents) to the hearing to witness the proceedings. Honor Council members are reminded that their deliberations are to be confidential. The following process will normally be observed:

- Teacher or student reports the incident to Upper School Dean of Students.
- Dean of Students investigates the incident, interviewing the accused and anyone else who might have information pertaining to the incident.
- Dean of Students and Head of Upper School determine if there is enough evidence to convene the Honor Council and present all the evidence to them.
- The teacher or student who reported the incident will be called to the Honor Council to report what happened.
- The accused student will be called to the Honor Council to speak and give his/her explanation of what happened. The Honor Council may also question the accused student.
- If necessary, others who knew of the violation may be called in to speak to the Honor Council.
- Once the Honor Council has spoken to the accused student and witnesses, a determination of guilt or innocence is made. An honor violation requires a majority vote by the Honor Council.
- A member of the Honor Council will take notes of the meetings; however, these notes are not intended to be comprehensive and will not be available for review by the accused student, his or her family, or third parties.
- The accused student will have an opportunity to speak to the Honor Council with a student advocate present, if the student so desires. This advocate may be an advisor, teacher, or school counselor. Their role in the proceedings is simply to provide support for the student but not to testify.
- If the Honor Council determines that the accused student violated the Honor Code, then the Honor Council will recommend appropriate consequences to the Head of Upper School.

- The Head of Upper School will inform the Head of School of the recommendation, and the Head of School will accept the recommendation of the Council or hear appeals. The Head of School will hear appeals on only the most significant cases.

Honor Code Violations

If a student is found to have committed an honor offense, four tiers of consequences can be recommended by the Honor Council:

- **Warning** - The Honor Council may recommend that a first-offense student be given a warning if the offense does not warrant a more severe consequence. If a student who has been given a warning commits a subsequent honor offense, the Honor Council reserves the right to recommend a more severe consequence than might otherwise be imposed.
- **First-Tier** - This consequence is normally imposed for a first offense that is deemed more serious than one that would result in a warning. A first-level offense typically results in assignment to Saturday School Detention.
- **Second-Tier** - The consequence for a second-tier offense involves a one-, two-, or three-day in-school suspension, with an understanding that the next offense will likely result in a recommendation for dismissal. This is an implied, but not mandatory consequence.
- **Third-Tier** - The consequence for a third-tier offense is a recommendation for out-of-school suspension, dismissal and/or expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

These consequences are given in order of increasing seriousness. A subsequent offense typically results in at least the next tier recommendation by the Honor Council.

Students with a first, second, or third-tier honor offense in the Upper School are ineligible to run for the Honor Council the year following the offense, for selection to the Cum Laude Society, or from being selected as valedictorian or salutatorian.

Discipline Code

In accordance with Episcopal Collegiate School's philosophy and objectives, the school community has high expectations for student conduct. Students are expected to be honest, to be responsible for their behavior, to demonstrate self-discipline, and to respect all members of the School community and any guests of the School. Knowing that students make mistakes as well as poor decisions and that this is an educational environment, division-appropriate, fair, and consistent responses will take place while also emphasizing the need to educate students for a productive and positive future.

Disciplinary matters related to lying, cheating, stealing, or plagiarism are handled under The Honor Code section of this Handbook. The Discipline Code will be interpreted and applied in

an age-appropriate manner by the appropriate Office of the Dean of Students in partnership with the Division Head.

General Guidelines for Discipline

Joining a community such as Episcopal Collegiate School is far more than attending school five days a week – it is membership in a community that holds its ideals and philosophy dear and applies such on any given day. The School, therefore, expects the highest moral, ethical, and legal behavior of students regardless of location, time, or day of the week. The School does not seek to control behavior, but to work with families to graduate productive and contributing citizens. Therefore, school rules apply to any and all activity directly or indirectly related to enrollment at the school, including but not limited to all daily school activities, school trips of any kind, off-campus events and programs tied to the school, and summer travel. For life beyond the School, if the School determines that actions by students or families are detrimental to its good name, its reputation, the safety and security of other members of the community, or simply undesirable, the School may at its discretion, take disciplinary action.

Before school authorities administer disciplinary measures, a reasonable investigation is made to determine the facts of the infraction. The nature of this investigation may vary according to the seriousness of the offense and the level of likely consequences. For minor infractions where the classroom teacher takes corrective measures, no formal procedure is required. An inquiry into the incident to ensure that the offender is accurately identified, that he/she understands the nature of the offense, and that he/she knew the consequences of the offense for which he/she is subject may be sufficient.

Under extraordinary circumstances, if the Head of School and Division Head believe the situation so warrants, the School reserves the right to depart from these written policies and guidelines.

All appeals must be brought to the Head of School in writing. The appeal must come from the student directly.

Student and Family Cooperation

Following the School's Mission, Motto, and Philosophy, students and families are expected to cooperate fully and without omission of any kind in disciplinary investigations. Students are expected to be honest and forthright at all times, but honesty is not necessarily a mitigating factor and students' own statements may be used against them. Failure to cooperate with an investigation or any untruthful response, including by omission, may be cause for disciplinary action under the Honor Code or through traditional disciplinary measures. The School may meet with any student at any time regarding matters of conduct.

Students may be subject to interviews by licensing staff, child maltreatment investigators, and/or law enforcement officials for the purpose of determining licensing compliance or for investigative purposes. Student interviews do not require parental notice or consent.

Classroom faculty have the primary role of monitoring student conduct and maintaining a positive learning environment in their classrooms and throughout the building, with the support of the Office of the Dean of Students, their Division Heads, and Head of School. All issues and concerns regarding matters specific to a particular classroom should first be directed to that teacher. Issues that move beyond the scope of a particular classroom or teacher should be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students before contacting the Division Head or the Head of School. In all matters, cooperation, honesty, safety and security, and the unhindered education of all students shall govern conversations and decisions by the School regarding student conduct.

Search Policy

The safety and security of every member of the community, including guests, is of the utmost importance to the School. To that end, the School works closely with Little Rock PD, has established a Security Team, has established an Office of the Dean of Students, and is constantly working to educate students regarding their health and the healthy use of social media. Upon entering the gates of the Jackson T. Stephens Campus, students agree that their physical and electronic belongings including, but not limited to, backpacks, vehicles, lockers, bags or satchels of any kind, outerwear, pockets, personal electronic devices, and computers can be searched at any time at the discretion of the School through the Office of the Dean of Students, Division Heads, or Head of School.

Any physical element of the School, including, but not limited to, lockers, closets, classrooms, etc., constitute property of the School and may be opened, viewed, searched, or emptied at any time under the direction of the Office of the Dean of Students, Director of Finance and Operations, Division Heads, and Head of School. Students may also be requested to empty their pockets, raise their pant leg, remove his/her coat or jacket, and turn over his/her belt buckle to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

In all matters of discipline, searches, or other related cases, students and families are expected to cooperate immediately and failure to do so is considered a violation of school rules.

Personal Vehicles and Parking

Students who drive to school are permitted to park on school property as a matter of privilege and must only park in the designated student parking lot. Thus, it is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in vehicles in parking areas. As a matter of safety and security, the School,

through the Office of the Dean of Students, Division Heads, and Head of School may conduct random and periodic general inspections of vehicles parked on school property without prior notice to or the consent of the student.

Use of vehicles is governed by School policy and students who fail to follow guidelines regarding acceptable parking locations, use of vehicles during the school day, or carpool guidelines may lose the privilege of driving to school.

Minor Infractions

Basic rules of daily life are important for success in school. As previously stated, students should arrive on time, be prepared for class, treat people respectfully, and refrain from eating or drinking in buildings/spaces other than the Dining Hall or Commons and at times deemed appropriate by the School.

Minor issues of discipline are the responsibility of each classroom teacher or any employee that observes a student acting in a way contradictory to common courtesy and decency in our community. Repeated minor violations will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary measures that may include Detention, Saturday School, In- or Out-of-School Suspension, Probation, Mandatory Required Withdrawal, or Expulsion. Students will also meet with the Dean of Students and/or advisor to review and assess their progress and to address any concerns.

Examples of minor infractions of the Discipline Code include, but are not limited to the following:

- Tardiness to any **required appointments**, including, but not limited to, all classes, Morning Meeting, Advisory, Chapel, arranged extra help sessions, clubs, meetings, co- and extracurricular programs, exams, etc.
- Failing to follow basic expectations of decorum and respect in and outside the classroom
- Refusing to participate in classroom activities
- Eating or drinking (other than water) in any undesignated area
- Chewing gum at any time for any reason
- Running, excessive noise or other disruptions deemed inappropriate by any employee
- Violating the dress code

Disciplinary Options for Minor Infractions

Examples of consequences that may be applied include, but are not limited to:

- Teacher/student or Dean/Division Head/student conference

- Parent conference or call
- In-class disciplinary action as approved by the Dean and/or Division Head
- Loss of student privileges
- Detention/s or a Saturday School assignment
- Demerits (Middle School)
- Written Warning
- Counselor/student conference
- Confiscation of contraband
- Supervised campus service assignment
- Verbal correction
- Cooling-off or time-out
- Behavioral contracts
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area.

Serious Infractions of the Discipline Code

Serious Infractions of the Discipline Code involve behaviors that threaten the community and its commitment to the core values of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility. The list is neither complete nor exhaustive, as no list can be. The list does, however, offer guidance for students, families, and the School when reviewing disciplinary cases. In all cases, the Head of School or his assignee makes the final determination.

Any behavior that infringes upon the safety and well-being of any member of the school community: Each person attending the School has a right to feel safe and valued. Harassment of any type violates personal rights and creates an atmosphere that is intimidating and demeaning to the parties involved. Verbal abuse, written abuse, physical abuse, hazing, fighting, threatening words or actions, vandalism, cyberbullying, taking and posting unauthorized images (photos, movies, etc.) and sexual harassment are unacceptable. Any instance of harassment must be reported immediately to the Office of the Dean of Students, Division Heads, or Head of School for appropriate investigation and action.

Absences from academic commitments or other required school commitments or functions: Students are expected to attend and be prompt for all scheduled classes, be prepared for class, and attend all required school functions and other School commitments, including Morning Meeting, Advisory, Chapel, practices and rehearsals, and scheduled appointments with teachers. All tardies and absences are recorded in Veracross as part of the student's permanent record. Any unexcused absence from a required appointment or after-school program will result in consequences.

Dishonesty: Violations of the Honor Code as discussed and defined in the Honor Code section are considered serious infractions.

Firearms, knives, and weapons: Firearms, knives, and weapons of any kind as determined by the school are prohibited in any school setting. Possession of firearms, knives, and weapons on campus may be reported to the Little Rock Police Department in accordance with the law.

Retaliation: Retaliation is not tolerated at Episcopal Collegiate. Students are protected from any retaliation for making a good-faith complaint regarding disciplinary, honor, or student health concerns or for participating in an investigation.

Tobacco/E-Cigarette (vapor): Any use of tobacco products is harmful to one's health. The School is therefore a tobacco product-free campus for students, families, and guests, including in personal vehicles when traveling on campus. Smoking, chewing tobacco, e-cigarette, etc. are not permitted anywhere either on or while students are attending any school function (on or off the campus).

Open Flame: Any type of open flames such as a candle, incense, cigarette, lighter, or lighter fluids in any building are strictly prohibited.

Alcohol and Drugs: The use of illicit drugs and alcohol in the School community threatens the safety and health of students, faculty, staff, and the community as a whole. Their use compromises the quality of educational programs and can cause physical and emotional harm. Episcopal Collegiate School strives to maintain a substance-free environment to foster a healthy, safe, and drug-free academic community.

