August 21, 2026

All School Safety Drills - August 25, 2026

Dear Parents,

The continued safety and security of our students, faculty, parents, and guests is of the utmost importance. We hold school-wide safety and security drills each semester. Our first safety drill of the 2026-27 school year will take place on Tuesday, August 25, from 8:10 am-8:45 am. All students will participate in our safety and security drills which will include a fire drill, tornado drill, and campus lockdown. As always, we appreciate your assistance in ensuring students arrive on time so that we can run these drills efficiently. Teachers will discuss and guide students during these drills in an age-appropriate manner.

If you have any questions, please contact your Division Head.

Respectfully,

Steven McClanahan
Director of Campus Security

Education Freedom Accounts - 1st Quarter Payments

The 1st quarter Education Freedom Account funding of $1,802.00 should have been deposited into your ClassWallet account and is ready for you to initiate payment to Episcopal Collegiate School by responding to the Payment Request in the account. It is important to know that the school does not receive the tuition voucher funds directly from the Department of Education. The school only receives payment when you authorize your EFA funds to be used to pay Episcopal Collegiate School via ClassWallet.

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

Watermelon Kickoff - Save the Date!

Watermelon Kickoff is set for **Friday, August 28**! Meet us at Mourot Stadium to celebrate our fall sport athletes and cheer our Wildcat football team to a victory in the home-opener against Clarendon. McDonald's hamburgers will be generously provided by the Retzer Family. As always, there will be watermelon, frozen treats, and lots of fun for our Wildcat family. Activities begin at 5:30 p.m. and varsity kickoff at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to the 2026-27 School Year

As everyone settles into the new school year, our **Back-to-School Resources** and **New Family Resources** webpages are here to make day-to-day information easy to find and reference.

Wildcat Warehouse Hours

- Tuesday 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- Wednesday 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- Thursday-12:00 - 2:00 pm

The Warehouse will also be open during each home football game.

Save the Date: Fly Me to the Moon Auction

Save the Date for the 2027 Parents' Auxiliary Auction on **Saturday, February 20, 2027**. Get ready to play among the stars...more details coming soon!

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

We hope you've had a great first full week in the Lower School! Our students are settling into their routines, and the school year is off to a great start.

I want to give a huge shout-out to our teachers for making the most of a week filled with mostly indoor recess. While we'd certainly prefer more time outside, they have handled the heat with flexibility and creativity. We're looking forward to more manageable temperatures and outdoor time next week!

As we've monitored morning drop-off throughout the week, we're making a small adjustment to simplify the process for families. Beginning Monday, we will have two drop-off locations based on grade level for the entire 7:00–8:00 a.m. drop-off window:

- PreK–1st Grade: Office/North Entrance
- 2nd–5th Grade: Gym/Cafeteria Entrance

This means the drop-off location will remain the same throughout the entire morning. We are simply removing the previous 7:30 a.m. change in locations. I've sent a separate email to all PreK–1st grade families with details about this adjustment.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we continue to fine-tune our routines. Please contact me if you have any questions! Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Parent Education Event - Tuesday, September 1

Please join us to learn more about the culture of support we provide in the Lower School. Mrs. Radtke, Mrs. Abbott, and Dr. House will share an overview of our daily routines and approach, along with the range of support services available to students and families. We look forward to sharing more about how we partner with families to help every student thrive.



Parent Room Sign Up

Margaret Staley and Megan Brick will serve again as our Lower School PA reps. We are grateful for their leadership in this role. If you are interested in serving as a room parent for your child's classroom, please sign up below. Margaret and Megan will be in touch soon with details about our upcoming room parent informational meeting. **Room Parent Sign Up**

Pride Patrol: August 24-28

Pride Patrol is a leadership opportunity for our 4th and 5th grade students. These students should arrive by 7:30 am to help open car doors, welcome students, and walk our youngest Wildcats to their classrooms. Pride Patrol student leaders next week include:

- Jonas Bezold
- Margaret Bronni
- Carter Coleman
- George Carvelli
- William Dare
- Charlotte Davis
- Darina Dementyeva

Counseling Note from Mrs. Abbott

We are off to a great start this school year! It is so wonderful to see all of the students' smiling faces in the halls! I wanted to provide some information on what to expect from me this year and what services I can provide. I will be doing mindfulness and character lessons in K-5th grade classrooms each month. I really enjoy seeing how our students grow in their faith and values each year. Developing an understanding of different character traits helps them to establish a good moral compass to guide them through life. I will also be available to meet with students and families as needed on a wide array of issues including, any family dynamics changing, coping with grief/loss of a loved one or pet, developing social skills, managing ADHD symptoms and behaviors, general emotional support, anxiety, and challenging classroom behaviors...just to name a few. Even if you are uncertain if it is an issue I can help with, you can always contact me and we can make sure to get you in touch with who can. I begin every year with this same note to remind our families that we are here to support your child however we can:

Handle with Care

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend, please email me "Handle with Care". Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day.

