

July 23, 2021

Dear Upper School Families,

I hope that the summer break has been good to you and your families so far, and that the coming weeks will continue to offer opportunities to enjoy time with family and friends. I have enjoyed seeing some of our students back on campus for summer workouts and visiting with teachers. I am very glad to be working with you this year as Interim Head of Upper School and I'm grateful for the warm welcome I've received from so many of you.

You will notice that I am not including COVID protocols in this email. We are still working through those plans, and Dr. Griffin will share those details with you in an email soon. I will also provide more specific Upper School protocols closer to the start of school.

Back to School Information

Please make sure to visit the [Back to School Resource](#) page located on the Episcopal Collegiate School website for comprehensive back-to-school information, including text book orders, supplies, uniforms, [summer assignments and enrichment](#), and much more.

Parents should be able to log onto Veracross to see their child's schedule. Please note that your child's locker assignment and combination may be found in the top left-hand corner of the schedule.

- To find your child's schedule, go to your parent portal, and the link displays to the right of pictures/report card links and is called current class schedules.
- **Parents of students new to Episcopal should have received email information about logging into Veracross in early July. This email expires after 24 hours.** Should you have missed this window, please contact Mr. Don Stalls, Director of Technology and Innovation, dstalls@episcopalcollegiate.org.
- We are pleased to announce our partnership with local bookstore Wordsworth Books for our textbooks for this year. The Wordsworth website has "gone live" for families to order textbooks. Please visit the [back to school resources](#) page on our website for an updated textbook list and link to Wordsworth and for updated information as the summer progresses. Textbooks should be ordered no later than Tuesday, July 27, for on-time delivery. You will need to choose whether to ship them to your house or pick them up in store after you order. The books are not readily available on shelves in the store.
- Please address scheduling questions to Mrs. Fitz, jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org, or 501.372.1194, ext. 2461. The School does not make class/schedule/advisor changes based on requests for a particular teacher.

US Class Rotation Calendar

[This](#) link will take you to the class rotation calendar, which depicts the Upper School class schedule for each day of our school calendar. For the first two days of the start of the school year (September 18 and 19), all classes will meet.

Canvas Training Sessions For Parents

As many of you know, Episcopal Collegiate has moved to a new learning management system (LMS) that will replace Haiku. Consequently, we want to make sure that parents know how to navigate this system to be able to see their child's progress and grades. Below are two virtual training options that we will be offering at the year's inception:

Wednesday, August 18 | 5:00 pm, Google Meet Code: meet.google.com/vii-ovst-zqr

Friday, August 20 | 8:30 am, Google Meet Code: meet.google.com/vii-ovst-zqr

New Student & Parent Orientation

On Monday, August 16 from 9:00-11:15 am all new to Episcopal ninth-eleventh grade students and their parents should plan to attend an in-person program in the Upper School Simpson Library.

Upper School Parents' Night

Please mark your calendar for the Upper School Parents' Night on Thursday, August 26. We are in the process of finalizing the plans and details. More information will follow as we approach the start of school.

Wildcat Warehouse - Need Episcopal Gear?

I am pleased to share with you that every Friday of the school year will be Spirit Day!! Students will be allowed to wear spirit wear to school. For your shopping pleasure the [The Wildcat Warehouse](#) will be open on:

Monday, August 16 | 9:00-11:30 am and 2:30-3:30 pm

Tuesday, August 17 | 10:30-11:15 am and 12:15-1:00 pm (before and after sixth grade parent orientation)

Friday, August 20 | During the Watermelon Supper

Parents can always order through the [online Wildcat Warehouse portal](#) and pick up at their student's school office. Orders will be ready for pick up after August 3rd. Items that are approved for daily wear are marked on the website as "Daily Uniform Approved." For questions, please contact Marcy Saoud at orders@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Used Uniform Sale

Used Uniforms will be set up in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall on the dates listed below. Parents are welcome to come during any of those times to shop used uniforms. We will utilize the honor system during the Used Uniform Sale. FACTS forms will be available and can be left in

the designated collection basket. No cash, checks, or credit cards will be accepted. Once school begins, Used Uniforms will be returned to the used uniform rooms in each division. If you have any questions about the Used Uniform Sale, please contact auxiliary@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Shopping hours will be 8:30 am-3:30 pm on the following days:

- Friday, July 23 - Wednesday, August 4
- Friday, August 6 - Tuesday, August 10
- Monday, August 16 - Tuesday, August 17

Toggery Pop-Up Shop - Thursday, August 5

The Toggery will set up a pop-up shop in the Middle/Upper School Dining Hall on Thursday, August 5 from 11:00 am-6:00 pm. Students will be able to try on and purchase new uniform items. Toggery staff will be on hand to help with any fitting needs and orders.

Student Medical Information Update

Students who have turned 16 are required to get their second meningococcal vaccine and evidence of this needs to be on file with the school by Wednesday, August 18. If your student will turn 16 after the beginning of school please make arrangements for this vaccine as soon as they turn 16. Also, any student requiring an asthma or allergy action plan should compile this information between now and the start of school. Your medical care provider will be able to provide this form for you. Please submit immunization records, action plans and/or medications to Nurse Lenna Hopkins on or before the first day of school. Nurse Hopkins can be reached via email, Lhopkins@episcopalcollegiate.org

Carpool Information

For the 2021-2022 school year we will be returning to our traditional carpool drop-off location near the main entrance to the Upper School. Please make sure to review the [carpool map](#) for directions. If your child will be late to school or will need to check out early for an appointment, please contact Mrs. Selby Boyd in the Upper School office at 501.371.1194 x2400 or at sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org.

Faculty Update

Joel Varley will join the Episcopal Collegiate faculty and teach Chemistry and AP Chemistry in the Upper School. Mr. Varley is a veteran educator with over 20 years of teaching and conducting research at the university level. Mr. Varley most recently taught at Sandy Spring Friends School in Sandy Spring, Maryland. He has been a dorm parent, coach, club sponsor, and advisor at his previous schools. In addition to his passion for teaching and working with his students, he is an avid cyclist. Mr. Varley graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics.

Scott Lien will move to the Upper School full time teaching all sections of ninth grade Civics and

Economics, while continuing to teach AP Research.

I know this is a lot of information to digest. Please know that we are available should you have any questions. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks!

Sincerely,

Matt Radtke
Interim Head of Upper School
Associate Head for Strategic Initiatives