October 30, 2026

Education Freedom Accounts - 2nd Quarter Payments

The 2nd 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:**https://classwallet.storylane.io/share/jpmp1kb7jcjt**

Dr. Griffin has Joined Substack

Outside of his role as Head of School, Dr. Griffin occasionally shares stories about people, places, and the lessons they teach us on Substack. His latest piece offers a timely reminder that unexpected turns can lead somewhere worthwhile. We hope his reflections bring to mind a few of your own! **Read his latest piece and explore more of his writing here.**

Attention: 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, 18, and 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**.

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!

2026-27 Annual Fund: Cultivate Excellence

At Episcopal Collegiate, generosity is an investment in purpose, creating opportunities for students today while strengthening the path forward for generations of Wildcats to come. Every gift plays a meaningful role in advancing the School's mission and enriching the student experience. Through the Episcopal Collegiate Annual Fund our community can give in ways that will make a lasting impact on our school.



- Lauren and Nate Steel, Chairmen for the Annual Fund 2026-27
- Meredith and Chad Causey
- Nikki and Lee Hastings
- Olivia and Joe Ramsey
- Mary and Dave Ritchey

Feel free to make a pledge and pay later or make a gift now. **Annual Fund 26-27**

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

If you missed the 3rd-5th grade Math parent chat this week, be sure to check out the bar modeling video recommendation from math teachers Tina West, Lauren Jenkins, and Chelsea Kane. Also new on the playlist is an NAIS podcast that asks parents to consider potential downfalls of removing all levels of anxiety from student experiences. The Parent Playlist can also be found anytime **on our website** under Parent Resources or scan the QR code below.

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.

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

We had so much fun starting our day with our annual Halloween parade! We loved seeing all of the creative costumes and the excitement our students brought to the morning. We hope you all have a fun and safe Halloween tomorrow!

On Monday, we will kick off our annual ArCANsas Food Drive, which will run through November 20. Our goal is to collect 2,026 food items, and I have no doubt we will reach it with your generosity! Students may drop off donations in the collection boxes by each entrance as they arrive each morning.

Next Friday at 2:00 p.m., we will celebrate our first graders as they migrate to Mexico during our annual Monarch Migration. We look forward to this special Lower School tradition!

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe Halloween weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

ArCANsas Food Drive Begins Next Week

The Episcopal Collegiate community is excited to begin our 2026 ArCANsas Food Drive in partnership with the **Arkansas Food Bank** to help eliminate hunger in our state. All three divisions - Lower, Middle, and Upper schools will be working together to collect non-perishable items. We will set a collection goal of 2,026 items. Please use this **link** to learn about suggested items to donate.

Collection bins will be provided in the Lower, Middle, and Upper schools. The Drive will begin on November 2 and run through November 20. Please be on the lookout for updates about the Drive in future Wildcat Weekly editions. Let's all work together to help our community!

Interested in Lacrosse? Try Lax Clinic for Boys in Grades 3–8

The Episcopal and Catholic High lacrosse teams are teaming up to host a free Try Lax Clinic on Saturday, November 7, at the Catholic High turf. Boys in grades 3–8 are invited to come give lacrosse a try!

The clinic will run from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with check-in beginning at 9:45 a.m. Registration is free, and families can pre-register at **LittleRockLacrosse.com**.

No experience necessary!

Pride Patrol - November 2-6

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:

- Wright Ramsey
- Millie Reed
- Sara Taylor Retzer
- Sarah Robinson Newberry
- Ben Rojas
- Bryce Scanlon
- Holland Scanlon

Chapel News

In Community Chapel this week, our 4th grade class kicked off this year's character trait class presentations with their presentation on "integrity." Next week, we'll hear from a representative from the Arkansas Food Bank in preparation for our fall non-perishable food drive. In PreK and Kindergarten chapels we heard about the story of Moses building the Tabernacle. Next week, we will read the book My Love, God is Everywhere by Victoria Robb Powers and Cameron Mason Vickery.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on Wednesday, November 4. 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, November 4, 2026:

Procession
- Cross: William Dare
- Candle: Molly Painter
- Candle: Adeline Parnell

Readers
- Margaret Bronni
- Merritt Holcomb

Cantors (for October 28, November 4, and November 11)
- Becca Leacock
- Cooper Chance
- Pierce Love
- Sara Taylor Retzer

1st Grade Partners
- Hayleigh Herrera
- Tommy Hogate
- Jasmine Jones
- Kennedy King
- Brady Makris
- Harvey Rhodes

You can view the schedule of chapel duties for the remainder of the school year using the links below or on the Godly Play Canvas page.

