September 18, 2026

Admission Season is Already Here!

Over the past several years, Episcopal Collegiate has experienced continued growth in both inquiries and applications. At the same time, we remain intentional about class size so that our students are known, supported, and able to fully engage in all that an Episcopal education offers.

With that in mind, we encourage current families considering Episcopal for a sibling in the 2027–28 school year to begin the admission process early. Submitting an application is an important first step and allows our Admission team to work alongside your family as we move into our fall observation and shadow season.

Upcoming Admission Dates:

- Kindergarten Observations: November 2–5
- Pre-K4 Observations: November 9–12
- Pre-K3 Observations: November 17 & 19
- Grades 1–12 Shadow Visits: Beginning after October 23
- Early Admission Decisions: November 20

While an application does not guarantee admission, we want to make sure our current families are aware of the timeline and have every opportunity to complete the process as interest in Episcopal continues to grow.

We are grateful to have your family as part of the Episcopal Collegiate community and would be delighted to help you explore Episcopal for another child in your family. If you have any questions or would like guidance on next steps, please contact Director of Admissions Mary Jane Briggs at **mjbriggs@episcopalcollegiate.org** or Associate Director of Admissions Mahlon Martin at **mmartin@episcopalcollegiate.org**.

Dr. Fitzgerald to Host Parent Roundtable on Sleep- September 24, 2026 at 8:00 am.

We are excited to announce that Dr. Caris Fitzgerald, MD, will be hosting a parent roundtable in Upper School Room 215 at 8:00 am on Thursday, September 24, to discuss sleep for parents of all divisions. Insufficient sleep is one of the most widespread, consequential, and modifiable threats to teen mental health, and only 23% of high school students get sufficient sleep. We are thankful that Dr. Fitzgerald, who specializes in sleep medicine, can share her wealth of knowledge and experience regarding this important topic. Additionally, Dr. Fitzgerald will present on sleep to all of the sophomore class during flex on September 24.

Check Out What's New for the Week on the Parent Playlist!

Catch up on the latest additions to our Parent Playlist, including podcast episodes that continue the conversation from this week's in-person parent programs. The Parent Playlist can also be found anytime **on our website** under Parent Resources or scan the QR code below.

Save the Date: Grandparents & Special Friends Day

We look forward to welcoming grandparents and special friends to campus on **Friday, October 2**, for one of our favorite traditions! Families are encouraged to share the date with their special guests now so they can plan to join us.

Please note that **October 2 will be a half day of school**. For Lower School families needing afternoon childcare, **Wildcat Club will be available until 6:00 p.m.** Additional event details will be shared soon.

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!

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.

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

**September 1, 2026: Wildcat Warehouse will be open 1:00-3:00 pm

- 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.

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

We hope you will join us next Wednesday, September 23, at 8:15 a.m. for our Learning Garden Dedication. All Lower School students will attend this special celebration as we officially dedicate this beautiful space and all of the wonderful opportunities it will provide for our students to learn, explore, and grow. To accommodate all Lower School students, all guests will be standing for the brief celebration. In the event of inclement weather, the dedication will be moved to Wednesday, October 14.

Good luck to our PSL flag and tackle teams this weekend! Episcopal Green plays CAC Gold at 8:00 a.m., Episcopal White plays at Catholic Gold at 9:00 a.m., and our tackle team takes on Catholic White at 10:30 a.m. All games will take place here at Episcopal. Go, Wildcats!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Author and Illustrator Visit - Tuesday, September 22

The Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Lower School Library is excited to welcome our first author/illustrator of the school year on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Ben Clanton is the author and illustrator of the popular Narwhal and Jelly Graphic Novels, as well as several other titles. If you pre-ordered books for Mr. Clanton's visit, they will be delivered by Wednesday, September 23rd at the latest. Thanks to Wordsworth Books in the Heights for providing books for our special event.

All presentations will be held in the Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Lower School Library and grown ups are welcome to attend! Please see the schedule below:

- 8:30-8:50- PreK3 and PreK4
- 9:15-9:50- Kinder and 1st
- 10:15-11:15- 4th and 5th
- 11:30-12:30- 2nd and 3rd

Learning Garden Dedication - September 23

On Wednesday, September 23, at 8:15 a.m., Lower School students will gather for a special dedication of our new Learning Garden, held in place of our regularly scheduled Community Chapel. Lower School parents are invited to join us as we celebrate this exciting new space and the opportunities it will provide for students to learn, explore, and grow.

