

JULY 27, 2023 | ISSUE 72

# IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Good afternoon Mead Hall families,

Next Thursday we look forward to welcoming our returning and new students to campus. I hope that everyone has had a good summer and that we are all ready to return to school! Our teachers return on Monday for three days of planning and in-service to prepare for the 2023-2024 academic year. I am deeply grateful for our teachers and their dedication to making our classrooms dynamic and

engaging places of excellence in learning and models of God's love. I am also thankful for all of our administration and staff for the variety of work that they do to support our students.

Being a parish day school, all but our youngest students begin the school year in St. Thaddeus Church for our brief but focused Opening Ceremonies, followed by a reception hosted by the PTO that I hope you will attend to get to know one another as a parent community. This is why we have you bring all of their supplies the day before, so that they can arrive at chapel unburdened, and you can meet their teachers. Our students attend chapel services each week. Chapel is the center of our worship and community life. Chapel always includes the words of scripture and a message that speaks to our mission of academic excellence, moral integrity and spiritual growth. Our parish, St. Thaddeus, is awaiting the appointment of a new rector to pastor the congregation. We are thankful that St. Thaddeus Church sponsors and supports Mead Hall Episcopal School.

### New Faculty and Staff

I am thankful for our returning faculty and for those teachers joining our team this year. Please welcome the following teachers to Mead Hall:

**Eric Carlson** will join us each day to teach British Literature. Dr. Carlson is an associate professor of English at USC Aiken, with a Ph.D. in English from Purdue University, M.A. from DePaul University, and a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. We are honored to have Professor Carlson teaching English at Mead Hall, and grateful for our strong relationship with the University, where several of our students study dual enrollment courses each year.

**Melissa Gojda** joins us as a middle school science teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Long Island University and a Master of Arts in Speech/Language Pathology from South Carolina State University. Mrs. Gojda has taught around the CSRA, most recently as an elementary teacher at Merriweather Elementary School, and for many years as a middle school science teacher at Augusta Prep.

**Kathleen Johnson** joins us as a 2nd grade teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Washington State University and a Master of Education from Heritage University. Mrs. Johnson comes to us from the State of Washington with a wonderful teaching career in public elementary education.

**Laura Jolly** joins us as a 2nd grade teacher. She holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina. Mrs. Jolly enjoyed a decade of teaching elementary education in Edgefield County.

**Ford Vaughters** joins us as a middle and upper school math teacher. Mr. Vaughters has a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis. We are delighted to have this graduate of Mead Hall teaching at his alma mater while preparing for medical school.

We are blessed to have these experienced educators teaching at Mead Hall. Watch our upcoming In the Loop newsletters to learn more about these new teachers.



## Athletic Director Announcement

I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new Athletic Director, Daryl Hawthorne. Coach Hawthorne is an Augusta native who is a passionate coach, pastor, and health care coordinator. He begins his role on Friday, August 11th.

Coach Hawthorne received a Bachelor Arts degree from Augusta State University in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology and studied Community Counseling at Troy University. Mr. Hawthorne has worked compassionately for the past 19 years with those with developmental disabilities and mental health issues, advocating for them and ensuring that they live the best life possible. Coach Hawthorne has long given his time to youth basketball, as the Director and Coach of the Georgia Havoc AAU Basketball Organization for 13 years, and as a school basketball coach for Westminster, Curtis Baptist, and Heritage Academy. Our Mead Hall Panthers have had the privilege of competing against teams coached by Daryl Hawthorne, who is a coach admired for his high standards and integrity.

He is also a pastor, with his wife Adorea Hawthorne, of Inspire Christian Worship. Pastor Hawthorne received his Minister License on March 31, 2019 and was ordained as a Pastor on August 29, 2021, and had previously served as a preacher and teacher at Breakfree Augusta Ministries under the leadership of Bishop Dr. Tracy Reddick and Pastor Latrease Reddick. He has a tremendous passion for God's word coupled with a love for God's people. Daryl and his wife were married on February 18, 2015 and together they have 4 beautiful children.