- **Chapel Assignments for 5th Grade**
- **Cantor Assignments for 4th and 5th Grade**

Grace & Peace,
Michelle Moore
Lower School Chaplain

Mark Your Calendars

- November 6 | Monarch Migration, 2pm
- November 23-27 | Thanksgiving Break
- December 16 | Christmas Programs: PreK3-1st, 9:00am; 2nd-5th, 1:30pm
- December 17 | Sing Along at 10am, Classroom parties to follow, Dismissal at 11:30am

Helpful Links

- **Absentee Reporting Form Link**
- **Lower School Live Morning News**
- **Wildcat Parent Hub**

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Hello, Families,

We are looking forward to a fun Halloween today. Many of our advisory groups are having Halloween Parties - thank you, parents, for supplying most of the food and drink for these! We also held our iconic Middle School Halloween parade in the Championship gym from 8-8:15am this morning and had outside judges awarding costume wearers for the scariest costume, the most creative, and the best ensemble. Additionally, for the past two weeks, advisory groups have been painting pumpkins, with the overarching theme being "The Great Outdoors." It's always exciting to see the creativity that our students display through this process.

Electives Awards

At Monday's Morning Meeting, electives teachers recognized outstanding effort, attitude, teamwork, and leadership in their respective classes for the month of September. Here are the classes and names of those recognized:

- 6th Grade PE - Will Marshall, Kennedy Smith
- 7th Grade Latin - Evelyn Bumpass
- 8th Grade Latin 1 - Simon Mangum
- Spanish I - Isabel Wood
- French I - Mary Miller Fontes
- Art 6 - Eva McNally, George Wright
- Art 1 - Elliot Smith, Viv Vogel
- Art 2 - Kathryn Koch, Austin Thomas

ArCANsas Food Drive Begins Next Week

At Thursday's Morning Meeting, Sixth grader Max G. challenged the middle school to match his personal can and food drive donations. Since last year's Food Drive, Max has made food insecurity a personal mission and has been saving birthday and Christmas money to purchase food for the Food Bank. When we heard about it, we thought he could inspire all of us to reach a little deeper this year to contribute to our drive. For more about the drive, please read below.

The Episcopal Collegiate community is excited to begin our 2026 ArCANsas Food Drive in partnership with the **Arkansas Food Bank** to help eliminate hunger in our state. All three divisions - Lower, Middle, and Upper schools will be working together to collect non-perishable items. Please use this **link** to learn about suggested items to donate.

Collection bins will be provided in the Lower, Middle, and Upper schools. The Drive will begin on November 2nd and run through November 20th. Please be on the lookout for updates about the Drive in future Wildcat Weekly editions. Let's all work together to help our community.

Community Service Announcement re. Drop-Off

If you drop your child off at school prior to 7:30, please drop them off by the Wildcat so that they can be in a supervised space (the dining hall). Students should not be in the middle school building prior to 7:30am.

Also, and for principally eighth grade parents, if you drop your child off at the first doors to the middle school (immediately after turning the corner), please do not then pull around cars in front of you who are dropping students off at the main entrance. We do not want children exiting cars to be hit by people who have already dropped off their students. Thank you!

Virtual Book Talk #4

We had our third virtual book talk this week and discussed Chapters 8-10 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 fourth and final session, which will take place on Tuesday, November 10. 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#

Boys interested in trying out lacrosse?

Our boy's team and Catholics' team will be hosting a "Try Lax" clinic on Saturday, 11/7, at the Catholic High turf. Clinic is from 10am-12noon and registration is free. Check in is at 9:45am. If you would like to pre-register, you may do so at **Littlerocklacrosse.com**.

Important Reminder from the Health Room: Student Medications

For the safety of all students, Episcopal Collegiate policy prohibits students from carrying prescription or over-the-counter medications while at school or attending school functions, with exceptions for inhalers, insulin, glucagon, and epinephrine auto-injectors.

All other medications must be brought to the Health Room by a parent or another adult, along with the required medication forms, which can be found on the School's website under Quick Links.

We ask that Parents PLEASE DO NOT:

- Send medications with students to take upon arriving at school, during lunch, or after athletic practices.
- Place medications in lunch bags, backpacks, purses, or lockers.
- Allow students to carry over-the-counter medications such as ibuprofen, Tylenol, Midol, cough or sinus medications.

These procedures help our nursing staff monitor allergies, potential drug interactions, proper dosages, and parental authorization. They also help prevent students from sharing medications with one another.

Please note: Ibuprofen and Tylenol are available in the Health Rooms and can be administered in accordance with school protocols.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe!
Nurse Lenna Hopkins, RN, NCSN

It's Not Too Late to Order School Pictures! (Middle & Upper Schools)

If you'd like to order individual picture retakes, please look for an order card coming soon with a code and instructions for ordering.

To order class pictures, please pick up a paper order form from your advisor or the Upper School Office and return the completed form to the Upper School Office by Friday, November 6.

A Note from Dr. Graham

This week was all about transitioning from an amazing Homecoming Week back to "normal" school. We have 15 school days until Thanksgiving Break and then three weeks until the end of the fall semester. Every day matters, and I encourage you to do everything in your power to ensure your child's faithful attendance.