No student may possess, use, be under the influence of, or provide to any other student, by sale or any other means, any substance that is, or is represented to be, a narcotic drug, a hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, opioids, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, inhalant, legend drug, a synthetic drug, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind, or any kind that closely resembles, or is represented to be any of the foregoing items or any item that could be considered drug use paraphernalia. Students are also prohibited from possessing, ingesting, transmitting, or selling caffeine-based pills or substances containing pseudoephedrine or other over-the-counter stimulants.

Unauthorized access to school areas including locked buildings, offices, fire exits, emergency stairwells, locker rooms, and locations that are known or determined by the School to be off-limits, is prohibited. Students are not to be behind locked or closed doors on campus without direct supervision or permission, and students are not to be in school buildings unsupervised outside the hours of 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

In addition, possession or use of an unauthorized key, password, computer database, network, or tampering with a school lock or security system is prohibited. Any tampering with fire extinguishers, sprinklers, heat sensors, smoke detectors, or any fire preventative equipment is a serious infraction.

For reasons of safety and security, students are not to go to the parking lot or to any other unsupervised off-limit areas during the school day or while participating in extracurricular activities.

Discretion and Sensitivity: Students are expected to behave in a manner that exhibits respect for themselves, others, and the School. The School does not accept the use of foul or offensive language. Students are expected to show restraint and good manners in their relationships with other students. Forms of sexual profanity, including sexually profane gestures, and explicit sexual language are always inappropriate. Verbally or physically forcing oneself onto another is simply intolerable. Inappropriate sexual or other physical behavior while under the jurisdiction of the school is considered a serious infraction.

Disciplinary Options for Serious Infractions

Serious Infractions will result in significant consequences as determined by the Head of School or his assignee. Some violations may result in immediate separation from the school. Depending on the student's behavior record and the severity of the offense, any of the following consequences, or others as determined, may be applied.

- Any discipline option, or a combination thereof, outlined for minor infractions
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- Restoration or restitution as applicable
- Loss of student privileges
- Any combination of required counseling, random drug testing, and drug-free agreement as determined by the School
- Supervised campus service assignment
- Involvement of law enforcement personnel
- Confiscation of contraband
- In-school and/or out-of-school suspension
- Loss of current and/or future leadership position and/or membership in National Honor Society and/or Cum Laude Society
- Exclusion from (some/all) Commencement-related ceremonies
- Withdrawal
- Mandatory Required Withdrawal/Expulsion.

Alcohol and Drugs

The School reserves the right to screen students who display suspicious behavior for alcohol/drugs whenever on campus or at a School event. These measures can include but are not limited to hair follicle testing, blood testing, urinalysis, breath analysis, and biochemical testing for drugs and/or alcohol, bag checks, and various forms of sobriety tests. The cost of such screening/testing is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. Since the health and safety of the Episcopal Collegiate School community are at stake, there can be no expectation of privacy with respect to School or personal belongings.

Voluntary Disclosure or “Safe Harbor”

While a student is subject to the process set out above any time Episcopal Collegiate School becomes aware of specific conduct that violates the code regarding illicit substances, help is available for the student who struggles with addiction or substance abuse. Accordingly, students and/or families who approach school counselors, Leadership, or faculty members seeking general help, without being compelled by a disciplinary event, will be referred to appropriate health care professionals without disciplinary proceedings being commenced against the student. Students and families are urged to be proactive in seeking help that is available rather than waiting until a crisis or disciplinary event makes the substance abuse visible to school staff. Students can also report concerns regarding friends directly to a School Counselor or to the School. Continued enrollment at the School for any student in such a situation may require an amended contract or “drug-free agreement” to support the student and ensure their good health.

Explanation of Certain Disciplinary Terms Used in Honor and Disciplinary Codes

Demerits (Middle School)

Middle School students are required to follow the rules and procedures described in the *Community Handbook*. We recognize, however, that Middle School students make mistakes, are still developing, and need guidance. The Demerit system is designed for those reasons. For violations of the Disciplinary Code that are relatively minor in nature, students may be assigned a demerit. Some examples include, but are not limited to, dress code violations, failure to follow classroom rules, and tardiness to class and/or school. Some infractions may result in more than one demerit. Demerits are recorded by the teacher. When a student accumulates four demerits, he or she will be assigned a detention. When detention is served, the four demerits are recorded as served. Demerits will be cleared at the end of each semester or until any scheduled consequences have been completed.

A student will be assigned a one-hour Detention Hall each time he or she accumulates 4 demerits. If and when a student accumulates 16 demerits in a semester, he or she will be assigned

a four-hour Saturday School in lieu of a Detention Hall. This policy applies at 20 demerits, 24 demerits, etc.

Written Warnings

Typically, minor infractions are initially addressed with a verbal correction on the part of the faculty member. Students are expected to treat these redirections with the same level of respect given to other forms of behavioral consequences. However, some infractions and repeated violations may warrant a more formal record of the infraction in the form of a written warning. After notifying the student, these warnings are sent to the Dean of Students who may impose additional consequences as he or she deems appropriate.

Detentions

Notice of a detention will be provided to the student at the time of the infraction. Students are required to sign the notice acknowledging that a detention has been assigned. Parents will be notified by Veracross. Middle and Upper School detentions will be usually held from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. as needed. Detention assignments will preempt all extra-curricular, sports, and personal activities. No students will be admitted late. At the fourth detention, a Saturday detention will be assigned. Saturday Schools will be scheduled as needed. Students and parents will be notified by Veracross when a Saturday detention has been assigned.

The consequence for an unexcused absence to a detention results in a Saturday School assignment from 7-9 am. The first hour is to make up the detention. The second hour is penalty for skipping the detention. If another detention is missed prior to the Saturday school, then another two-hour allotment will be assigned from 9-11 a.m.

The consequence for an unexcused absence to Saturday School results in a one-day in-school detention, assigned by the Head of Middle or Upper School, to be served during the following week. The parents will be notified prior to the detention. The Division Head may assign an in-school full-day detention if the administrator reasonably believes that the action is necessary. For a student serving an in-school full-day detention, all academic work due on the day of the detention remains due on that day.

An unexcused absence to detention/Saturday School follows the same policy set during the school day. In order for an absence for detention/Saturday School to be excused, the PARENT must contact the Dean of Students. Requests for excused absences for Saturday School must be made by 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Until the parent contacts the Dean of Students, the absence to detention/Saturday School remains unexcused.

Disciplinary Warning

Students who have displayed a pattern of “Willful Disobedience” by repeatedly violating school rules will be placed on Disciplinary Warning. “Willful Disobedience” is defined as repeated violations of school rules and regulations in a pattern that suggests a student is making little to no effort to change his/her behavior. The concept of Willful Disobedience applies to students who exhibit unbroken patterns of class cuts, school, assembly and class tardiness, rude or inappropriate behavior, dress code violations or other rule infractions that have resulted in multiple demerits, detentions and/or meetings with teachers and school officials.

Faithful attendance is a vital part of an Episcopal Collegiate education. Excessive absences from school may jeopardize a student’s enrollment status. In all cases involving student absences, the School places a premium on timely, direct communication between the student, family, and school.

If a student is placed on Disciplinary Warning after the first semester, his/her enrollment agreement will likely be held until the end of the academic year. If a student is placed on Disciplinary Warning at the end of the second semester, this generally means that their enrollment at the school will be reviewed after the first semester of the following year.

It is a privilege to attend Episcopal Collegiate School, and it is important that all students recognize and respect the standards and community expectations for behavior that Episcopal Collegiate has for all of its students. If a student’s behavior is such that he/she is placed for a second time on Disciplinary Warning, he/she will seriously jeopardize his/her enrollment at Episcopal Collegiate.

Suspension: Pending Final Disposition

In some instances, infractions may require immediate separation from the school allowing for an investigation into the details of the incident. A student may subsequently be allowed to return to school or if the incident warrants, be expelled.

Suspension: Out-of-School

The Division Head may suspend a student if the administrator reasonably believes that the action is necessary. Such suspension may include, but is not limited to, attendance at school or any school-related activity on or off-campus or from attendance in a specific class or classes, or from riding a school bus.

Students are responsible for all academic work missed during a suspension. For a student serving an out-of-school suspension, all academic work is due on the first day the student is scheduled to return to school. The responsibility for completing missed academic work rests with the student.

At the time of the suspension, the student shall be given a notice of the reason for the suspension. The Division Head shall notify parents in writing outlining the terms of the suspension, and the Head of School will be informed.

A student who has been given an out-of-school suspension or dismissed from School may not come on campus or attend any School-sponsored activity. For the suspended student, this ban is in effect over the period of suspension. For the dismissed student, this ban is in effect permanently, unless the School through the Office of the Dean of Students amends the policy. Those who return to campus in contravention of this ban are considered “trespassing” for the purpose of legal action.

Amendments to any of the above situations and cases may be made by the School through the Office of the Dean of Students in conjunction with the Division Heads and Head of School.

Penalties for disciplinary infractions preempt all extracurricular or personal activities.

Expulsion

In cases where the Division Head or Head of School deems that the offense is serious enough to warrant expulsion, the student and parents will be given notice of the offense and the possible consequence. Before a final decision is made regarding expulsion, the student will be given the opportunity to address the matter at a meeting with the Division Head and Head of School. Parents will be invited to attend the meeting.

If the decision to expel is made, the Head of School shall provide a letter informing the students and parents of the decision. The final decision on expulsion lies with the Head of School.

A Note Regarding Suspensions and Expulsions and the College Counseling Process:

Episcopal Collegiate School considers its Honor Code central to the mission of the school. As such, we are bound to operate in ways consistent with the ethics and professional standards as outlined by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors and the Principles of Good Practice of the National Association of Independent Schools.

If a college requests information regarding the student’s suspension, probation, or dismissal during Upper School, the school believes it is each student’s responsibility to disclose truthfully the appropriate information in keeping with the spirit of the Honor Code. This is also the case for students who have been arrested for alleged crimes that result in a police record. Students will work with their college counselor and the Head of the Upper School to address the issue in a straightforward manner and to reflect on what was learned.

In addition, the college counselor, when asked on the Secondary School Report Form, will answer truthfully whether a suspension, probation, or dismissal, or arrest has occurred for the student. The college counselor will give a brief response allowing the student to further explain the situation to colleges.

If a suspension, probation, dismissal, withdrawal, or crime occurs during the senior year, particularly after an application has been submitted, the student will be provided the opportunity to contact the colleges in writing to explain the incident. Again, the college counselor and Head of the Upper School can assist in this correspondence. After sufficient time (typically two weeks), the college counselor will contact the colleges on the student's list to verify receipt of this notification.

ATTENDANCE

All students who are enrolled at Episcopal Collegiate School will reside with a parent or legal guardian. Students are expected to be in attendance and on time when school is in session.

- School for **Middle School** students begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:35 p.m. Students must report to the Main Office if they arrive at any point after 8:00 to check-in prior to attending Morning Meeting, Advisory, class, or other required appointments. Arrival after 8:00 a.m. is a "tardy" for the day and for Morning Meeting and Advisory, unless the child's parent provides a reasonable excuse for lateness. Parents whose children have a reasonable excuse for lateness should call the Middle School office to explain the reason for lateness.
- School for **Upper School** students begins at 8:05 a.m. and concludes at 3:35 p.m. Students must report to the Main Office if they arrive at any point after 8:05 to check-in prior to attending Morning Meeting, Advisory, class, or other required appointments. Arrival after 8:05 a.m. is recorded as a "tardy" for the day and for Morning Meeting and Advisory. Failure to check-in is considered a violation of school policy and will result in appropriate consequences by the Dean of Students.

