November 6, 2026

Save the Date: Parents' Auxiliary Meeting

Please save the date for our next Parents' Auxiliary Meeting. All members of the parent community are welcome!

- Friday, November 13
- 12:00 pm
- Upper School Library

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.

With Veterans Day approaching, Dr. Griffin's latest piece takes us back to his time at the U.S. Naval Academy, where an unexpected submarine assignment taught him lasting lessons about leadership, service, and the importance of getting to know the people around us. **Read his latest piece "What I learned from a Narwhal" 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!

Why do kids sometimes have such big reactions to seemingly small things? This week's Parent Playlist explores what's happening beneath those big emotions—from sensory overload in younger children to the emotional ups and downs of adolescence—and offers practical ways parents can respond with understanding while staying connected. In addition, Dr. Leverette has recommended a sleep podcast that is well-timed for those whose children are adjusting to the time change. The Parent Playlist can also be found anytime **on our website** under Parent Resources or scan the QR code.

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

All first-grade families are invited to join us for our annual Monarch Migration at 2:00pm today! Students will begin their migration through the halls before making their way to the P. Allen Smith Teaching Gardens. We hope you can join us for this fun celebration!

Our ArCANsas Food Drive is off to a great start, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal of 2,026 food items! During Community Chapel this week, students learned more about the Food Bank and the important work they do to serve our community. Two students also shared how their experiences with the Food Drive have made an impact on them and inspired them to find ways to give even more. Help us reach our goal of 2,026 cans! Click **here** for a list of suggested food items. Next week, we will celebrate Holy Eucharist during Community Chapel. All students should wear their dress uniforms, but tennis shoes are welcome. Please note that chapel will be extended by 15 minutes, with dismissal at 8:45am. We hope you can join us for this special celebration of Thanksgiving.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Pride Patrol - November 9-13

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:

- Seth Schultz
- Mary Ashley Steel
- Livingston Strother
- Keyveon Webb
- Claire Wilkerson
- Jane Bright
- Margaret Bronni

Chapel News

This week in Community Chapel, we hosted a representative from the Arkansas Food Bank to help us prepare for our upcoming fall non-perishable food drive. Next week in Community Chapel, we will celebrate Holy Eucharist. All students should wear their dress uniforms but can wear tennis shoes. Chapel will end at 8:45am. In PreK and Kindergarten chapels we read the book My Love, God is Everywhere by Victoria Robb Powers and Cameron Mason Vickery. Next week in PreK chapels we will talk about the amazing messages of prophets we meet in the Old Testament.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on Wednesday, November 11. You are always welcome!

- 1st-5th: 8:00-8:45pm, Erwin Performance Hall & Gymnasium
- PreK 3: 8:55-9:10am, 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 11, 2026:

Procession

- Cross: Layla Turner
- Candle: Dakota Phillips
- Candle: Sammy Kemp
- Eucharist Helper: Charlotte Davis
- Eucharist Helper: Nathan Green

Readers

- William Wells
- Grayson Williams

Cantors (for October 28, November 4, and November 11)

- Becca Leacock
- Cooper Chance
- Pierce Love
- Sara Taylor Retzer

1st Grade Partners

- George Carvelli
- Rush Jones
- Peter Kelley
- Sully Lee
- Scarlett Ray
- Jaeger Whaley

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**

Mark Your Calendars

- 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

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

During Thursday's Morning Meeting, our eighth grade subject-area teachers recognized students for outstanding effort, attitude, perseverance, and overall performance in their subject areas. Below please find the students who received these commendations:

- Algebra: HJ Ford, Kendall Vargas
- US/Arkansas History: Charlie Oberste, Marco Gutierrez
- Physical Science: Preston Holsclaw, Margaret Dake
- English: Georgia O'Connor, Rowan Wells

ArCANsas Food Drive

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.

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 for boys grades 3-8 this 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

Dear Upper School Families,

On Wednesday afternoon, we honored the outstanding efforts of our fall sports teams and some individual standouts at our Fall Athletics Recognition Ceremony. Thanks to those of you who attended. As I write, our dance and cross country teams are gearing up for their state championship competitions, and our varsity football team is preparing for its final game tonight against Baptist Prep.

This morning during Chapel, Student Council will lead our second annual Canned Food Drive, which is a fun way to get our Upper School community into the spirit of generosity.

Looking ahead to next week, our varsity and junior varsity basketball and cheer teams open their seasons, and Mr. Mainard O'Connell's Theater Production class is staging a one-act play on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. I hope to see some of you there.

Thank you,
Kellen

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

Varsity Dance State Showcase - Saturday, November 7

Come out and support our Wildcat Dance Team at the Varsity Dance State Showcase this Saturday, November 7, at 4:00 p.m. in Episcopal Collegiate's Championship Gym!

The team will perform all three of their state competition routines, and Mary Austin Griffin '27 will perform her award-winning solo.

With the Wildcats preparing to defend their state title next Saturday in Alma, we'd love to pack the gym and give them a great send-off before competition!

ArCANsas Food Drive

We are 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 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.

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 Play

Our US theatre program will present a one act play on Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 pm. We'd love to see you there.

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 11/9 - Bella Pumphrey '27
- Tuesday, 11/10 - Hawkins Crocker '27
- Wednesday, 11/11 - Veterans' Day Recognition
- Thursday, 11/12 - Lawrence Montgomery '27
- Friday, 11/13 - Jake Martin '27

Beyond Next Week

- 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

College Counseling Updates

College Talk: What to Do When

9th, 10th, and 11th grade parents are invited to join the college counselors on Wednesday, November 11 at 5:30 pm in Upper School Room 215 to learn "What to Do When" as your child prepares for college applications. The college counselors will walk through the ideal action steps for each grade level, so you feel prepared and ready when it is time for your child to apply to college. This will be especially helpful for parents going through the process for the first time or if it has been several years since you had a child apply to college. Snacks and drinks provided.

Winter Sports- Gate Volunteers Needed!

Winter Sports - Gate Volunteer Help! If your child is participating in a sport this winter, 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**

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**.

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!

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!

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!