November 13, 2026

TODAY! (NOVEMBER 13 AT 12:00 PM) 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

Join the Circle of Excellence | 2027 Fly Me to the Moon Parents' Auxiliary Auction

Make an even greater impact at this year's Parents' Auxiliary Auction, *Fly Me to the Moon*, on February 20! We invite you to join the **Circle of Excellence** and help support the programs our students love, the traditions that bring our families together, and professional growth opportunities for the faculty and staff who make Episcopal so special. Your **$1,000 contribution** includes two Auction tickets, admission to the February 4 Patrons Party, and special recognition in the Auction program.

Circle of Excellence supporters will be seated together, with the opportunity to request up to two preferred guest pairings. A seating preference form will be shared one month before the Auction, and at least one pairing will be accommodated.

Join the Circle of Excellence by selecting **Circle of Excellence** from the Gift Designation dropdown menu.

Additional ticket options and event details will be shared in the coming weeks.

We are grateful for every Episcopal family and the many ways you strengthen our school community. Thank you for considering this invitation. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Wildcat Tipoff | Tuesday, November 17

Join us for Wildcat Tipoff on Tuesday, November 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m., as we kick off an exciting night of basketball! Come cheer on the Wildcats and enjoy free hamburgers and hot dogs. Let's pack the stands and bring the Wildcat spirit!

Updated Wildcat Warehouse Hours - Please See Below:

The Wildcat Store will be closed for in-person shopping from November 18 through December 17. During this time, families may continue to shop online or contact **ahughes1@episcopalcolleigate.org** for assistance with purchases. Thank you for your understanding!

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.

In case you missed it, in recognition of Veterans Day this past Wednesday, Dr. Griffin shared a reflection on 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.**

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

This week's Parent Playlist features positive psychology researcher Shawn Achor exploring how our beliefs shape our happiness, resilience, and well-being. It's a great preview of his upcoming parent webinar, *The Power of Beliefs*, on Dec. 1st.

The Parent Playlist can also be found anytime **on our website** under Parent Resources or scan the QR code below.

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**.

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**

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**

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

It's hard to believe we are just one week away from Thanksgiving Break! As we head into these final days, we have a couple of exciting things happening in the Lower School.

Our ArCANsas Food Drive continues through next Friday, November 20, and we are making great progress toward our goal of collecting 2,026 cans! Donations have really picked up this week, and I'm hopeful we can reach our goal with everyone's help. I want to say a special thank you to Mr. Daniel and our fifth-grade students, who have done a wonderful job counting and boxing donations each day. We appreciate everyone's generosity and continued support!

Good luck to our ChessCats, who will compete in a tournament here on campus this Saturday in partnership with CPR Chess and LR Knights. A special thank you to Mr. Rogers for organizing this event and providing this opportunity for our students!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Pride Patrol - November 16-20

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
- Coleman Carter
- George Carvelli
- William Dare

- Charlotte Davis
- Darina Dementyeva
- Jonas Goree

Chapel News

In Community Chapel this week, we celebrated Holy Eucharist and practiced the "gratitude flip." Next week, we'll hear a presentation about collaboration from our 3rd grade class. In PreK and Kindergarten chapels we talked about the amazing messages of prophets in the Old Testament. Next week, we'll talk about the story of Jonah and Big Fish.

We hope you can join us for Chapel on Wednesday, November 18. 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 18, 2026:
Procession:
- Cross: Howard Marks
- Candle: Kennedy King
- Candle: Hendrix Shively

Readers:
- William Staley
- Clark Tucker

Cantors (for November 18, December 2 and December 9):
- Darina Dementyeva
- Charlotte Rudofsky
- Evie Slabaugh
- Thompson McGrath

1st Grade Partners:
- Jonas Bezold
- Margaret Bronni
- Hank Cowles
- Alice Guthrie
- George Hall
- Arden Stephens

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

Community Health Update from Nurse Rawn and Nurse Hopkins

Dear Parents,

Keeping our school community healthy is a shared priority, and we appreciate your partnership in helping us provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. As a helpful reminder, we've gathered the following guidelines from our Community Handbook and School Health Services webpage regarding when students should remain home due to illness.