Students who accumulate an excessive number of absences may be asked to withdraw, receive no credit for the courses in which they are enrolled, repeat the grade or receive an incomplete grade in each course requiring summer school attendance. This excludes absences for School business or other activities as authorized by the appropriate Division Head. In the event that the School administration excuses an absence not related to illness, the student may be required to attend additional school sessions to make up missed time. An attendance record will be maintained in the appropriate Division Office detailing each absence. The School reserves the right to determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

When a student has five (5) total absences during a semester, the parents will be notified. At that point, a meeting or discussion may be advised between the School and the family to discuss the impact of the absences. In the case of multiple absences due to illness, documentation from a physician supporting the absences may be required. In the case of an extended absence of two weeks or more, the School will communicate to the parents and student the conditions for making up work. If those conditions cannot be met, it may result in the student losing credit for a semester or even a year.

In all cases of absence (other than pre-approved planned absences), parents or legal guardians of students must **call the appropriate division office before 8:30 a.m. on the day of the absence**. If the School does not receive a call by 8:30 a.m., the School will phone the parent/guardian to verify the reason for the absence.

Middle School: Once they arrive at school, parents or guardians are required to call the division assistant from their cars and the division assistant will send their child out to them. Parents should also call from the curb when their child is returning to school from a midday appointment so that the administration has an accurate attendance count. **Middle School** students may not leave the building or return unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Upper School students are required to sign out in the Upper School office and the office must have parental permission before the student may leave campus prior to the end of the school day.

If a student is absent for more than half of the school day, other than for academically excused purposes (arriving later than 11:35 am), he/she may not participate in an after-school practice, competition, or other extracurricular activity that day. Students who check out early for health or medical reasons on school days on which they have an afternoon or evening athletic competition or other school performance may not participate in those activities.

Tardiness

A student must attend a minimum of 45 minutes of each class to be counted as present. A student who arrives fewer than twenty minutes late to a class will be counted tardy.

A tardy will be recorded for each unexcused tardy. The original will be submitted to the appropriate Division Office to be recorded and a copy will be given to the student. Tardies are cumulative from all classes.

In **Middle School**, a student is assigned a demerit for each tardy to Morning Meeting, Advisory, or class. When a student accumulates five or more demerits for being tardy to school or class, he/she is assigned a detention.

When an **Upper School** student accumulates four (4) tardies to any class (including Morning Meeting and Advisory) within a semester, he/she will receive a Detention assignment. On the eighth (8) tardy, the student will receive a Detention assignment. On the twelfth (12) tardy, the student will receive a Saturday School Detention.

Continued tardiness will result in further disciplinary action by the Administration.

Check-In and Check-Out Procedures

When it is necessary for a student to arrive at school late or to leave school early, the parent must notify the appropriate Division Office stating the time and the reason for the check-in/out. If a student will be checking in after 8:30 a.m., please inform the School by calling the appropriate Division Office. Calls will be accepted only from the parents or those persons who have been authorized by the parents (as recorded on the pupil information sheet) to participate in the attendance procedures for the student.

When the student and parent arrive at school, the parent should contact the appropriate Division Office and the student should check-in at the appropriate Division Office. The student will be issued an admit slip to class and a tardy or absence will be determined according to the attendance guidelines. **The student will not be admitted to class without an admit slip.** The admit slip will be presented to the teacher(s) for their signature to acknowledge the excused or unexcused absence or tardy.

When checking out early, students will remain in class until a parent or guardian has arrived to check them out. The teacher will be called when a parent has arrived to sign the student out. The student must sign out in the appropriate Division Office.

Upper School students are required to sign out in the Upper School office and the office must have parental permission before the student may leave campus prior to the end of the school day. Eighteen-year-old students cannot check themselves in or out without parent contact with the Upper School Office.

Students who check out early for health or medical reasons on school days during which they have an afternoon or evening athletic competition or other school performance may not participate in those activities.

Planned Absences

Notification and Approval

In keeping with the belief that students must be in attendance to fully benefit from their education, it is imperative that parents make every effort to ensure that their child is at school unless he/she is ill or there is a family emergency. Planned absences would include but are not limited to religious holidays, medical appointments, and special family events such as weddings, graduations, etc.

Parents must submit a request, in writing, for a planned absence to the appropriate Division Head(s) **at least one week** in advance of the absence explaining the reason for the absence and the dates the student will be away from school. **Please do not ask a Division Head to excuse a planned absence without proper notification beforehand.** Division Heads will consult one another regarding students in multiple divisions. If approved, the student will collect a Planned Absence form from the division office, and they will take it around to have their teachers complete and sign it. They will then return it to the Division Office, the Division Head will sign it, and the student will be given a copy to take with them.

Medical Appointments and Family Emergencies

Parents should call or email the appropriate Division Office to report an appointment/check-out time as soon as possible. When possible, parents should avoid scheduling medical appointments during the school day. With regard to family emergencies involving serious illness, injury, or death, parents should call the appropriate Division Office as soon as possible. If this is not possible, the student should bring a note from home upon his/her return.

College Visits

Seniors are allowed up to three excused absences for college visits per year; juniors will receive two excused absences per year. Additional leave days for required scholarship interviews and official athletic visits will be handled on an individual basis. Since the reason for attending college is to continue one's formal education and receive a degree, it is assumed that a college visit will entail formal information-gathering such as participating in admission office information sessions, campus tours, or attending classes. Though athletic, arts, and social gatherings and events can be informative as well as fun, they do not provide a realistic picture of a student's overall college experience and therefore do not merit an excused absence from school.

The guidelines are as follows:

- The student's parent must request in writing the absence from the College Counseling office **one week** prior to the college visit.

- A student should limit college visits to realistic choices and should discuss plans with the college counselor prior to the visit.
- Students may not use school days to visit a college more than once, unless the student has been offered admission to that college or is invited to a special program or audition.
- After February 1, a senior may not visit colleges to which he/she has not applied.
- Absences for college visits in the months of April and May are granted sparingly and only with the permission of the Head of Upper School, due to exams and other end-of-year obligations.
- Students are expected to attend college tours, information sessions, and interviews (if required) while on campus.
- Because Episcopal Collegiate already has a number of vacation days, students should not attach an absence for college visiting to an existing vacation. Limited exceptions will be made for students who need an extra travel day to visit colleges at a considerable distance from Little Rock.
- Requests for absences for college visits are approved by the College Counselor and the student's teachers via the Planned Absence Form. The College Counseling office will notify the Upper School Office of the student's absence.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences may include, but are not limited to:

- Skipping or cutting classes: classes missed without permission. The School does not sanction any sort of "skip day." There will be disciplinary consequences for skipping and/or cutting classes.
- Off campus without permission, even if missing a free period or lunch. There will be disciplinary consequences for being off campus without permission.
- Extending vacations: extending any school-wide vacation or holiday period
- Family Trips
- Failure to provide at least one week's notice to request an excused planned absence

Unexcused absences have academic ramifications and can result in lower grades due to missed work and missed contact time with teachers. The Division Head will determine accountability, in conjunction with teachers.

Family Trips

A variety of holidays are scheduled throughout the school year. Families should, therefore, plan vacations to match the School's scheduled holidays, as missing any amount of school is difficult for students and may jeopardize their academic performance. When families plan a family trip during the school year, it is important that the appropriate Division Head be notified in advance. Generally, teachers are not expected to prepare an individualized "vacation study" package of work.

Makeup Work

If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to complete all missed assignments. Makeup work should be completed and returned in a timely manner. As a general rule, students have one additional day to complete an assignment for every day absent. Assistance will be given to those who are absent for an extended period of time.

All long-term assignments, as defined and specified by a teacher, are due no later than the deadline unless extenuating circumstances warrant an extension. A student who fails to submit a long-term assignment may be penalized by receiving a lower academic grade on the assignment.

In the case of an excused absence due to illness, the responsibility for obtaining and planning the completion of missed work rests with the student. Upon the student's return to school, the student will communicate with the teacher to establish the due dates for the work in question.

In the case of an excused planned absence, the Division Head will give the student a form to take to his/her teachers. At that time, the work missed and a schedule for making up the work will be agreed upon.

Any student who receives an Incomplete grade for a marking period must collaborate with his or her teacher(s) to create a timely makeup plan and a deadline for outstanding work. All Incomplete makeup plans must be approved by the division head.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is vital to a successful partnership between school and home. The School will keep parents informed of student activities through Wildcat Weekly, parent/teacher conferences, newsletters, telephone messages, emails, the School website (episcopalcollegiate.org), Wildcat Web (Veracross), Canvas, meetings, and informal gatherings.

Successful communication begins with trust and mutual respect. In order to grant privacy and respect to both parents and teachers, the following suggestions regarding communication are listed:

- Email, not text, is the appropriate form of communication between families and the School. All messages from parents to teachers, including requests for conferences, should be left on an individual teacher's email. Faculty email addresses may be found online or in Veracross. Emergencies should be directed to the appropriate Division Office.
- The School encourages all constituents to use problem-solving strategies involving school or classroom concerns and to use the proper lines of communication. All issues and concerns

regarding the classroom should first be directed to the teacher before contacting the Division Head or the Head of School. Many minor issues can be resolved by speaking directly to a faculty member. If a solution cannot be found or the problem persists, then the Division Head should be contacted.

- Episcopal Collegiate School prohibits the use of any school distribution lists (electronic or non-electronic) for any non-school or personal purposes.
- All members of the School community are expected to be courteous, polite, and treat others with dignity and respect.
- Direct all matters regarding School policy to the appropriate Division Head or Head of School.

Because student use of personal phones is not allowed in the **Middle School** and Upper School between 8:00/8:05 a.m. and 3:35 p.m., parents should call the appropriate Division Office to speak with or to leave messages for their child. If a student needs to call a parent during the school day, a phone is provided in the Division Office for student use.

Use of Episcopal Collegiate School Logo and Shield

An important aspect of Episcopal Collegiate School's marketing is the "brand" created by the standardization of the School's shield and any use of the School's name. Any use of the School logo and/or School name must comply with the approved version as documented in the Style Guide, which is available from the Director of Marketing and Communication. This applies to printed communications, as well as the use of the School's name and shield on clothing used as "spirit wear", for athletic purposes, or for any other reason.

Additionally, the branded School logo is the property of the School and should not be given to any third party, including parents, vendors or others doing business with the school, without the permission of the Director of Marketing and Communications.

Any use of the School logo must be approved in advance. To request approval, contact the Director of Marketing and Communications.

STUDENT LIFE

Academic Support

Our Academic Achievement Center staff provides support to students with learning differences and to all students who may need help in achieving academic success. The AAC is available to any Episcopal student experiencing academic difficulty and who has been recommended to the Center as a result of discussions among Center staff, teachers, parents, and/or the appropriate division head. In order to receive accommodations, parents must meet with the AAC staff and submit a current psycho-educational evaluation. To be current, an evaluation must be no older than three years. Services provided by the AAC include but may not be limited to the following:

- Assessment and interpretation of academic performance
- Assessment of standardized and diagnostic test results
- Academic monitoring
- Classroom observations
- Pre-screening for reading and language difficulties
- Consultation services for teachers and parents for the purpose of enhancing learning for those students who learn differently
- Assistance in the development and implementation of an AAP
- Coordination of on-campus tutors
- Regular communication with a student's support system (parents, faculty, tutors, administrators, diagnosticians, therapists, and counselors)
- Sourcing of tutors, therapists, and evaluators
- Sourcing of professional development resources for classroom teachers

Advisory Program

In both Middle and Upper School, it is imperative that parents develop a working relationship with the advisor of their child. The advisor is the person who has the most accurate overall picture of a student and should help to address concerns and questions from parents. Although individual teachers are the best source of information and possible solutions for individual classes, advisors read progress reports and look for common problems across a student's entire schedule. If a student is having difficulty completing assignments in one class, he/she may be having homework problems in other courses as well. Advisors look for this type of pattern, check with an advisee's teachers as necessary, and contact parents.