Contact Info:

Betsy Abbott, LCSW
Lower School Counselor
501-372-1194 ext.2343
babbott@episcopalcollegiate.org

I am looking forward to a great new school year!!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Abbott

Lower School Absentee Reporting Form

Please bookmark the following link to quickly report if your child will be absent. Both Nurse Rawn and Ms. Thomas receive a notification once it is complete. Thank you! **Absentee Reporting Form Link**

Wildcat Chorale Signup

Fourth and fifth-grade students have the opportunity to join the Wildcat Chorale! This is a group of Lower School students who meet weekly to sing and share the love of music. If your student would like to join, please fill out the form below and turn it in to Ms. White (in-person or **email**). The rehearsals will be Tuesdays from 3:15pm - 4:00pm beginning September 8. **Sign-Up Form**

Chapel News

Our first Community Chapel was wonderful as we gathered together at a new time, beginning our Wednesday together. This "Community Chapel 101" involved conversation about what it means to be a community and practice on how we enter and exit in a reverent manner, how we sing together respectfully and how we open worship in a new way as we will begin with a procession this year. Next week in 1st-5th Community Chapel we will take a deeper look at our Episcopal Collegiate School Wildcat Pledge and Wildcat W.O.W. Awards that will be given to a student in each 1st-5th grade homeroom beginning in September. Our 4th and 5th graders will begin in their leadership roles in chapel next week.

In PreK and Kinder Chapels we read This is THE Day by Amy Parker and learned a new prayer with hand motions (ask your student if they remember the "God is in my head..." prayer). Next week in PreK and Kinder Chapels we will talk about what prayer is and how we can pray in different ways.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on Wednesdays. You are always welcome!

- 1st-5th: 8:00-8:30pm, Erwin Performance Hall & Gymnasium
- PreK 3: 8:50-9:10am, Godly Play Classroom, Room 142 (next to Library)
- PreK 4: 9:20-9:40am, Godly Play Classroom, Room 142 (next to Library)
- Kindergarten: 10:00-10:20am, Godly Play Classroom, Room 142 (next to Library)

Chapel Duties for Community Chapel on Wednesday, August 26, 2026:

Procession
- Cross: Kennedy King
- Candle: Sully Lee
- Candle: Caroline Kilgroe

Readers
- Adeline Parnell
- Jonas Goree

Cantors (for August 26, September 2 and September 16)

- Alice Guthrie
- Molly Hyde
- Piper Love
- Lincoln Wirges

1st Grade Partners

- Jane Bright
- Tommy Hogate
- George Carvelli
- Evie Slabaugh
- Coleman Carter
- Scarlett Ray

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore
Lower School Chaplain

Mark Your Calendars

- Friday, August 28 | Watermelon Kick Off
- Tuesday, September 1 | Supporting the Whole Child Parent Event
- Wednesday, September 9 | Lower School Pictures & Convocation (Dress Uniform A)
- Thursday, October 1 | GP Parent Preview, 8:15am
- Thursday, October 1 | Wildcat Roundup, 4:30-6pm
- Friday, October 2 | Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- Wednesday, October 7 | Lower School Flu Clinic
- October 8-9 | Fall Break (No school)
- Friday, October 16 | Family/Teacher Conferences (No school for students, WCC available all day for 12-month & semester pay)

Helpful Links

- **Lower School Live Morning News**
- **Wildcat Parent Hub**

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

As a former boss of mine used to say, "This week has been rich and full!" We held our MS Convocation on Monday during activity time, and is our norm, heard remarks from our student council president, eighth grader **Fenley Wright**, and from a representative from our faculty, eighth grade history teacher, **Ms. Monica Corker**. Following convocation remarks, our houses got together for the first time and created house cheers or chants, and we had a cheer off in the Championship Gym before coming together as one, middle school family to play the alma mater on kazoos! It was a very spirited and fun event. On Wednesday evening, we welcomed many of

you to campus to see your child's teachers and advisor, and tonight, we will host our first, middle school student social from 6-8pm. Please read below for details on this event!

