



Johnson
COURTESY NEWS



MEAD HALL
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Lower School News

Issue 32 | August 19, 2022

Keep on Dreaming! Part 1

Back in the 2020-21 school year, I asked the St. Thaddeus church's Cemetery and Grounds committee members if they would trim back the overgrown shrubs that were blocking the sidewalk in the courtyard. We were using the courtyard as outdoor space for children to take a break from wearing masks as well as for music classes and reading time during Covid. What we had in place were two sidewalks, some dying shrubs, and a bit of grass around the flagpole. Students sat on the ground or on foam squares to eat their snacks or read.

The response of committee members, Roger Pizio and Danny Wozniak, wasn't, "Yes, we will cut back the shrubs;" rather, they responded by asking me to dream with them about transforming the courtyard into an outdoor classroom and gathering space. Out of our dream together, we not only have fresh shrubs, but also a beautiful refurbished courtyard for students and faculty to enjoy.

What I hope the children learn from the transformation of our courtyard space is that dreams can come true - through the dedication and hard work of those who dare to dream.



You can read more about Tuesday's courtyard dedication service in Dr. Sawyer's In the Loop newsletter.

See you at school!

Joanne

MORNING AND EXTENDED CARE NOTES

The majority of our STC families take advantage of our wonderful morning and extended care program, and we want it to function safely and efficiently. To that end, please review and follow these important guidelines pertaining to extended care.

Morning Care

- Registration is not required for morning care.
- Morning care begins at 7:00am.
- We require an adult to adult handoff for students. Please park and walk your child all the way to the gym each morning.

Extended Care

- Registration is required for extended care - [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Even if you used extended care last year, you need to re-register for this year.
- Even if you only use extended care occasionally, you need to register.
- Families only need to complete the registration once per year.
- Email is the preferred method of communication about changes to your regular extended care plan. Email Terrie Lehi at tlehi@meadhallschool.org.
- If email is not an option, you may also call the main office to notify the school of any extended care changes: 803-644-1122.
- Changes to extended care plans should be communicated prior to 1:30pm on the day of the change.
- It is great to let the teacher know, but it is essential that Terrie Lehi knows about any changes to your extended care plans as Terrie is the one who manages the extended care registration sheet for Mrs. Crump.
- Children who are registered for extended care should be picked up at the Greenville Street building.



CARLINE NOTES

What an awesome and speedy carline we have **this week. Thank you!**

Carline Reminders

- If your student is going home with a friend, you need to notify the main office (not just the teacher) because Terrie Lehi manages the carline call sheet.
- Students may not be signed out in the main office during car line from 2:15 - 3:05.



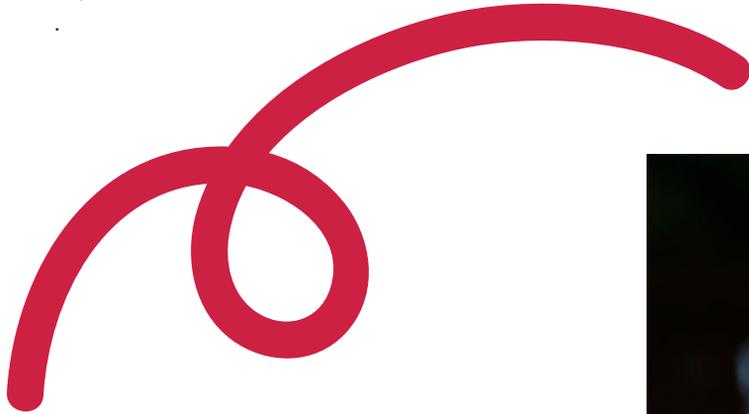
OPEN HOUSE

Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 2022. While Meet the Teacher is for students, Open House is for parents only, and no childcare is provided.

The purpose of Open House is for teachers to have a few minutes to meet with parents to discuss the procedures and communication plans for each grade. Opportunities to volunteer in the classroom or to help with parties will also be discussed. Two classroom sessions are planned (6:05 and 6:35) to accommodate families with multiple children.

Prior to classroom sessions, parents are encouraged to attend the Fall PTO meeting in the sanctuary at 5:30.

We look forward to spending time with you soon at Open House!



LUNCH WITH STUDENTS

Beginning after Labor Day, we are excited to offer parents and other special guests the opportunity to have lunch with students in the small parlor beside the cafeteria.

Lunch Reminders:

- Reservations are required and are on a first-come-first served basis.
- Reserve a spot by calling Terrie Lehi in the main office at 803-644-1122.
- If you want to eat our fabulous lunch with your child, the cost is \$5.
- All guests must come through the main office to sign in for lunch and to receive a visitor's badge.





TEACHER FEATURE

We have several new teachers on campus this year, and we will feature each in our newsletter over the next few weeks. This week we are featuring Tracy Steelman - 3rd grade science and math teacher.

Ms. Steelman has almost 20 years experience teaching both elementary and preschool students. She holds a degree in Music Education from John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas and has taught elementary music, 3K, and, most recently, 4K at Redcliffe Elementary. She has three children; a son, Matt, (married to Nikki), who is a pastor here in Aiken; a daughter, Hannah, who is a professional runner and lives in Flagstaff, Arizona; and a son, Jonathan, who is a senior at Wofford College. Tracy lives in Aiken with her dog, Mabel, and when she's away from school, loves staying involved with her church, beach weekends with friends, trips to see her daughter and extended family, and spending time with her precious grandchildren, Hampton (4), and Ellison (18 mo.).



UPCOMING DATES

August

- 30 Open House - Parents Only (No Childcare provided)
 - 5:30 - 5:55 - PTO Meeting - Sanctuary All MH families
 - 6:05 - 6:30 Open House session 1
 - 6:35 - 7:00 Open House session 2 (for families with more than one child)

September

- 5 Labor Day (No School)
- 6 Reservations open for Lunch with students
- 12-16 Standardized Testing Grades 3-4
- 19-23 Make-up Standardized Testing
- 21 See You at the Pole - Pinwheels for Peace
- 24 PTO Rummage Sale (APC Gym)