Middle School

The Middle School Advisory Program offers students additional opportunities to both learn and grow. Specifically, small groups of advisees are matched with an advisor who monitors students' academic, social, and emotional progress; in short, an advisor is a mentor, advocate, and problem-solver who will help students make the most of their Middle School experience. Moreover, the advisor becomes the point person at the Middle School for the student's family.

The Advisory groups meet at 8:00 and after lunch several days per week. These sessions focus on building social and communication skills, citizenship, academics, and grade-level activities. Ultimately, the Advisory Program provides students with an additional layer of learning and support as they become more deeply invested in the School community.

Upper School

Faculty advisors serve as mentors, role models, and advocates for the students and the first line of contact for parents. The relationship between the advisor and advisee, as well as between the

advisor and parents is extremely important. The responsibilities of the advisor cover a wide range of activities. Advisors are responsible for mentoring students both individually and as a group, maintaining an open line of communication between the School and parents, supervising activities related to students' four-year plans, semester schedules, and school-related extracurricular commitments.

Middle School After-School Care

Students may not be unsupervised at any time while on campus. The After-School program is provided until 6:00 p.m. and is billed to families based on the time the student spends in the program. Students are **REQUIRED** to be in the after-school program in the following circumstances:

- When **Middle School** students are not picked up by 4:00 p. m., students must be in the after-school room unless involved in a supervised activity. Unsupervised students failing to report to the after-school room may be subject to disciplinary action.
- When **Middle School** students participate in school activities that do not start by 4:00 p.m., they must be in the after-school program unless supervised by a coach or faculty member.

Students who are not picked up immediately after participating in school activities should remain with the supervising teacher or coach.

There is a fee for the Middle School After-School care that is provided. Students must be picked up by a designated person by 6:00 p.m. (Please refer to the published fee schedule on the School website.)

Upper School After School

When **Upper School** students are not picked up by 4:00 p.m., they must report to the Upper School commons. They must be picked up by 6:00 pm.

Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility

Membership on extra-curricular teams is open to any student in the qualifying grades who wishes to participate. A student participating in interscholastic athletics at Episcopal Collegiate School must adhere to the athletic standards specified by the School and the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA). Students may not participate in athletic contests on the day of a suspension or during the time assigned to detention. In addition, athletes must meet the standards for participation as outlined in the School's Athletic Handbook.

The Middle and Upper School Divisions will monitor, throughout the semester, student academic progress. If the cumulative semester GPA of a student participating in athletics or a school extracurricular activity falls under 2.0, the coach/advisor/athletic director will be notified and the student may receive modifications (e.g., zero-hour study hall) as well as a two-week

window in which to raise his/her grades above 2.0. If this improvement does not occur, the student will not be allowed to participate in the activity in question for at least a week (or until GPA moves above the required level). If a student regains the right to participate, s/he will be eligible until the next bi-monthly grade check.

Dining Program

The School has contracted with SAGE Dining Services to manage the School's dining program. SAGE Dining Services serves well over 200 independent schools, including some of the most respected independent schools in the country. The independent school market is the only business segment SAGE serves. The company is known for its reasonable costs, its high-quality food that is cooked and prepared on-site, its use of fresh vegetables and fruits that are cut and prepared daily, and its wide variety of daily food choices. Charges for the dining program will be billed to the family's FACTS account.

Lunch

The lunch program is all-inclusive, offering a wide variety of nutritional options at a reasonable cost. Students may have all they care to eat and can go back for additional helpings if they desire to do so.

Participation in the program is optional. Students will be enrolled in the program by default and families must notify the School if they elect for a student not to participate. A form is included in the registration process that may be used to notify the School of intent not to participate.

Election to participate in the lunch program must be made no less frequently than by the semester. Day-to-day, week-to-week, or month-to-month decisions to be in or out of the lunch program cannot be accommodated.

Students not participating in the program should bring lunch each day. Those meals are required to adhere to the following set of expectations:

- Parents are asked to provide well-balanced and nutritious lunches.
- Meals must be brought in a lunch box /sack lunch format.
- No glass containers or metal knives are allowed in lunch sacks or lunch boxes.
- No sodas should be included with lunch. Bottled water or juices are suggested.
- Meals should be brought by the student when they come to school in the morning. **Delivery of meals to students during the day is disruptive to the school learning environment and is not allowed.** If a meal is forgotten or otherwise not able to be brought with the student, the student is allowed to eat in the dining hall according to the guidelines below.
- Parents should provide meals only for the students in their family unless written authorization is provided by the parents of any other students for which a meal is being provided.

Students not enrolled in the lunch program are not allowed to eat food from the dining hall during lunch, as this is considered stealing and is an Honor Council offense. Additionally, students that participate in the all-inclusive lunch program may not provide food to those students that are not in the program.

Accommodations will be made in the event that a student not in the program forgets to bring a lunch and the family will be billed accordingly. Students that are not in the lunch program but forget lunch may visit the Division office to get a lunch pass for that day. The student's account will be billed as follows:

- 1st request \$6.50
- 2nd and all subsequent requests are \$10.00 each
- A maximum of 4 times per semester is allowed. Upon the 5th occurrence, the student will be enrolled in the lunch program and the family will be billed a prorated amount for the semester.

Middle and Upper School students that are not in the program and eat lunch in the dining hall without permission will be charged 10.00 per occurrence, as well as receive consequences from the Dean of Students.

Parents and Guests

Parents and guests are welcome and encouraged to join their students for lunch in the dining hall. Visitors are required to check in with the appropriate School Office. Visiting parents and guests may bring a meal with them for themselves and the student that they are visiting and should remain with their child for the duration of lunch. If they choose to eat the meal provided by SAGE Dining Services, a meal ticket will be issued and the \$6.50 cost per person will be charged to the family's FACTS account. Guests may not arrive until the host's lunch period and must depart promptly at the end of the lunch period.

All guests must check-in at the Division Office, receive a Visitor Pass and await their host who will pick them up for lunch. At no time may guests arrive and enter the Dining Hall via the Athletics entrance to the School or bypass registration in the Division Office.

Daily Schedule

The school day for Middle School students begins at 8:00 a.m. (Upper School students at 8:05 a.m.) and ends at 3:35 p.m. Occasionally, special events will require changes in the daily schedule.

Middle School students must report directly to the Dining Hall if they arrive before 7:30 a.m. each morning. Students will be dismissed at 7:30 a.m. from the Dining Hall, though they may remain

in the dining hall until 7:45am. Middle School students may go to the Erwin Library, the Design Lab, or the Quad provided they are supervised by a faculty member. Middle school students are not permitted to enter the second floor of the Middle School building until 7:45. Those students not in one of the designated areas will receive a disciplinary consequence. Beginning at 7:00 am,

Upper School students may go to the Upper School Commons until 8:05 am.

8:00 - 8:15	MS Morning Meeting or Advisory (Student attendance is required at both the Morning Meeting and Advisory)
8:05 - 8:15	US Morning Meeting or Advisory (Student attendance is required at both the Morning Meeting and Advisory)
8:15 - 9:20	Class
9:20 - 10:00	Chapel/Break
10:00 - 11:05	Class
11:05 - 12:10	Class
12:10 - 12:45	MS Lunch/US FLEX
12:45 - 1:25	MS Club or Advisory/US Lunch
1:25 - 2:30	Class
2:30 - 3:35	Class
3:35	Dismissal

Chapel and Religious Studies

At the center of our Episcopal Identity is our Chapel Program. In chapel, we affirm that all students are beloved of God, and, as our School Prayer suggests, we challenge students to realize this more fully in themselves and to acknowledge it in others. Chapel is a time for the School community to come together to practice being the community God calls us to be. Our Chapel Program includes homilies from our Chaplains, Seniors, and faculty, celebrations of student accomplishments, student performances, and guest speakers. In the Middle School/Upper School, Chapel includes our Senior Chapel Talk Program. Parents are welcome and invited to attend Chapel at any time.

All students and faculty attend daily chapel. We also engage in the study of religion in the classroom in both divisions. In grade 6, students spend a quarter studying the Hebrew Scriptures. In grade 7, students take a semester-long course in the New Testament. In the Upper School, students take a semester-long religious studies course. Our chapel program includes periodic celebrations of Holy Eucharist (Communion) including our all-school Convocation each fall. We welcome everyone to participate as they are comfortable and their conscience allows.

Any questions about Chapel or religious studies may be directed to the Chaplains.

Dress Code

The Episcopal Collegiate School Dress Code is intended to develop consistency in dress and to minimize the importance of “dress competition.” Should clothing not fall within the following guidelines, a student may be required to leave class until the situation is corrected. Should a student have any clothing that might be questionable, he/she should ask first rather than risk being instructed to change attire. **All clothing must be neat, clean, and in good repair. The School reserves the right to determine if clothing, jewelry, or grooming matches the spirit of our Dress Code.**

Students wear the “Dress Uniform” on all days designated by the School as “Dress Uniform Days” such as field trips or special events. On days not so designated, the student will have a choice of wearing the “Dress Uniform” or wearing the “Standard Uniform.” **The official Episcopal Collegiate School plaid is the Black Watch plaid.**

Students must be in dress code on campus and remain in dress code through dismissal.

All dress uniforms and daily wear clothing can be purchased at the Toggery or the School’s used uniform inventory.

Approved outerwear can be purchased at the Wildcat Warehouse.