Middle School Social - Friday, August 21, 6-8pm

This evening, we will host our opening middle school social. This event will take place from 6-8pm in both the middle/upper school dining hall and Championship Gym. Please drop off and pick up your children at the Wildcat Statue. Students should not be dropped off prior to 5:50pm, and students should be collected promptly at 8pm, as this is a long day for faculty. Dress for this event is casual appropriate.

Virtual Book Talks:

Dr. McCormick will lead a virtual book study this semester, and this fall's book is entitled Middle School Superpowers: Raising Resilient Tweens in Turbulent Times. All parents are welcome to attend, including those who have not read the book! Our first conversation will take place on Wednesday, September 16. The second discussion will be on Tuesday, October 13, and the final conversation will take place on Wednesday, October 28. All of these sessions will occur from 8:15am-9:00am via the following:

- Google Meet link: **meet.google.com/cfy-rkqf-dxo**
- Dial in: (US)+1 252-665-6568 PIN: 738 192 219#

New to Middle School Parent Meeting

Come join Dr. McCormick, Mrs. Radtke, and the rest of the middle school student support team for tips on how to best support your new middle school child. This meeting will be in person on September 10, 8:15-9:00am, in the Middle School's Erwin Library.

Rowing Meeting

Looking for a great sport for your child to start? Why not try rowing? It is a wonderful community and there is an upcoming interest meeting for students/parents in grades 6-9. Please view the below image, and should you have questions, email Coach Ted Riedeburg, rowcoachjax@gmail.com.



A Note from Dr. Graham

Dear Upper School Families,

Today caps off a fantastic first full week of school. Developing successful habits and routines was our collective focus. Our faculty, advisors, and coaches are explicitly teaching our kids how to manage their time, advocate for themselves, and navigate unexpected challenges; we know these skills lay the foundation for our students' success in high school–and far beyond.

Highlights from this week included Tuesday's Honor Code Signing Ceremony, at which all students, faculty, and staff pledged to live honorably and uphold our school's Honor Code. On Wednesday, student council hosted our annual Popsicle Social in the Auxilary Gym and Commons. That evening, college counselors Ms. Morgan and Ms. Davis met with senior families to guide them through the college application process. On Thursday, our leadership team hosted 9th-grade parents for a conversation about the transition from Middle to Upper School.

Looking ahead to next week...

I hope you will attend **Back-to-School Night** on Wednesday, August 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Our program will start in the dining hall. On Wednesday evening, you'll get to meet your child's teachers and learn more about our program.

Also, we welcome you to attend our **All-School Pep Rally** on Friday, August 28th from 1:05 to 1:35 pm in the Championship Gym. The Pep Rally will fire us up for Watermelon Kickoff on Friday night. Let's go!!

See you out there,
Kellen

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

Back-to-School Night = Wednesday, August 26th

Do you ever wonder what your child's school day is *really* like? Come to our annual **Back-to-School Night** and find out! Back-to-School Night is set for next week on **Wednesday, August 26, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**. The evening will start promptly at 6:00 pm in the Dining Hall. At Back-to-School Night, you get to meet your child's teachers, walk through your child's schedule, and see–up close–what makes our program so strong. Your attendance will help set your child up for success, and I hope to see you there.

Contact Us if Your Child is Absent, Late, or Checking Out

Parents, if your child is absent from or arriving late to school for any reason, or if your child needs to check out during the school day, you must contact the School and let us know. If your child is absent, please either call us in the **Main Office at 501-372-1194 ext. 3** and leave a detailed message or email Selby Boyd at **sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org**. Upper School students are expected to communicate any known absences in advance with their teachers, coaches, and advisor.

Planned Absences

Parents should submit a written request for a planned absence to the Upper School Dean of Students, Grace Self, at **gself@episcopalcollegiate.org** 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. Ms. Self will provide students with a Planned Absence Form to be signed by their teachers. Once the student has collected the signatures, they may return the form to Ms. Self.

Add/Drop Deadline

Friday, August 21, is the deadline for students to add or drop a course. Students should speak directly with their classroom teacher, advisor, and Ms. Fitz if they wish to add or drop a course.