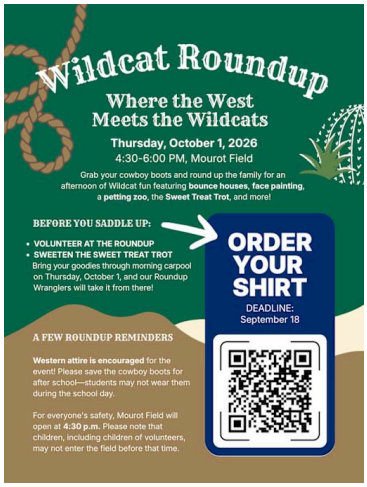
Senior Spirit Event with Kindergarten Buddies - Friday, September 25

Ahead of Fall Senior Night, our Kindergarten Wildcats will join their Senior Buddies and the Upper School for a special afternoon of Wildcat spirit on Friday, September 25, from 12:10 to 12:45 pm! Together, they'll recognize our fall senior athletes with spirited games and activities while sharing a fun tradition that brings some of our youngest and oldest Wildcats together. Kindergarten parents are welcome to join us and cheer on the fun!

Grandparents & Special Friends Day Planning Information

Thursday, October 1 - Lower School Parent Preview of Grandparents Day Program in Championship Gym at 8:15am. All Lower School students will perform their grandparents day songs/dances. Please note that Kinder students will perform their dance with Kinder friends rather than their Senior buddies. Parking and seating is extremely limited on Friday, so we ask that parents attend the preview on Thursday if they wish to view the performance.

Friday, October 2 - Grandparents & Special Friends Day. All Lower School students should wear their dress uniforms. Following the performance in Championship Gym, visitors will join their Lower School students in their homeroom classrooms. If a student is leaving with their visitor, please have the visitor sign your student out in the classroom. For students not leaving with a visitor, we will dismiss at 11:30am. Wildcat Club is available until 6am. Please register **here**.



Saddle Up, Wildcats! We will see you on Thursday, October 1, for Wildcat Roundup

- **T-shirt form linked here** (Today, Friday, September 18, is the last day to order!)
- **Volunteer Sign Up**

Little Rockers Registration

The Little Rockers Kids Marathon Program will begin on Monday, November 2nd. This program will run from November 2nd through the Final Mile on Saturday, March 6th. This program is open to students in grades 1-5. Each student will set a goal to complete 25.1 miles prior to running the Final Mile. Participants will run/walk on Monday afternoons on the ECS track from 3:30 to 4:15. To sign up for the program, please use this **link**. For more information about the program, please contact Mr. Alex Daniel at adaniel@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Pride Patrol - September 21-25

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:

- Adeline Parnell
- Evie Slabaugh
- William Staley
- Arden Stephens
- Max Stiles
- Clark Tucker

Chapel News

In Community Chapel we heard from the Upper School Go Green Team as they shared about the importance of recycling, reducing and reusing what we have. In PreK and Kinder Chapels we read God's Very Colorful Creation by Tim Thornborough. On Wednesday, September 23, at 8:15 a.m., all Lower School students will gather for a special dedication of our new Learning Garden, held in place of our regularly scheduled chapels. Lower School parents are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate this exciting new space.

Chapel Duties for Community Chapel on Wednesday, September 23, 2026:

Readers:

- Nathan Green
- Alice Guthrie
- Tommy Hogate

Grace & Peace,
Michelle Moore
Lower School Chaplain

Mark Your Calendars

- Wednesday, September 23 | Learning Garden Dedication, 8:15am
- Thursday, October 1 | GP Parent Preview, 8:15am
- Thursday, October 1 | Wildcat Roundup, 4:30-6pm
- Friday, October 2 | Grandparents & Special Friends Day, 11:30am Dismissal

- 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)
- October 28 | Class Pictures and Retakes
- October 30 | Halloween Parade at 8:10am
- November 6 | Monarch Migration

Lower School Health Screenings

Parents,

Starting the week of October 12th through Thanksgiving Break we will be conducting health screenings in the lower school. PK-4, K, 1st, 2nd, and 4th grade screenings will include: Height, Weight, Vision, and Hearing. 4th graders will also get their blood pressure measured. New students will be screened for height, weight, vision, hearing, and blood pressure if they are in 4th grade.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Nurse Rawn @ **wrawn@episcopalcollegiate.org** or **501-372-1194 Ext 2304**.