Looking ahead to next week, I hope to see many of you on Wednesday afternoon for our Fall Athletics Recognition Ceremony in Championship Gym. We will celebrate our outstanding fall teams and individual performers. Also, I encourage you to read **Dr. Griffin's personal Substack essay**. I found his message relatable and inspiring.

Thank you for supporting our efforts on behalf of your children.

See you out there.
Kellen

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

Important Reminder from the Health Room: Student Medications

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Thank you for helping us keep our students safe!
Nurse Lenna Hopkins, RN, NCSN

Mandatory Training for Juniors- A Note from Nurse Lenna

Mandatory Training for Juniors,

CPR hands-only training for Juniors will be conducted on **Thursday and the morning of Friday, November 5 and 6**. **This is not a certification, but hands-only training to meet the qualifications for graduation.**

We will meet in US 215 during your study hall time. If you have a current CPR certification please scan your certification and send it to Nurse Hopkins at **lhopkins@episcopalcollegiate.org**. If you have any questions please let me know. Any Seniors that missed this training last year can make it up during your study hall.

Thank you,
Nurse Hopkins - Extension 2404

It's Not Too Late to Order School Pictures! (Middle & Upper Schools)

If you'd like to order individual picture retakes, please look for an order card coming soon with a code and instructions for ordering.

To order class pictures, please pick up a paper order form from your advisor or the Upper School Office and return the completed form to the Upper School Office by Friday, November 6.

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.

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.

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.

Coming Up Next Week

Fall Athletics Recognition Ceremony

We will hold our Fall Athletics Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, November 4 at 2:30 pm in the Championship Gym. All fall sports teams and outstanding individual performers will be acknowledged during this ceremony. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

11th Grade CPR Training

11th graders will receive CPR training during their study halls on Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6. Please direct any questions to Nurse Lenna Hopkins.

Canned Food Auction

Upper School Student Council is excited to host our second annual Canned Food Auction during chapel on Friday, November 6!

Students and faculty have generously donated a variety of items for students to bid on by pledging canned food donations. Last year, we collected a record-breaking number of cans, and we hope to surpass that total this year! Students will have two weeks, November 9–20, to fulfill their pledges by dropping off their canned goods in the Upper School collection bins. Once their pledged cans have been collected, students can claim their auction items.

All canned goods collected will be donated to the Arkansas Food Bank. Students are also encouraged to bring in additional canned goods to donate, even if they do not participate in the auction. We look forward to another fun event that brings our community together in support of a great cause!

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 11/2 - Holy Eucharist: All Saints & All Souls
- Tuesday, 11/3 - Mei Borg '27
- Wednesday, 11/4 - Fall Athletics Recognition Ceremony (2:30 pm)
- Thursday, 11/5 - Father Rob
- Friday, 11/6 - Upper School Canned Food Drive Auction

Beyond Next Week

- Fall Play - Thursday, November 12
- Thanksgiving Break - Saturday, November 21 - Sunday, November 29
- Choir/Orchestra Christmas Concert - Monday, December 7
- In-Class Exam Review - Tuesday, December 8 - Thursday, December 10
- End of 2nd Quarter - Thursday, December 10
- Reading Day - Friday, December 11
- End-of-Semester Exams - Monday, December 14 - Thursday, December 17
- Christmas Break - Friday, December 18 - Monday, January 4

Fall Sports Recognition - Wednesday, November 4:

Fall Sports Recognition will take place on Wednesday, November 4, at 2:25 p.m. in the Championship Gym.

Recognition Details:

- Date: Wednesday, November 4
- Time: 2:25 p.m.
- Location: Championship Gym

We will be recognizing our football, volleyball, cross country, tennis, and golf programs.

Varsity Letterman Jackets Available to Order

Wildcat letterman jackets are available for all student-athletes who have completed a varsity sports season! Eligible athletes and families can view jacket options and place their orders through **Jostens here**.

Wildcats Basketball Spirit Store is Now Open!

- Find items that are specifically for your and your team.
- There is also spiritwear available for your family and friends.

OUR SHOP DETAILS

- Shop Now: **TEAM STORE LINK**
- Store Open From: October 20 - November 3, 2026

Wildcat Football | Game Day Expectations

- **PLEASE SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN:** Kids should not roam campus or be in the gym, hallways, quad, classrooms, locker rooms, etc. without an adult.
- **STAY IN DESIGNATED AREAS:** Stadium • Stands • Designated Game Day Grassy Areas
- **RESPECT RESTRICTED AREAS:** Stay off team sidelines, locker rooms and coaches' areas.
- **BE A POSITIVE FAN:** Support our Wildcats. Respect players, coaches, officials & visitors.
- **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF**

A Note from the Director of Athletics

Wildcat Parents,

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. Please choose a shift to help us out. **Parent Volunteers - Gate Sign ups**

As always, thank you so much for all of your support!

Micah Marsh
Director of Athletics | Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

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 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. *Please note, we will no longer be using the Episcopal Athletics Youtube Page.* **Episcopal Wildcats Hudl 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!

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!