College Counseling

Upcoming College Visits:

All juniors and seniors are invited to attend the college meetings on our campus. Sign up for these meetings in **S**coir under "Visits & Deadlines" & bring your Green College Visit Permission Slip to the College Counseling Office

University of Arkansas - Tuesday, 8/25 - 10:00 AM

The University of Arkansas is a large, public research university located in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The U of A has over 27,000 undergraduate students and 103 academic majors to choose from. The most popular majors include Business, Marketing, Nursing, Psychology, and Biology. There are almost 400 student organizations to join at the U of A, and popular ones include Student Government, Greek Life, Outdoors Activities, and more. Arkansas competes in the NCAA Division 1 and offers special ticket deals to students.. Go Razorbacks!

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology - Tuesday, 8/25 - 11:05 AM

Rose-Hulman is a private, STEM university, located in Terre Haute, Indiana. Rose-Hulman has about 2,300 students and is known for having strong undergraduate support in science and technology programs. Rose-Hulman has 22 STEM majors that range from Artificial Intelligence to NanoEngineering. Rose-Hulman offers hands-on learning through specialized internships, labs, and research opportunities. Their student athletes compete in the DII. Go Rosie the Elephant!

University of Puget Sound - Wednesday, 8/26 - 1:25 PM

The University of Puget Sound is a private, independent liberal arts college located in Tacoma, Washington. 1,600 undergraduate students from 44 states live on the 97 acre picturesque campus, ranked in the top three most beautiful campuses in America! Puget Sound is known for small and intentional academic opportunities.Top majors include business, psychology, political science, and biology. For students pursuing graduate programs in the health professions, there is a 100% acceptance rate. The Loggers compete in the NCAA DIII!

College Excused Absences can be obtained for juniors and seniors through the college counselors. Here's how:

- A parent or student should forward the confirmation email of the college tour to one of the college counselors at least a week before the scheduled visit.
- You must get the form signed by teachers, return the form to Ms. Selby and turn in any work due that day before you depart.
- Students may only use three college visit days a school year, including travel days.

Coming Up Next Week

Campus Safety & Security Drills - Tuesday, August 25

We run a series of on-campus safety and security drills (fire, tornado, lockdown) every year. Our next round of safety drills is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, August 26. We will communicate these drills to our students in advance.

Back-to-School Night

We hope to see you there!

All-School Pep Rally (Parents/Guardians Welcome)

To celebrate Watermelon Kickoff, we will host our first All-School Pep Rally on Friday, August 28th from 1:05-1:35 pm in the Championship Gym. Parents and guardians are always welcome at our Pep Rallies. Throw on an Episcopal sweatshirt and join us!

Watermelon Kickoff

Watermelon Kickoff starts at 5:30 pm outside of the B Building, near our football stadium. I encourage you to come to Watermelon Kickoff. It's a great event for the whole family, and you'll be sure to meet new families and reconnect with old friends.

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 8/24 - 6th-Grade Religion Class
- Tuesday, 8/25 - Rami Khasawneh '27
- Wednesday, 8/26 - Mr. Saoud
- Thursday, 8/27 - Eli Dellimore '27
- Friday, 8/28 - Claire Lammers '27

Athletics Schedule

Let's go, Wildcats!

Beyond Next Week

9th-Grade Trip - Wednesday, September 2

Our 9th-grade class, along with several faculty and staff members, will travel to Camp Winnamocka for a one-day retreat.

All-School Convocation - Wednesday, September 9

This formal ceremony recognizes the start of the school year. *This is a dress uniform day for students.

School Picture Day - Wednesday, September 9

* Dress uniform day for students.

Family Night - Wednesday, September 16

This is our first Family Night of the year. There will be no school activities after 5:00 pm, and students will not be assigned homework this evening.

CAPS College Fair - Monday, September 28

The annual CAPS College Fair will be held at UALR, in the Stephens Center, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for students to meet representatives from many colleges and universities.

Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day - Friday, October 2

We look forward to welcoming our grandparents and special friends on this day. We will run a half-day schedule.

End of Quarter 1 - Wednesday, October 7

The first quarter (marking period) ends on Wednesday, October 7.

Fall Break - Thursday, October 8 - Sunday, October 11

School will be closed for Fall Break.

Fall Conference Day - Friday, October 16

Every Upper School student will participate in a 30-minute conference with their Advisor on this day, and we ask that at least one parent/guardian attend. Conferences are designed to give students, parents, and advisors the chance to discuss students' growth, areas for improvement, and overall school experience. Regular classes will not be in session.

Homecoming & Spirit Week - Monday, October 19 - Saturday, October 24

More details coming soon.

A Note from the Director of Athletics:

Wildcat Parents!