Girl’s Uniform

For Middle and Upper School

	Dress Uniform (<i>Required</i>)	Standard Uniform (<i>Required</i>)
Shirts	White, Oxford cloth, buttoned-down collar, button front, long-sleeved. Girls may also choose a pointed collar, V-necked, white long-sleeved blouse.	Embroidered School logo pique knit polo shirt or Dri-Fit short- or long-sleeved, in hunter, navy, and white (Girls cut polo is an option). OR White, buttoned-down collar, button front, long-sleeved shirt
Sweater/Blazer	Seniors Only: Navy Blazer with School crest US (9th-11th): Navy, crew neck, button front cardigan, with embroidered School logo MS: Navy sweater vest with School logo	
Bottoms	Khaki slacks, with or without pleats <i>Style, color, and material must be consistent with</i>	Khaki slacks, with or without pleats <i>Style, color, and material must be consistent with those found at the</i>

	<i>those found at the Toggery.</i> OR Episcopal Black Watch plaid skirt with four box pleats <i>Skirt length should be no more than 3 in. above the knee.</i>	<i>Toggery.</i> OR Episcopal Black Watch plaid skirt with four box pleats <i>Skirt length should be no more than 3 in. above the knee.</i>
Socks	Visible solid white socks with skirts are optional. Solid navy, brown, black, or khaki dress socks with pants required.	Visible solid navy, brown, black, khaki, or white with long pants White socks with skirts. Dark navy or black tights—no yoga pants.
Belt	Solid brown, cordovan, or black leather belt with pants	Solid brown, cordovan, or black leather belt for pants OR Episcopal branded belt from the Wildcat Warehouse
Shoes	Solid brown, navy, or black leather dress shoes with flat or <u>low</u> heels (1½ in. or less) Solid brown leather loafer* OR black, dark brown, or cordovan leather tie dress shoes with pants No Topsiders or athletic shoes	Primarily white, laced, or Velcro, athletic shoes with white shoelaces OR Solid dark brown leather Topsiders-style shoes NOTE: <i>Small navy, hunter green, gray, or black stripes or logos allowed with “primarily white” shoes</i>
		Outer Wear For Standard Uniform (OPTIONAL) ONLY items marked uniform approved in the Wildcat Warehouse. Those items include: 1. Printed logo crewneck or hooded sweatshirt in gray or green. Gray sweatshirts have three lettering options (traditional, navy block, and athletic) 2. Embroidered logo fleece in green or navy 3. Embroidered logo hooded all-weather jacket in green or navy 4. Embroidered logo quarter zip, athletic pullover in green or navy 5. Embroidered logo puffer coat or vest in navy 6. Embroidered logo white fleece with green striping pullover

		Note: Official Episcopal Collegiate Athletic Letter Jackets are approved outerwear for Upper School students.
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Boy's Uniform For Middle and Upper School		
	Dress Uniform (Required)	Standard Uniform (Required)
Shirts	White, Oxford cloth, buttoned-down collar, button front, long-sleeved.	Embroidered School logo pique knit polo shirt, or Dri-Fit short- or long-sleeved, in hunter, navy, and white OR White, buttoned-down collar, button front, long-sleeved shirt
Blazer	Seniors Only: Navy Blazer with School crest	
Bottoms	Khaki slacks, with or without pleats <i>Style, color, and material must be consistent with those found at the Toggery.</i>	Khaki slacks, with or without pleats <i>Style, color, and material must be consistent with those found at the Toggery.</i>
Bottoms Middle School Only (Seasonal)		Khaki Shorts, with or without pleats <i>Style, color, and material must be consistent with those found at the Toggery.</i> (Opening Day to Fall Break; Spring Break to End-of-Year)
Tie	Navy and hunter green striped School tie	
Belt	Solid brown, cordovan, or black leather belt with pants	Solid brown, cordovan, or black leather belt for pants OR Episcopal branded belt from the Wildcat Warehouse
Socks	Solid navy, brown, black, or khaki dress socks with pants required.	Visible solid navy, brown, black, khaki, or white with long pants
Shoes	Solid brown leather loafer* OR black, dark brown, or cordovan leather tie dress shoes with pants No Topsiders or athletic shoes.	Primarily white , laced, or Velcro, athletic shoes with white shoelaces OR Solid dark brown leather Topsiders-style shoes <i>NOTE: Small navy, hunter green, gray, or black stripes</i>

		<i>logos allowed with “primarily white” shoes</i>
		Outerwear for Standard Uniform (Optional) ONLY items marked uniform approved in the Wildcat Warehouse. Those items include: 1. Printed logo crewneck or hooded sweatshirt in gray or green. Gray sweatshirts have three lettering options (traditional, navy block, and athletic) 2. Embroidered logo fleece in green or navy 3. Embroidered logo hooded all-weather jacket in green or navy 4. Embroidered logo quarter zip, athletic pullover in green or navy 5. Embroidered logo puffer coat or vest in navy 6. Embroidered logo white fleece with green striping pullover Note: Official Episcopal Collegiate Athletic Letter Jackets are approved outerwear for Upper School students.

General Guidelines for Student Appearance

Episcopal Collegiate School teaches its students the importance of maintaining an appropriate appearance and decorum for certain activities. **The administration and faculty reserve the right to determine the appropriateness of any dress or student appearance at School or at all School events on campus or not.**

Shirt Tails and Waistbands

- Shirts and blouses must be tucked in at all times. (Please purchase shirts long enough for your child to keep them tucked in.)
- The top of the waistband on pants and skirts must be no lower than the top of the hipbone.

Skirts (Middle and Upper School)

- Skirts must measure three inches or less above the knee.
- Girls must wear shorts underneath the skirt, such as boxer shorts or gym shorts. These shorts cannot hang below the skirt hem.
- Skirts may not be rolled up at the waist or pinned up above the required length.

- The top of the waistband on skirts must be no lower than the top of the hipbone.

Shorts (Middle School only)

- Shorts are seasonally permitted for Middle School boys. (See uniform notes)
- Shorts are not permitted as part of the upper school uniform (except the gym shorts girls must wear under their skirts).
- Shorts may be worn when appropriate as clothing required for athletic classes, practice, and games.

Outerwear

- No other outerwear except that which is a part of the School uniform may be worn inside the building during the school day. See the dress code section above for a list of approved outerwear.

Spirit Wear

- Spirit Wear cannot be worn except on designated days.
- School athletic uniforms with the Wildcat insignia and approved special event shirts are acceptable only on designated days.

Jewelry

- Students may wear jewelry in moderation.
- Visible facial piercings are not permitted, with the exception of ear piercings and a single nose piercing. All jewelry and piercings should align with the overall expectations of the school dress code listed below.
- Girls and Middle and Upper School boys may have pierced ears.
- Middle and Upper School boys may wear one small, nondescript gold, silver, or diamond stud per ear (maximum 5mm). No more than one piercing per ear is permitted. Hoop, dangling, or other decorative earring styles are not permitted for boys.

Undergarments

- Only solid white short-sleeved undershirts may be worn beneath the uniform shirts.
- Undergarments, including undershirts, should not be visible.

Hair and Make-up

- Boys must wear their hair, when applicable, pulled back and above the collar, and in a generally neat way. Boys must be clean-shaven with sideburns no longer than the earlobe.
- Only natural hair colors are acceptable. Students may not dye their hair unnatural colors, such as pink or blue.
- Extreme haircuts or hairstyles are not permitted.
- Girls may wear make-up as long as it is not excessive.
- No visible tattoos.

Headwear

- Students may not wear head coverings such as hats, caps, scarves, or bandanas. Appropriate hair bows or headbands are white, Black Watch plaid, navy, or hunter green.
- Head coverings worn for religious purposes are permitted with approval.

Socks

- Socks (or hose or tights for girls) must be worn at all times. Girls may not wear leggings.

Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times. Shoes must be in good condition and without graffiti. Shoe style and color must follow uniform guidelines. Shoes with lights, rollers, or neon colors (including shoelaces) are not appropriate.

Logos

- Students may not wear clothing or carry items on campus or at any school event (on campus or not) that endorse or advertise alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. No other school logos are permissible except on senior college t-shirt day.

Spirit Dress Days

Unless otherwise noted by school administration, Fridays are designated as “Spirit Dress Days.” Additionally, students will be notified of other special occasions designated as “Spirit Dress Days” on which students have the option not to wear the School uniform.

Other special occasions will give students the opportunity to wear special clothes that are related to specific themes. The specific options will be given to students on those occasions.

These days are not casual-dress days, and students who do not choose to wear the thematic clothing must wear the School uniform. **The Administration reserves the right to determine any item inappropriate for School.**

On these occasions students **may not** wear the following items:

- Open-toed shoes or sandals, house slippers, Crocs, Uggs, or Birkenstocks
- Bike pants, spandex clothing items
- Shorts
- T-shirts with offensive language, boxers, tank tops, or sleeveless shirts.
- Any backless dress, top, or cutoff shirts that expose any part of the midriff or back
- Mesh type or see-through shirts
- Clothing that has revealing necklines and sleeve openings (tank tops, spaghetti straps, etc.)
- Leggings
- Jeans or pants with holes, rips, or fraying

Dress Code for School Dance

All students must dress appropriately for the occasion. Students with inappropriate attire may be sent home. Students may **not** wear clothing that is backless, with cut-outs, with bare midriffs, or plunging necklines. The School reserves the right to determine any attire as disruptive or inappropriate.

Dress Code and Uniform Violations

All parents and students are expected to support and comply with the Dress Code. Failure to adhere to the Dress Code will result in disciplinary action.

Families have one week after initial notification in which to purchase needed clothing items and/or comply with other Dress Code requirements such as hair length. Continued non-compliance with Dress Code will result in further disciplinary action including, but not limited to:

- Student may not be permitted to attend class (in-school or out-of-school suspension),
- Student may be placed on disciplinary warning
- Student's continued enrollment at the School may be placed in jeopardy

Students who are not in compliance on required Dress Uniform days will be asked to call home so parents can bring appropriate clothing items to School as soon as possible.

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices is expected to remain consistent with our Honor Code, the Technology Code of Conduct, and the core values of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility. While we view many forms of technology as potential tools for learning, they also hold the potential for distraction, social aggression, and isolation. In an academically focused school environment, it is incumbent on each student to hold himself or herself to the highest standards of behavior, to direct personal energy and electronic resources towards academic efforts, and to use technological tools to collaborate and bring us together rather than to divide and separate us. It is incumbent on the school to provide the developmentally appropriate balance between freedom and responsibility and to support and shape the decisions of students by providing the right forms of accountability. In that spirit, our approaches, guidelines, and definitions for responsible and acceptable use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices are designed to be developmentally appropriate, and are, therefore, differentiated across the divisions.

Middle School

Students may not possess or use personal cell phones or Smart Watches from 8:00 am until 3:35 pm on regular school days. Students are expected to pass their phones and Smart Watches to their advisors during morning advisory or immediately following Morning Meeting. Phones will be kept either in the advisor's room or the middle school office during the academic day. A student who arrives late to school will pass their phone/Smart Watch over to the person staffing the middle school office, and they may collect these items at the conclusion of the school day at 3:35.

First Offense: 2-demerits and phone / Smart Watch taken away for the rest of the day.

Second Offense: Detention and parent must come and collect the phone or Smart Watch.

Third Offense: 2-Hour Saturday School and conference with family.

In each of the above cases, students will need to leave the phone/Smart Watch in the Middle School office for the next five school days, dropping it off each morning prior to Advisory and picking it up after dismissal, or parents can opt to keep the phone at home.

Headphones/AirPods should not be used with cell phones (or any music players) except while a student is studying independently or as directed by a teacher. The use of headphones/AirPods is never acceptable when students are walking around campus.

Upper School

Cell Phones

Students may not possess or use personal cell phones from 8:05 am until 3:35 pm on regular school days. The use of cell phones during athletics and extracurricular activities that take place outside of the school day is at the discretion of the coach, advisor, or chaperone.

Student possession or use of a personal cell phone during the school day will result in disciplinary intervention. The phone will be turned over to a faculty member or administrator and stored in an administrative office. Upon the first occurrence, the phone may be retrieved by the student at the end of the school day. Upon the second occurrence, the school may ask the student's parent or guardian to retrieve the phone, and the student will subsequently serve a Saturday detention and may be required to check-in with an administrator upon arrival at school daily. A third offense may result in a school suspension and a meeting between the student, the student's parents/guardians, and administrators.

Other Forms of Personal Technology

The use of smartwatches and laptops for communication or social media in the classroom, chapel, or advisory settings is not permitted. Headphones/AirPods (or any music players) should not be used except while a student is studying independently or as directed by a teacher. The use of headphones/AirPods is never acceptable when students are walking around campus. Faculty and staff may request students to discontinue any technology use that is excessive or runs counter to learning or community-building, and may confiscate a device from a student who does not comply with such a request in accordance with this policy.

Food in Areas of the School Other Than the Dining Hall and Classrooms

Food, candy, and chewing gum are problematic in educational settings as they can create disruptions to the good operation of the school, including attention issues, rodents and insects, offensive smells, and costly clean-up of school property. Therefore, the school sets clear standards regarding both food and gum.