Helpful Links

Absentee Reporting Form Link

Lower School Live Morning News

Wildcat Parent Hub

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

At Monday's Morning Meeting, we celebrated each house's four, newly elected Prefects, student leaders who will partner with the faculty house sponsors to help lead their groups. Below please find the house and its corresponding leaders:

- Cypress - Janelle Jones, Rayna Fitzgerald, Ryan Harrelson, Steven Liu
- Cottonwood - Matsy Leacock, Simon Mangum, Jersei Garrett, Sara Dalvi
- Maple - Henry Wright, Aamir Maxwell, Athena Johnson, and Marcy Agee
- Oak - Marco Gutierrez, Mia Suffridge, Beckett Beene, Presley Peacock

Recently, our teachers began recognizing students for outstanding effort, leadership, willingness to assist others, teamwork, kindness, and overall scholarship in our various subject areas. Below please find the grade levels, courses, and students who were commended for their efforts at Thursday's Morning Meeting:

- Latin 7: Elise Bezold
- Latin 8: Matsy Leacock
- French 1: Constanza Madrigal

- Spanish 1: David Willis
- Spanish 7: Keller Hughes
- French 7: Weezy Kemp
- Theatre: Henry Wright
- Dance: Constanza Madrigal
- Exploratory Design: Keller Hughes
- Art 1: Rosemary Walker
- Art 2: Celine Boyd
- PE 6: Sadie Prater
- PE7/Health: Elliott Smith
- PE 8: Hunter Turner, Tanner Nevin

MS Athlete of the Week: Seventh grade football player, Bray Talbot:

From Coach Martin: Last week we hosted our first home regular season game vs Baptist Prep. Although we came up short on the scoreboard, the team played a hard fought game and there was one 7th grader who showed that. Whether it was on offense catching passes, or on defense stopping the other team's best player from catching the ball, Brayson Talbot stepped up in key moments throughout the night. Bryason is the 7th grade football player of the week.

From Mrs. Higgins in the MS Art Room. . .

We have some exciting news from the Middle School Art Room! Sofia has been selected as a Finalist for Artsonia's "Artist of the Week" contest for Grades 7–9!

Please take a moment to vote for Sofia!

- One vote per computer per day
- The winner is determined by the number of votes, so every vote makes a difference!
- VOTE HERE: **https://www.artsonia.com/museum/aotw/vote.asp**

If you're able, please consider voting each day during the contest and sharing the link with family and friends. Let's show Sofia how proud we are of our talented young artists!

Thank you for supporting the Middle School Art Program and celebrating Sofia's accomplishment! (Feel free to forward this link to anyone you know.)

Virtual Book Talks!

We had our first virtual book talk this week, with approximately seven parents attending and discussing the opening two chapters of Phyllis Fagell's book, *Middle School Superpowers: Raising Resilient Tweens in Turbulent Times*. All parents, including those who have not read the book, are welcome to attend the next sessions. The next discussion will be on Tuesday, October 13, and the third 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#

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,

No matter your perspective on AI, we can all agree that our teenagers need clear guidance and support. AI tools have made academic integrity issues and questions more complex than ever.

This week, all Upper School students participated in a second AI training session in their English classes. You may recall that last month, in their first AI-training session, students were introduced to large language models and AI systems like ChatGPT and Gemini, and taught how these tools work and how they are potentially useful and harmful.

Adapted from the **Tulane University Libraries website**, the second training session emphasized academic integrity and (re)introduced our students to some common forms of AI-assisted plagiarism, the importance of citation, and the benefits of AI disclosure for academic work. Students discussed real-world scenarios in small groups to reinforce these concepts.

Rest assured, teaching and learning at Episcopal is and will continue to be a human enterprise, defined by thoughtful, in-person student-teacher relationships. And we will continue guiding our students to make responsible, honorable decisions with their academic work. We encourage you to deepen these conversations at home.

Have a great weekend!

See you out there,
Kellen

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

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

Parents, if your child is absent, arriving late to school for any reason, or needs to check out during the school day, you must contact the School and let us know. If your child is absent, please call 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 before the absence, explaining the reason and the dates the student will be away from school. Ms. Self will provide students with a Planned Absence Form for their teachers to sign. Once the student has collected the signatures, they may return the form to Ms. Self.

Vine & Village Service Trips

For the fifth consecutive year, all Upper School students will participate in community service at **Vine and Village**, which operates a weekly food pantry in the University neighborhood each Tuesday. They feed hundreds of families a month, providing weeks' worth of shelf-stable, frozen, and fresh groceries. Led by Episcopal faculty advisors and administrators, our student groups help set up the food distribution, greet clients, and load cars. It's a good way for us to express our values of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility by assisting our neighbors in need.

