

Dear Upper School Families,

I hope that the summer break has been good to you so far and that the coming weeks will continue to offer opportunities to enjoy time with family. Here at school, many of our teachers have been engaged in professional development activities specific to their subject areas, including virtual workshops, conferences, and summer institutes as well as the online scoring of the Advanced Placement examinations for their courses.

To reinforce the message sent by Dr. Perkinson yesterday, it is our goal and intention to hold in-person school with our original start date of Wednesday, August 19. With the plans to begin school in person, we have developed two very important sets of plans to provide families flexibility and to maximize the safety of students and faculty on campus.

First, if you look at the Hybrid Learning Objectives on our [Returning to Campus page](#), you will see the outline of our plans to accommodate students and staff who need to remain home while we are conducting in-person classes. Please reach out if you would like more details or complete [this form](#) if you are interested in this option. There is no deadline to indicate your preference to us, and we will maintain a great deal of flexibility as we get closer to school and move into the semester.

Second, we are developing comprehensive health and safety protocols and policies to mitigate the risks associated with a return to school. In the coming weeks, Dr. Perkinson will share details of those plans beginning next Friday. Among other policies and protocols, they will include our mask requirements, physical distancing strategies, and cohort isolation plans.

We know that the current health crisis means that we need to be well-prepared to make any transitions between in-person learning and E-Learning as seamlessly as possible while providing the highest possible quality educational experience to our students. We are prepared to do that. You'll find an overview of our plans for the coming school year on our Returning to Campus webpage (<https://www.episcopalcollegiate.org/2020-planning/returning-to-campus>).

Although we're only midway through the summer vacation, I wanted to share a few notes with you as we look forward to the fall.

### **Class Schedules**

First, you should now be able to see your child's schedule in Veracross. Go to your parent portal, and the link will display to the right of pictures/report card links; it is called current classsschedules. Parents of students new to Episcopal Collegiate should receive their login information for this student information database from Mr. Don Stalls, Director of Innovation & Technology. Should you have questions about your child's schedule, please contact Ms. Julie Fitz, Registrar, at [jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:jfitz@episcopalcollegiate.org) or via phone at 501-372-1194 x2461. Please note that the School does not make class/schedule changes based on requests for a particular teacher.

### **9th Grade Trip**

Given the recent increases in cases of COVID-19, we have had to cancel plans for this year's ninth-grade trip. I know that our students look forward to this event every year, and while I know that there's much to be said for the bonding that comes from traveling, hiking, and rafting together, we will be looking for ways that we can support our ninth graders while also keeping them safe.

### **Orientation for New 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grade Students**

Students who are new to Episcopal and entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 should join us in the Upper School Simpson Library on Monday, August 17, from 9:00 am until noon for an orientation program. If you have questions about the program, please contact Mr. Michael Carter, our Dean of Students, at [mcarter@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:mcarter@episcopalcollegiate.org), or by phone at x2513.

### **Back to School Information**

Please check the school's [Back to School Resources web page](#) for more back-to-school information, including notes on uniforms, health services, carpool, and school lunch. You'll also want to visit the [Summer Reading and Math Enrichment page](#) for information about summer assignments and other enrichment opportunities.

You'll find details about textbook ordering on the Back to School Resources page. Note that Follett, the company who provides textbooks and other class resources, will be offering free shipping for one week beginning July 10 (when the bookstore website goes live), so I expect that you'll want to take advantage of those savings.

### **Uniform Sales**

The Toggery will be offering a pop-up shop on Wednesday, July 29, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. The pop-up shop will be held in the Lower School Dining Hall. In conjunction with the pop-up shop, used uniforms will also be for sale at that time inside the Lower School Gym.

The Wildcat Warehouse will be open the following times for Spirit Wear sales:

Monday, August 12, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday, August 13, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm.

Additional times for the Wildcat Warehouse and Used Uniforms may be added closer to time.

### **Upper School Back to School Night for Parents**

I hope that you'll make plans to join us for the Upper School Back to School Night for parents on Thursday, August 27. The event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm and will give you the chance to meet your child's advisor and each of his or her teachers. We are holding out hope that this important event will be held in person. I will share our plans for the evening as we get closer, since we'll want to make sure that we're working within the most up-to-date recommendations from health professionals.

### **New Faculty**

You'll find a list of faculty members joining us this year, as well as information about their background and experience, [at this link](#).

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Please be on the lookout for a letter next week that will provide more details about our health and safety procedures for the fall. I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks!

Troy Urquhart  
Head of Upper School