Food should not be removed from the dining hall at lunchtime (except to eat lunch in designated areas). Food is not to be eaten in any other area of the School except during break or unless given permission by the Division Head or Head of School. No chewing gum is allowed at Episcopal Collegiate.

In the **Middle and Upper Schools**, during the designated daily post-Chapel snack time, food may be eaten in designated areas within the school buildings. Middle School students may eat their snacks in the areas designated by their advisors. In the Upper School, food may be eaten in the Commons only.

Fundraising Activities

No collections, offerings, or fundraising activities, whether School-sponsored or sponsored by an organization or individual not related to the School, may take place without the approval of the Director of Development or Division Head.

Library

All students, families, and staff are welcome to use the Middle School Erwin and Upper School Simpson Libraries. We request only that you follow check-out and return procedures and policies set by the Library Services staff. Students can check out and/or return books at any time, with their teacher's permission. Parents are welcome to visit the library with their children before school, beginning at 7:30 a.m., and after school until 3:45 p.m.

Students who fail to return library books at the end of the year will be charged for the cost of the book. In addition, report cards and/or enrollment contracts may be withheld until fines are paid.

Lockers

Each fourth through twelfth grade student will be assigned a locker at school. This locker is intended as a place for keeping personal property and should be well maintained. Sixth through twelfth grade lockers have locks and students should keep their lockers locked at all times. Students should not enter other students' lockers for any reason. Should this occur, disciplinary action may be taken.

Please mark all personal items with your child's name. The possibility of recovering lost property is greater when everything is marked with the student's name.

Students are responsible for the care of their lockers. There are to be no markings or writing on lockers (inside or out) nor damage of any kind. If this occurs, the student will be charged for painting or repair work. Lockers are to be cleaned out by the last day of school. Any items left in lockers after the last day of school will be discarded.

Lost and Found

Each Division has its own Lost and Found area. Found items that are clearly labeled with the children's names will be returned to the owner. Unmarked items will be added to the Lost and Found area and eventually donated to the Used Uniform inventory. **Please mark all clothing, lunch bags, water bottles and equipment with children's names.** This will eliminate the number of items lost at school.

Social Activities and Dances

From time to time, Episcopal Collegiate School will sponsor social activities that will be chaperoned by School personnel. These events may take place on or off the School campus. Parents will be notified of the proposed event, and it will be assumed, unless written communication to the contrary is received by the School, that the student's parents or guardians consent to the student's participation in the event. For Upper School dances, law enforcement officers will be present and may administer random Breathalyzer tests.

The following rules for participation at dances will be followed:

All students who come to the dance will remain at the dance for its duration. If a student leaves, under no circumstances will that student be readmitted. If a student wishes to retrieve something from his or her car, a chaperone at the dance will escort that student to the car and back to the dance.

If any student appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at a dance, the police officer will handle the situation and notify the parents. The student will be required to leave the dance immediately, accompanied by a police officer or a parent. Students and guests may be subject to searches and/or Breathalyzer tests. All school rules apply.

- Any student who wishes to bring a guest to the dance must sign the student up prior to the day or night of the dance when purchasing tickets. Only one guest is allowed for each Episcopal Collegiate School student. Guests must follow all school rules. No Middle School students may attend any Upper School dance. Guests should be currently enrolled in secondary school to attend Upper School dances.
- Any dance venue is considered School grounds.
- If the dance is held on a school day, students must be present at school on the day of the dance in order to attend.

Student Activities and Organizations

All students are encouraged to become involved in extracurricular activities. No matter what their particular interest—music, theater, clubs, publications, etc.—students will be happier at Episcopal Collegiate and will feel more a part of the life of the school if they are contributing members of our school community. The number and variety of extracurricular activities available at Episcopal Collegiate and the size of the student body create an opportunity for leadership positions for any student who is interested and willing to assume the responsibility.

Membership in most clubs and organizations is voluntary. Election to the honor societies and to the Honor Council is consistent with the by-laws of the organizations.

Student Elections

Each spring, many Upper School clubs and organizations elect officers and other leaders for the coming year. In order to be eligible for election, students must be re-enrolled for the next school year and must meet any requirements established by the specific club or organization. Additionally, for key leadership positions, students must be in good standing as determined by the School.

Middle School students who are eligible to be elected are those who are re-enrolled for the next school year. A Middle School student must have a B average for the current school year to run for an office on the Middle School Student Council.

Election procedures: All student names will appear on the ballot; students who do not meet eligibility requirements will be notified that, in the case that votes are cast for them, they will not be counted.

Physical Education

Episcopal Collegiate School provides a comprehensive Physical Education program for students in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. The program strives to meet the physical needs of each child and to create experiences that focus on health and wellness while introducing a wide variety of athletic skills, competition, and life-long physical fitness.

All **Middle School** students who are enrolled in a Physical Education course will wear school uniforms during PE classes. Students should have tennis shoes with laces or Velcro closures.

If students have Physical Education on a day where they are required to wear dress uniforms, students must bring athletic shoes.

Students are expected to participate in all Physical Education activities unless excused by a physician.

School Telephone Use

Parents who need to communicate with their child during the school day should leave a message in the appropriate Division Office. The message will be delivered as soon as possible. Students may not use the Office or classroom phones except in emergency situations. Forgotten items such as books, homework, lunches, *etc.*, are not emergency situations. Cell phones may not be used by middle school students during the school day. Students wishing to make phone calls for emergency situations may use the Office phone with permission from school personnel.

Visitors to Campus

All visitors to the campus, including parents, must report to the appropriate Division Office upon their arrival and must wear a visitor's badge while on campus. Students are not allowed to have unannounced or "drop-in" visitors during the school day. Students from other schools may visit for a day *only* if they are potential Episcopal Collegiate School students who are "shadowing" one of our students. Students whose friends wish to visit the School at lunch must have the visit approved 24-hours in advance by the Division Head. The guard at the gate will then be notified to admit the visitor. Visitors must sign out and return the name badge to the appropriate office before leaving campus.

Lunch Visitors

A student wishing to host a guest for lunch must make a request in the Division Office at least 24 hours prior to the visit. The guest's name and time of arrival must be provided so that the security guard can be informed. Guests must be dressed within the spirit of the School Dress Code and behave in a manner consistent with Episcopal Collegiate School policies. Visitors who do not meet the spirit of the School Dress Code may be asked to depart. Guests may not arrive until the host's lunch period and must depart promptly at the end of the lunch period.

All guests must check-in at the Division Office, receive a Visitor Pass, and await their host who will pick them up for lunch. At no time may guests arrive and enter the Dining Hall via the Athletics entrance to the School or bypass registration in the Division Office.

Guests may bring outside lunches for themselves and their host only, but not for large groups. If a guest so chooses, a guest meal ticket can be purchased from the appropriate administrative office.

The Episcopal student host will be held responsible for following all rules and policies and for any problems resulting from the visit. If the guest fails to comply with these guidelines, he/she may be asked to leave the campus immediately and the host may be held accountable in accordance with Honor and Disciplinary Codes.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

While illnesses remain a part of our everyday lives, we ask that you not send your children to school when they are displaying symptoms of illness, no matter the end diagnosis. **Fever, diarrhea, vomiting, uncontrolled coughing** are all reasons for your child to be kept at home. To return to school your child must be free of these symptoms for at least 24 hours without the aid of

medication. With vomiting and/or diarrhea the student must also return to a normal diet. The exception is a cough, if this is the only symptom and medication will control the cough, then they can be sent to school. A fever at Episcopal is considered anything greater than 100° F. In the Lower School, if your child is coughing, congested, with a snotty nose they may be asked to wear a mask while at school to control the spread of viruses to others.

Students that become ill at school will be sent to the Health Room. If it is determined that the student is too ill to remain at school, the nurse or office personnel will call the parents. Parents are required to pick up sick students as soon as possible.

A doctor's note may be requested for the student to return to school.

Reporting an Absence

It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school of any absences. Please call the front office of their division at 501-372-1194 before 8:30 AM on the day of absence, unless other arrangements have been made. If the school does not receive a call by 8:30 AM the student will be marked with an unexcused absence. The school may phone the parent to verify the reason for the absence.

Injuries

When a student incurs an injury at school that needs further treatment, the parent will be notified immediately by the School Nurse who will also notify the student's Division Head. If the parents cannot be reached, the School Nurse, the Division Head, or the teacher will do what is expedient and safe for the injured or seriously ill student, which may include transportation of the student to the preferred hospital listed in Veracross, via 911. If no hospital is listed the student will be taken to Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Health Information and Medication Approval

Parents have the opportunity to fill out health information during the online enrollment process. If updates need to be made for issues like: changes in contact information, permission for your student to take Ibuprofen or Tylenol, a new diagnoses, or update daily medications, follow the steps below:

Please follow these directions to add Ibuprofen and/or Tylenol to Veracross:

- Open your **Veracross Parent Portal** by going to the school website: Episcopalcollegiate.org and click on the **Parent and Student Quick Link** tab, click on **Veracross** (you might have to sign in to your Veracross account)
- Update Family Profile tab
- Medical Profile tab
- Click on the drop down box next to “Add a New Request”
- From the drop down box select Allowed Medications
- Type Ibuprofen and/or Tylenol ok to give
- SUBMIT

Note: Do not include immunization records in Veracross as a copy of the Official State Immunization Record is needed.

Reminder: Please update Veracross when your contact information changes so we may reach you in case of an emergency.

Administering Medication to Students

It is the policy at Episcopal Collegiate that students are not to carry prescription or over-the-counter medication with them while attending school or school functions.

Parents or another adult must bring the medicine to the Health Room and fill out the appropriate forms. These forms are located on the school’s web page under Quick Links.

Exemption: Inhalers, insulin, glucagon and epinephrine auto-injectors. If a student has an inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector, or insulin and glucagon either in the health room or carries it with them, they need an IHP* (Individual Health Plan) and an Action Plan with physician orders on file in their permanent health record. Students may carry their medication with them while on campus once they have demonstrated maturity and proper procedure to the school nurse. If a student uses an epinephrine auto-injector at school, the nurse and Division Head or Head of School must be notified immediately. Upon use of the epinephrine auto-injector, the student is required to seek medical attention as soon as possible. Upon use of any emergency medication (Epinephrine, Narcan, Glucagon...) further evaluation by a licensed physician is needed. Please submit either a “Return to School” letter or the discharge summary report from the hospital to the school nurse in that student’s division.

All medications brought to school must be picked up by noon on the last day of school, or the medication will be destroyed. This includes epinephrine auto injectors and inhalers.

Prescription and Over-The-Counter Medication Administration

A physician's order is required for all prescription medications taken at school and on field trips. The label on the current prescription vial may serve in place of the physician's order/signature if the following information is clearly presented on the label:

- Current Prescription Date
- Legal Name of Student
- Name of Medication
- Dose
- Time to be taken, -“four times daily” or “TID” does not provide adequate information for the school to know when the next dosage is due
- Name of Physician or Provider
- A Prescription Medication Administration Form must be completed on each medication brought to school. These forms are time-limited to one school year.

All medications must be in their original vials and specify special storage instructions if applicable. All medications will be given according to the label directions. At least two doses of a new medication must be given by the parent/guardian outside the school setting. Any reaction to medications should be included in the student's health folder.

All medications must be taken in the presence of the school nurse or staff member who has been designated to administer medications. Students are not allowed to give medication to other students. Parents are encouraged to administer medications at home whenever possible. It is the student's responsibility to come to the Health Room for his or her medication.