Community Handbook: While illnesses remain a part of our everyday lives, we ask that you not send your children to school when they are displaying symptoms of illness, no matter the end diagnosis. Fever, diarrhea, vomiting, uncontrolled coughing are all reasons for your child to be kept at home. To return to school your child must be free of these symptoms for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication. With vomiting and/or diarrhea the student must also return to a normal diet. The exception is a cough, if this is the only symptom and medication will control the cough, then they can be sent to school. A fever at Episcopal is considered anything greater than 100° F. In the Lower School, if your child is coughing, congested, with a snotty nose they may be asked to wear a mask while at school to control the spread of viruses to others. Students that become ill at school will be sent to the Health Room. If it is determined that the student is too ill to remain at school, the nurse or office personnel will call the parents. Parents are required to pick up sick students as soon as possible.

From the Episcopal Collegiate website under Health Services- Illness Protocol: While illnesses remain a part of our everyday lives, we ask that you do not send your children to school when they are displaying symptoms of illness, regardless of the final diagnosis. Fever, diarrhea, vomiting, and uncontrolled coughing are all reasons to keep your child at home. To return to school, your child must be free of these symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of medication. In the case of vomiting and/or diarrhea, the student must also be able to resume a normal diet. The exception is coughing; if this is the only symptom and medication can control it, the student may return to school. A fever at Episcopal is considered any temperature above 100° F. In the Lower School, if your child is coughing, congested, or has a runny nose, they may be asked to wear a mask while at school to help control the spread of viruses to others.

As a general reminder, students should remain home when displaying symptoms of illness, regardless of whether a diagnosis has been confirmed. We recognize that unexpected illnesses can create challenges for families and appreciate your partnership in following these guidelines to help keep our entire school community healthy.

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

Helpful Links

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

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Dear Families,

During Monday's Morning Meeting, our sixth grade teachers recognized their Top Cats for the month of October. Teachers described these recipients as unflappable, having good habits, making the classroom a better place to learn, true champions who keep energy high, and "No Excuses Students," who are accountable and set high standards for themselves. Below please find our recipients.

Social Studies - Hudson Peacock, Violet Olsen
Science - Henry Norwood, Stella Mangum
Writing - Ace Blake, Evie Peek
English - John Allen, Eva McNally

Additionally, seventh grade teachers recognized their "Seeking the Summit" awardees for October. In their nominations, a theme for their recipients was students who were consistently actively engaged in class, inquisitive, and who regularly and frequently ask questions. The awardees are listed below.

English - Lola Boyd, Keller Lee
Earth Science - Susan Grace Mitchell, Elliot Smith
World History - Vivie Stiles, Harrison Keener
Pre Algebra - Caroline Carmichael, Peyton McMillian

ArCANsas Food Drive Continues This Week (Ends on 11/20)
We have seen great participation from a number of middle school students/families for this, and we hope that everyone will contribute a handful of items to this worthy cause. Students win house points for their contributions, and that has injected some real energy into this event! This is the final week of our drive, and on November 20, our partners at the Arkansas Food Bank will collect what we have gathered to be distributed to fellow Arkansans in need, so please consider giving!! So far, here are the number of items donated and separated by house. We have already exceeded our 2000 item goal!

Oak House - 1,664
Maple House - 297
Cypress House - 245
Cottonwood House - 51

We are calling this coming Monday, 11/16, 2-Can Monday, and we hope that on the heels of a weekend all of our students can bring in at least two cans on Monday morning.

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A Note from Dr. Graham

Dear Upper School Families,

We've been in school for more than three months, the days are getting shorter, and the weather is turning colder. This is the time of the school year when fatigue and distractions can set in, which is why we're focused on making the most of each day, knowing a well-deserved Thanksgiving Break is right around the corner.

Congratulations to our basketball and cheer teams for kicking off the winter athletics season. Special shoutout to our dance team as they defend their state championship this weekend in Alma.

One of the highlights of this week was the Theater department's production of Mr. Winkler's Birthday Party, a one-act play performed by a group of dedicated student-actors on Wednesday evening.

Have a great weekend!

See you out there,

Kellen

Updates, Reminders, & Action Items

ArCANsas Food Drive Runs Through Next Week

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 9th and run through November 20th. 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.

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Coming Up Next Week

Chapel Schedule

- Monday, 11/16 - Josh Martin ‘27
- Tuesday, 11/17 - Xavier Griffin ‘27
- Wednesday, 11/18 - 3rd Grade Character Virtue
- Thursday, 11/19 - Aubrey Moorehead
- Friday, 11/20 - College Trip Review

Athletics Schedule

Let’s go, Wildcats!

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

Wildcat Tipoff | Tuesday, November 17

Join us for Wildcat Tipoff on Tuesday, November 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m., as we kick off an exciting night of basketball! Come cheer on the Wildcats and enjoy free hamburgers and hot dogs. Let's pack the stands and bring the Wildcat spirit!

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.

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!