I hope everyone has had a great first week of school. We have some exciting news to announce. Sage food services will be taking over the concessions stand and operating it with their staff. As of now we will not need volunteers to help with our concession stand this year. Please stand by in case we may need a little help in certain situations.

However, we will still need your support with volunteering to collect gate money for our sporting events. If your child is participating in a sport this fall, their coach has sent or will be sending you an email with the Signup Genius link also. Please choose a shift to help us out.

- **Parent Volunteers - Gate Sign ups**

As always, thank you so much for all of your support! Looking forward to a great school year!

Micah Marsh
Director of Athletics | Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

Wildcat Rowing!

Join Coach Ted Riedeburg on **Monday, August 24th, at 6:00 p.m.** for a Parent & Athlete Information Session in the film review room behind the athletic offices.

Coach Riedeburg will introduce the **beginner rowing program**, explain what the sport is all about, what athletes can expect during the season, and answer any questions you or your athlete may have.

Then, on **Monday, August 31st**, Wildcat Rowing invites prospective athletes and their parents down to the **boathouse** to see rowing up close. You'll have the opportunity to:

- Watch a practice from the coaching boats
- Tour the boathouse and facilities
- Meet the coaching staff
- Get your athlete signed up for the fall season

Fall Practices Begin: Tuesday, September 8th

Practice Schedule:

- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays:** 4:15–6:00 p.m.
- **Saturday mornings:** 10:15–11:45 a.m.
  Saturday sessions are optional conditioning workouts at the Little Rock Athletic Club for the first four weeks. Beginning **October 10th**, Saturday practices will move to the river.

Weather:
If there is inclement weather, practices will be held at the **Little Rock Athletic Club (LRAC), 4610 Sam Peck Road**, just west of the boathouse. **You do not need to be an LRAC member** to participate in Wildcat Rowing activities.

Coach Riedeburg - Rowing
904-553-7557
rowcoachjax@gmail.com

All-Sports Season Passes Are Here! 🏐🏈🏀

Cheer on the Wildcats all year long! **All-Sports Season Passes are now available for $100** and include admission to all regular-season home athletic contests and events for grades 7–12 throughout the 2026–27 school year.

Please note: Passes are not valid for PSL games or postseason tournaments.

Purchase Your 2026–27 All-Sports Season Pass

We'll see you in the stands—Go Wildcats!

Wildcat Athletics, Right at Your Fingertips

Fall sports are here—and so is our new **Athletics App!** Stay connected to Wildcat Athletics with schedules, scores, team information, real-time updates, weather delays, last-minute changes, news and more—all in one convenient place.

Athletes, families and Wildcat fans are encouraged to download the app and stay connected throughout the season.

See the attachment below for details on how to download and get started.



Episcopal Wildcats Hudl Page

Wildcat Athletics has moved live streaming to the Episcopal Collegiate Hudl Fan Page. This page includes a live stream of events as well as highlights, team schedules, and rosters. **Episcopal Wildcats Hudl Page**

Please note, we will no longer be using the Episcopal Athletics Youtube Page.

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

Wildcat Club Updates

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer! We're so grateful to our Wildcat Club families and staff who helped make our summer programming such a fun and memorable one. We loved spending the summer with your Wildcats and are excited for another great school year ahead!

More Wildcat Club updates—including our faculty list and additional fall programming—will be shared as we get closer to September. We're looking forward to a great year!

Fall Super Sessions

Fall Wildcat Club sessions will begin after Labor Day. Faculty and staff will receive the session submission form on August 25, and we look forward to sharing this fall's offerings with families soon.

STEAM Wednesdays & Fun Fridays

A reminder that Wednesdays and Fridays are extra fun at Wildcat Club! **STEAM Wednesdays** and **Fun Fridays** feature special activities and programming, so if your schedule allows, these are great days to let your Wildcat stay a little longer and join in the fun.

Weekly Reminders

Volleyball pickup will take place every **Tuesday and Thursday**, and Chorale will continue every **Tuesday**. We'll keep families updated as additional clubs, camps, and activities are added throughout the year.

Student Appointments & Off-Campus Activities

To help us keep students safe and accounted for throughout the school day, parents should provide **written permission** any time a student will leave campus for an appointment or outside activity. Please include the activity or appointment, day and time, expected return time (if applicable), and who will be transporting the student.

For students who will be leaving campus for recurring services such as **speech, occupational or other therapy**, families should also complete the **Therapy Request Form** below.

- **Complete the Therapy Request Form**

Thank you for helping us ensure we know where our Wildcats are throughout the school day!