Field Trips and Prescription Medication Form

For students who take Rx medication and attend field trips and extra-curricular activities, the following apply:

- I. Use the guidelines for administering prescription medication above.

2. A Field Trip Prescription Medication Administration Form must be filled out and accompanied by the student. The medication must be in a current prescription vial or blister pack with only the amount needed while on the trip.
3. The form for overnight and day field trips is a time-limited form and must be signed by the parent. These forms will be sent out to parents prior to the field trip.
4. Paperwork and medication need to be turned in at least one day prior to the field trip. The person administering the medication must be aware of the event so that arrangements can be made to meet the student's needs.
5. The person assigned to administer the medication is responsible for documenting the following information on the Field Trip Medication Administration Form adjacent to the medication record: *the dose, time given, and the administrator's signature.*
6. The faculty or staff member delegated, by the school nurse, to administer medications will complete the necessary training.
7. A student fact sheet must accompany the student. This contains emergency contacts, addresses, physicians, allergies, medications, etc.

*Note that this policy may be adjusted if circumstances of a particular field trip warrants and parents will be notified in advance of the changes.

Over-The-Counter (OTC) Medication

OTC medication, brought to school by the parent, can be given for 5 days consecutively without physician orders as long as two doses of the medication have been given previously. A Medication Administration Form must be completed and signed by the parent. Label directions will be followed. If OTC medication is to be given longer than 5 days, or if directions differ from what is listed on the label, a physician's order will be required.

Immunizations

Immunization requirements are published by the Arkansas Department of Health. A record of immunization is required for all students and must be presented to the school before the student begins classes. A list of required immunizations is available at www.immunizear.org/vaccine-information.

Parents will provide the School with an updated copy of the immunization record after each new inoculation. If an appointment is pending for immunizations, parents should provide a letter

from the physician's office stating the child's appointment date and time. Students may attend classes pending a confirmed scheduled appointment with a physician. To matriculate and attend Episcopal Collegiate School, students must meet all Arkansas State Laws governing immunization.

Immunization Exemptions

- Students that are seeking exemption for medical, philosophical, or religious reasons must receive approval from the Arkansas State Department of Health.
- An application can be picked up at the Health Department at 4815 W. Markham, 501-661-2169. It can take up to two working weeks for processing once all paperwork has been initiated.
- Proof of application or the approval letter from the Arkansas State Health Department must be provided prior to the child's admission.
- Students may attend school pending a decision by the Arkansas State Health Department regarding exemption.

Health Screenings

Vision and hearing screenings are provided in grades 6 and 8. Scoliosis screening is mandated by the state of Arkansas for sixth and eighth grade girls and eighth grade boys. Time permitting we will screen sixth grade boys. Parents will be notified only if the screening results indicate follow-up with a physician is needed. Otherwise, parents may contact the School Nurse for screening results.

Athletic Participation

Students who participate in school-sponsored athletics are required to have an annual physical exam with a physician attesting that the student is physically fit and cleared to participate in athletics. In addition, each student's parent or guardian must sign a liability release form and attest that the student is covered by health insurance. Any injuries incurred while participating in athletics are not covered by the school's insurance and the family is responsible for any costs incurred in the treatment of injuries.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Emergency Drills

Fire, tornado, earthquake, and lockdown drills will be held on a regular basis. Drills will be scheduled at random times so students, faculty, and staff have an opportunity to practice evacuation or lockdown procedures from various locations within the building.

Transportation Policies

In order to keep our campus safe and maintain accurate records of vehicles allowed on campus, parents and drivers must register their vehicles annually. For your protection and convenience, we recommend registering all vehicles that may come on campus.

Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the School for their children and are responsible for their safety and well-being to and from school and while driving on campus. If students arrive by means other than automobile, their family must provide notice and permission to the School. Examples include, but are not limited to, public transportation to the entrance and walking onto and off campus, bicycling to and from campus, etc.

With so many moving vehicles on campus, particularly during the morning and afternoon carpool times, we need your help keeping everyone safe. The procedures below are designed to effect an orderly arrival and dismissal and to ensure that students leave campus safely. It is imperative that parents follow the following procedures for the welfare of the School community. Failure to follow all safety policies will result in a written warning and possibly result in limiting campus access during regular carpool hours.

- Between the hours of 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:00-4:00 p.m., our campus is designated one-way only for vehicular traffic. You must turn to the right upon entering campus and go around the outer lanes on campus. Do not enter campus, drive around the cones, and turn left. You may not enter the parking lot between the fields or the parking lot directly in front of the Lower School from the front of the campus during these hours.
- Please do NOT enter the campus from the gates on North Street, either in your vehicle or on foot. The North Street gates are for exiting vehicular traffic only.
- **Cell phones should not be used while driving on campus.** When moving on campus, please watch carefully for pedestrians or other drivers.
- Please do not exceed 10 miles per hour while driving on campus.
- If you arrive for carpool early, **please do not leave your car parked in the carpool line and come into the building.** If you need to come into the building for any reason, you should park in the parking lot.
- **Under no circumstances should parents leave a running vehicle in the carpool line.** Please park in the parking lot.
- Under no circumstances should **middle school** students be dropped off in the parking lot to cross the carpool line without an adult escort.
- Under no circumstances should students be in the building unsupervised.
- If you are transporting students from multiple divisions please drop them off in this order: Upper School, then Middle School, then Lower School.
- If you are picking up students from multiple divisions please pick up Lower School students first, then Upper School, and finally Middle School.

Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated and help ensure the safety of all members of our Community.

Arrival

Campus opens at 7:00 a.m. for the arrival of students (those who arrive earlier must be under the direct supervision of a coach or member of faculty for a specific required appointment, such as a practice, rehearsal, extra help, or other events). Any **Middle School** student without a specific appointment must report directly to the Dining Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. where they may study or socialize quietly. Upper School students may go to the Dining Hall or Upper School Commons from 7:00 am to 7:45 am. Breakfast is served from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

Middle School parents should NOT use the Upper School carpool line as a shortcut to the Middle School.

At 7:45 a.m., Upper School students may depart the Dining Hall or Upper School Commons for the locker bays, library, or classrooms where teachers are present and students welcome. Middle School students may remain in the dining hall until 7:45, or they may report to one of three supervised areas - Middle School's Erwin Library, MS Design Lab, or outside in the Quad when it is supervised. Middle School students may not be in the locker bays or on the second floor of the Middle School building until 7:45.

At 8:00 a.m. the academic day begins in the Middle School (8:05 in the Upper School) and all students must report to and be present for Morning Meeting and Advisory. Those students who arrive on campus after the 8:00 a.m. bell has rung (8:05 a.m. in the Upper School) must report to the appropriate School Office to check in and where they will receive a tardy for the day.

Dismissal

Carpool will begin immediately upon the conclusion of school at 3:35 p.m. Please ask your carpool riders to be present in the pick-up area to be loaded into your vehicle promptly. **Any vehicle that is parked at the front of the carpool line for more than two minutes with no passengers loaded is asked to proceed around the campus and get back in the carpool line. This will allow the carpool line to move more efficiently for everyone.**

Students may NOT be picked up at the Championship Gym between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. or in the Upper School student parking lot. Students exiting from those locations may be subject to disciplinary action. Middle School students with Upper School siblings may choose to be picked up at the Upper School pickup line. Students who have siblings at the Lower School may meet their rides in the parking lot north of the football field so that parents do not have to make another loop in the carpool line. Students should take care when crossing the street by the Wildcat statue.

Middle school students who do not have siblings at the lower school must wait in the designated grade-level pick-up area:

- 6th Grade: Covered area outside the main, middle school carpool line doors
- 7th Grade: Overhang at the end of the carpool line
- 8th Grade: Overhang in front of the Auxiliary Gym and weight room

Younger riders should remain in the vehicle while waiting for Middle or Upper school students. If you have students in Middle and Upper School divisions, please choose a single pick-up area. If you are picking up Middle and/or Lower School students, please pick up in this order: Lower School, then Upper School, then Middle School. If you carpool with other families, please post the last names of the students in your windshield. Under no circumstances should a car be left unattended in the carpool line. At no time are students allowed to cross into parking lots to be picked up in the midst of the moving traffic – they must be picked up along the curb of each building.

After 4:00 p.m., all remaining Middle School students will be directed to after-care in the Middle School building. Upper School students may remain in the commons, which will be open until 6:00pm. At that time, the campus is closed unless the student is under direct supervision.

Permission Slips

Parents or guardians must fill out a permission slip for each activity with all required information for each student. A student may not participate in any activity covered by this permission slip until it is properly completed. Dress Uniform is worn on all field trips unless otherwise designated by a teacher.

Field Trips

Whenever possible, the School will use its buses to transport students to and from a field trip. While it is recommended that all students ride the bus when provided, parents may transport their child only to and from field trips. When the buses are not available, the School will either rent buses or use parent drivers. The Office may check driving records and personal insurance for each driver who transports students for a field trip. Students are not allowed to drive to or from a field trip originating from the School campus.

Automobiles

All automobiles transporting students must be registered and display a current Episcopal Collegiate automobile sticker. If a vehicle does not have a clearly posted sticker located on the driver's side windshield, the operator should expect to be stopped by security and held until determined to have an appointment and receive a visitor's pass or allowed to enter the campus to

drop off or collect students. Students who are late due to a security check are considered tardy in accordance with attendance policies. At all times, families and students must obey directives from Campus Security.

Usual traffic regulations are required of automobile drivers while on campus. **The speed limit on campus is 10 mph. Cell phone use while driving on campus is not permitted, in accordance with Arkansas Law. Possession of firearms or firearms in any part of the vehicle is prohibited, in accordance with Arkansas Law.**

The School is not responsible for stolen or damaged property; therefore, everyone is encouraged to lock their vehicles while on campus.

Weather-Related Events

Outdoor Exposure

Excessive heat or cold temperatures are monitored daily. The National Heat and Cold Index Chart is used to determine if students will either have a reduced time outdoors or not be allowed outside at all for recess.

School Cancellation and Campus Closures

If there is a need to close campus, Episcopal Collegiate will determine whether to cancel all classes for the day or to implement a virtual learning day and hold classes online. We understand that many students may come from areas where conditions are not safe for travel. We will be sensitive to the parent's decision concerning this matter. The administration at Episcopal Collegiate will notify the designated television stations as soon as its administration knows whether or not school will be in session. This could be early or late evening or first thing in the morning.

The School will communicate important updates via SMS text message to the cell phone numbers provided during registration and by email through Veracross to the email addresses on file. Information will also be posted on the School's homepage via a notification banner. Please refrain from calling the School for updates.

Virtual Learning Days

Episcopal Collegiate has been approved by the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association to use alternative methods of instruction on days when we have inclement weather or exceptional circumstances and must cancel school on campus. The School will implement these "Virtual Learning Days" when necessary, as determined by the School's administration. When the campus is closed and it is considered to be a Virtual Learning Day, students will be expected to follow the instructions provided by their teachers either through email or via Canvas.

Students and parents will receive notification that it is a Virtual Learning Day through Veracross text and email notifications. It is our goal that Virtual Learning Days enable us to continue learning despite the uncontrollable elements of the weather or any unforeseen event.

Emergency Early Dismissal

When the decision is made to dismiss school, the School will notify the designated TV stations. In addition to notification of the television stations, the School will send out an SMS text message to cell phone numbers provided to the School at registration and an email will be sent via Veracross to email addresses listed in Wildcat Web. Also, information will be posted to the School website. Please refrain from calling the School. Any time a parent is concerned about weather conditions, he/she is welcome to check out the student at the appropriate Division Office.