Every student will serve at least once at Vine and Village. The trip will count as two hours toward their service-hour requirement.

Dr. Fitzgerald to Host Parent Roundtable on Sleep on September 24, 2026 at 8:00 am

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Senior parents are welcome to join us and cheer on the fun!

Coming Up Next Week

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 9/21 - Riley Fields
- Tuesday, 9/22 - Writing Center Fellows
- Wednesday, 9/23 - Emma McGraw ‘27
- Thursday, 9/24 - Percussion Performance
- Friday, 9/25 - Braeden Rodgers ‘27

Beyond Next Week

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 give students, parents, and advisors a 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.

College Counseling Updates

College Counseling Fall Events:

Wednesday, 9/23 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM - Service Academy Information Night - Maumelle Charter High School. This is for students who may be interested in learning about a U.S. Service Academy for college. There will be representatives from all the Service Academies present, as well as staff from congressional offices to explain the Congressional Nomination process.

Monday, 9/28 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Central Arkansas Private Schools College Fair - UALR Jack Stephens Center. 9th-11th grade students and parents are highly encouraged to attend to meet with college admissions officers and representatives from around the country. Students should **register in advance with Strive Scan** to share their information with colleges.

Tuesday, 9/29 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM - Coat to Coast College Night- Join Princeton, Dartmouth, Vanderbilt, USC, and Northeastern for a joint information program in Murphy Theater at Pulaski Academy (located in the Meyer Student Pavilion across Napa Valley from the main campus). **Register in advance using this link.**

Thursday, 10/1 | 6:00 PM - Senior Parent Financial Aid Zoom Meeting - Join us for a Zoom meeting covering topics concerning the financial aid application process led by financial aid experts from Arkansas Tech University & Lafayette College. Register in advance for this webinar **using this link.**

Upcoming College Visits at Episcopal

Mon, 9/21 | 10:00AM (6) - University of Mary Washington - University of Mary Washington is a public liberal arts university located in Fredericksburg, Virginia, about 50 miles from both Richmond and Washington, D.C. UMW enrolls roughly 4,100 students and offers more than 60 undergraduate programs with strengths in Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education, along with a 13:1 student-faculty ratio and small classes. UMW is known for its focus on career preparation, undergraduate research, and close faculty mentorship. Their athletic teams, the Eagles, compete in NCAA Division III!

College Visit Week:

- 9/28 - University of Richmond, Vanderbilt University, Grinnell College, Saint Louis University
- 9/29 - Tulane University, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M, Centre College, Hampden-Sydney, Baylor University, Centenary College, University of Chicago, University of Tulsa
- 9/30 - Washington University in St. Louis, Millsaps College

Health Screenings

Health Screenings for 6th and 8th graders and all new students to Episcopal in MS and US will be September 15, 2026. Screenings will include: Vision, hearing, BP, height, weight, and scoliosis for 6th and 8th girls and 8th grade boys. The senior nursing students from UAMS College of Nursing will be assisting us this year with our screenings.

Please remind your student(s) to bring or wear their glasses or contacts for the vision portion of the screening. Scoliosis screenings will be performed using the privacy of the girl's locker room in the gym for ladies and the large Auxiliary Gym bathroom for boys. Girls need to wear a sports bra or tank top for the scoliosis screening as shirts are removed to observe the back. When performing the scoliosis test, the back is visible to the observers. The student will stand straight with hands to the side, then they will bend forward and the scoliometer will be used. The student's skeletal frame will be observed from all sides. Two nurses will be present for scoliosis screenings.

- If your child is under the care of a physician for scoliosis please let the school nurse know via an email by September 14, 2026
- If your child is under the care of a physician for scoliosis and it has been greater than 1 year since their last appointment, please follow-up with the physician and send the school nurse the upcoming appointment date and time by September 14, 2026
- If you do not want your child screened for scoliosis at school, and they are not currently under the care of a physician for scoliosis, you will need to get a current scoliosis evaluation from their physician and turn the report into Nurse Hopkins, ASAP. When you make the doctor's appointment, please send the confirmation appointment date and time to the school nurse by Monday, September 14 by 3:00PM, so they will not be screened for scoliosis

*Parents will receive a referral letter for further testing if there is an issue detected as a result of the screenings. **Please contact Nurse Hopkins** if you have any questions or concerns.

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!

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**

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 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!

Wildcat Club Available Following Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Lower School will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 2, following Grandparents & Special Friends Day. For students who will remain on campus after dismissal, Wildcat Club will be available until 6:00 p.m. **Please register your student here.**

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!