As mentioned above in *Emergency Drills*, fire, tornado, earthquake, and lockdown drills will be held on a regular basis. Drills will be scheduled at random times so students, faculty, and staff have an opportunity to practice evacuation or lockdown procedures from various locations within the building.

TECHNOLOGY CODE OF CONDUCT

All persons using computers, tablets, or other digital devices are expected to use the devices in accordance with the School Mission and Guiding Principles for the promotion of learning, creating, and connecting.

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

Under the COPPA, verifiable parental consent is required for students under the age of thirteen (13) if accounts containing personal information are created for them on third-party websites or online services. The list of software that adheres to these requirements can be found at

 [Software List for Coppa](#) .

Internet Access

As Internet access is a part of everyday learning at Episcopal Collegiate School, all members of the School Community are expected to use it responsibly and within the framework of the class lesson or task. Students and faculty should use the Internet to expand their knowledge and to enrich and support the curriculum. While the School uses a firewall and content filter to restrict certain access, the tools are not 100% guaranteed. The curriculum and culture of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility are used to determine what is and what is not acceptable.

Internet Safety

Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship are part of technology learning and practice at Episcopal Collegiate School. Specific skills and content areas are introduced and reinforced at appropriate age and grade levels throughout the curriculum. Please note, however, safety is the responsibility of the student, and the School is not liable in any way for irresponsible acts on the part of the student.

Acceptable Use

Laptops, tablets, phones, etc. are intended to aid in learning. Certain uses are considered unacceptable because they are unethical, security risks, obscene, or inconsistent with our mission.

Examples of inappropriate uses of the School's network include, but are not limited to:

- Impairing, bypassing, or damaging network
- Unlawful Acts
- Plagiarism, Copyright infringement, and Piracy
- Cyber-Bullying and harassment
- Sharing your login information for Google, Veracross, Canvas, or any other School account), or attempting to access, modify, delete, or interfere with another user's account, files, grades, assignments, or personal information. Students are responsible for all activity conducted under their accounts and must take reasonable steps to keep usernames and passwords secure.
- Any other activity the School deems inappropriate

Use of A.I.

Any use of generative A.I. on assignments or assessments requires instructor permission as well as acknowledgement when signing the honor pledge. Failure to disclose the use of generative A.I. is considered a violation of the Honor Code. Presenting work created by **any** generative A.I. tool as one's own is also considered a violation of the Honor Code.

Deepfake Policy

Episcopal Collegiate believes that responsibility is at the heart of our engagement with AI.

AI is not a replacement for one's own thinking and research. Students and faculty are responsible for using generative AI as a tool to aid understanding, data analysis, and to provide further clarification of concepts. Students and faculty are responsible for upholding the highest standards of digital citizenship, transparency, and integrity when exploring and using AI.

This responsibility extends to the creation and use of AI-generated content, including images, audio, video, and other forms of synthetic media. Members of the Episcopal Collegiate community must use these tools ethically and may not use AI to deceive, mislead, impersonate, harass, or harm others.

Students and faculty may not:

- *Create, share, or distribute AI-generated or manipulated content that falsely depicts a student, faculty member, staff member, parent, or community member saying or doing something they did not actually say or do.*
- *Impersonate another individual through AI-generated text, audio, video, images, or digital representations.*
- *Create or distribute synthetic media that damages a person's reputation, invades privacy, constitutes bullying or harassment, or disrupts the educational environment.*

****See Appendix B for complete AI Philosophy and Policy**

Viruses and Malware

Every effort is made by the School to keep our systems free of viruses and malware. Even with the best techniques, however, viruses and malware can be transmitted to and from any computer. The School is not responsible for the transmission of any virus or malware or for damages suffered from them.

Student Use of Technology

Middle School students will be provided a Chromebook with all needed software. They will be available for use in class and at home. Students should bring the Chromebook to school fully charged every morning.

Upper School students purchase their own laptops. They may use a Chromebook, Windows/PC, or Macbook. All curricular software will be provided. All personal software will be provided by the student.

Technology Support and Repair/Replacement Policy

Limited service and support are available to students through Divisional Tech Centers during school hours. Loaner laptops are available to students that have their laptops in for service. Use of a loaner laptop should be limited to two weeks.

Although Chromebooks used in Middle School remain the property of Episcopal Collegiate School, students are responsible for the care of this device. Any needed repair that is a result of an accident, like a broken screen or liquid spill, will be billed \$85 for the repair through FACTS.

Additionally, families will be responsible for \$225 for the replacement of any device that is stolen, lost or damaged beyond repair. Replacement chargers for school-owned Chromebooks can be purchased from a tech center for \$25.

Monitoring of Network and Computer Transmissions

The School respects the right of privacy of all the School's network users. However, the School reserves the right to review any and all network transmissions or files on the School's network, including email content and Internet usage, to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the network. Additionally, the School reserves the right to monitor computer use and to take appropriate action if needed.

Episcopal Collegiate School partners with Securly to offer cloud-based content filtering on the internet to deliver safer online experiences for students while they are off campus. Securly works for all students using school-owned chromebooks or for students that are logged into Google Chrome with their school account. Securly offers advanced filter control to families that want to be added to the service. Those features include additional filtering by content category, time limits for use at home, and notifications for blocked searches and searches that might be seen as a safety concern. If you are interested in being added to the family account for notifications and parental control, please contact Katie Robinson at krobinson@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Participation in Remote Learning

Student responsibilities and guidelines for remote learning are no different than our accepted and understood campus teaching and learning protocols. Episcopal Collegiate School's Technology Code of Conduct, Community Handbook, and the Episcopal Collegiate School Honor Code remain applicable to all students and community members.

Delivery of Remote Learning

The school will utilize GSuite, Google Chat, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Zoom, SeeSaw, Canvas, Veracross, and other online platforms/tools deemed appropriate by the school to conduct meaningful teaching and learning.

Utilization of Episcopal Collegiate School Remote Learning Platforms

Remote learning platforms utilized by Episcopal Collegiate School are understood to be for school and educational use only. The use of these platforms for any other purpose without written consent by Episcopal Collegiate School is prohibited.

Acknowledgment of Remote Learning Policies and Procedures

The Episcopal Collegiate School community understands and acknowledges remote learning is a continuation of daily teaching and learning, not only for our staff and students but also for their

parents and guardians. It is critical to share that platforms utilized during remote learning involve the following:

- When in a video conference, members of the meeting may be asked to turn on microphones and cameras. Participants (including their image, voice, and background/surroundings) are viewable to other members of the conference.
- Participants in a video conference (or any other aspect of remote learning) are expected to conduct themselves as they would on campus. Students need not be in dress code or uniforms; however, they should be wearing school-appropriate attire. Similarly, backgrounds in a video recording or conference should be appropriate for sharing with the school community.
- Participants' images, likenesses, or voices may be recorded while utilizing Zoom or Google Meet. In some cases, such as recording synchronous teacher-led lessons, these recordings will be made available for student review.
- As is the case with in-person learning, one-on-one interactions between students and teachers supplement in-class learning and serve an important role in the education of our students. At the same time, the School works to establish protocols and policies for the safety of our students. The same underlying principles apply in a remote learning environment. In general, private interactions between students and teachers should remain professional and be visible to others. One-on-one sessions should be open to parents or other adults. To that end, teachers are directed to include a parent or other adult in the invitation and to conduct any conferencing in public spaces in their homes. A session may be recorded as a means for providing "visibility" of the session to others. If at any time a student, parent, or faculty member becomes uncomfortable with the nature of the interactions or the manner in which they are conducted, those concerns should be reported to the school counselor, the Division Head, or the Head of School.
- Without express and written permission from a Division Head or Head of School, users (including students) may not record, screenshot, share, re-post, or otherwise capture or disseminate digital content created via any of these platforms. Only representatives of the school may capture or post such content. Failure to comply with this directive may result in disciplinary action.
- Each platform that Episcopal Collegiate School is employing for teaching and learning has specific user agreements. Please review these agreements. While minimal, there may be risks related to the use of online platforms. Parents and guardians recognize and accept those risks as we move to remote learning. **A student's participation in school activities via remote learning serves as a student's and parent's or guardian's acknowledgment and acceptance of Episcopal Collegiate School's remote learning program and adherence to the full Episcopal Collegiate School Handbook and Technology Code of Conduct, including this addendum.**

Social Media Policy

Students, faculty, and staff should exercise caution when engaging in any form of social media or electronic communication.

Students, faculty, and staff who participate in online interactions must remember that their posts reflect on the entire Episcopal community and, as such, are subject to the same behavioral

standards set forth in the Community Handbook and Episcopal Collegiate School Honor Code.

A student's participation in any form of social media or electronic communication should always be governed by our core values of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility. The school reserves the right to impose disciplinary consequences when that participation impacts the school and/or relationships within the school in negative ways regardless of whether the actual use occurred on or off-campus.

Students are expected to abide by the following:

- To protect the privacy of Episcopal students and faculty, students may not, under any circumstance, take pictures or create digital video recordings for online publication or distribution of Episcopal faculty, staff, or students either on campus or at off-campus events without the individual's express permission.
- Students may not use social media sites to publish disparaging or harassing remarks about Episcopal students, faculty, or staff, or athletic or academic contest rivals, etc.
- Students who choose to post editorial content to websites or other forms of online media must ensure that their submission does not reflect poorly upon the School.

Failure to abide by this Policy, as with other policies at Episcopal Collegiate School, may result in disciplinary action.

APPENDIX - AI POSITION AND POLICY

EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE SCHOOL POSITION ON AI

Episcopal Collegiate School has a responsibility to ensure that students and teachers learn about significant trends and changes to technology, teaching, and learning. The development, sophistication, and availability of generative AI (like ChatGPT and Gemini) represent significant technological innovation that has the potential to enhance learning. Throughout the past year, Episcopal has invested in faculty professional development to help teachers gain AI literacy and better understand how these powerful tools may be used to augment, rather than automate, the engaging work of teaching and learning. In keeping with the terms of service outlined by generative AI software, generative AI will not be directed for use by students under the age of thirteen.

RESPECT

Episcopal Collegiate approaches AI with a deep respect for scholarship. Students and faculty will be educated on the ethical and unethical use of AI for academic purposes. We expect students and faculty to operate within the bounds of our Honor Code, responsible use policies, and community expectations. Some activities will expressly forbid the use of AI, and when such direction is given, using it would be considered academic dishonesty. When generative AI is allowed, its use will need to be documented similarly to any other intellectual property that students use in completing their work. AI resources should be used with proper caution and citation. Students must obtain explicit direction from teachers before using generative AI for any assignments. Using these tools without permission puts a student's academic integrity at risk.

REVERENCE

Episcopal Collegiate recognizes that education is a human endeavor and our commitment to reverence centers humanity in making decisions with and about AI use. Human thought, imagination, and decision making will be prioritized in approaching AI to help us learn more effectively, more efficiently, and in new ways. Students and faculty should understand the architecture of AI and large language models before using them as an appropriate tool in support of learning and the collaborative relationships inherent in that process.

RESPONSIBILITY

Episcopal Collegiate believes that responsibility is at the heart of our engagement with AI. AI is not a replacement for one's own thinking and research. Students and faculty are responsible for using generative AI as a tool to aid understanding, data analysis, and to provide further clarification of concepts. Students and faculty are responsible for upholding the highest standards of digital citizenship, transparency, and integrity when exploring and using AI.