Coach Hawthorne will no doubt bring inspired leadership to Mead Hall's athletic program. He is praised for his moral character, equipping and supporting coaches, mentoring of young people, communication, and

organizational skills. Daryl is coach and a fan, and his favorite teams are the Duke Blue Devils, Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Braves, and the Golden State Warriors. Daryl sums up his coaching philosophy with his favorite saying, "We Give 100% In Everything That We Do And We Live With The Results."

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Frank Sawyer  
Head of School

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## Mead Hall Episcopal School Fun Run | Register today!

Mead Hall families,

Our Fall PTO fundraiser is happening right away once school starts! PTO is partnering with Boosterthon to host a FUN RUN on campus for Lower School Students and a COLOR RUN on Campus for Middle School Students on Wednesday, August 16th.

The day is here! You can now register your child for the Fun Run! Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to support various projects on campus and our amazing teachers. Registering is easy and free! We will need each child and family's help to make this fundraiser a success!

[Register Now On MYBOOSTER.COM](https://mybooster.com)

Be sure to check out the easy sharing functions on [MYBOOSTER.COM](https://mybooster.com) to let others know how they can help support our school.

Thank you for working with us to make our school stronger. We are grateful for your support!





# Welcome Back Mead Hall Families

## SPECIAL PTO WELCOME BACK TENT

All families are encouraged to drop by the tent in front of the sanctuary to enjoy a cup of coffee after dropping off students in the classroom and/or sanctuary. Come by and meet the PTO board, learn about upcoming events, introduce yourself to new families, and catch up with old friends.



## 2023-2024 ANNUAL FUND SUCCESS

We our 2023-2024 Annual Fund year with gifts over \$211,000! This means we came close to reaching our dream goal of \$250,000 and we surpassed out budgeted goal of \$200,000. We appreciate this support which will be celebrated in the Annual Report this autumn. We seek to keep our tuition as affordable as possible to our families while offering excellence in independent school education. Therefore, the Annual Fund is essential in bridging the gap between tuition income and operating expenses. With donations, we are able to do so much more for the school from education enrichment, to facilities improvements, to athletics, to the arts and so much more



# LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

## Start of School Information

### Meet Your Teacher

Meet your teacher will take place on Wednesday, August 2. Each homeroom teacher will reach about scheduling a time to attend or the teacher will let you know that the format will be “drop in” from 2:00 - 4:00. This event provides an opportunity to welcome students and parents to a new year in a low stress environment. Drop off school supplies to make the first day easier, see the classroom and lockers, and visit with friends who have been away for the summer.

If you have any questions about Meet Your Teacher, please contact the main office at 803-644-1122.



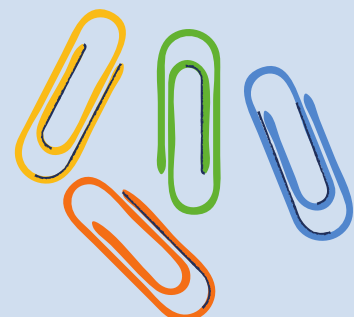
### Morning Care

Morning Care will begin on Friday, August 4 from 7:00-7:45am in the St. Thaddeus gym. Registration is not required. Park on Pendleton St. and walk students into the gym each morning. Adult to adult handoff is required for the safety of our students.

### Extended Care

Extended care will begin on Monday, August 7. Pick up students from Extended Care in the Greenville St. Building which is located below the carline on Greenville St. just past the dance studio. Registration is required and drop-ins are permitted by notifying the office prior to 1:30pm. Please complete the Aftercare Registration Form at this link: [Extended Care Reservations](#)

**NO EXTENDED CARE ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 3 and 4**





## FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL - MORNING SCHEDULE

### Thursday, August 3

**7:45 - 8:00** PS families should park on Greenville Street and walk students to the classroom.

**8:00** PK/K families should park on Pendleton Street and report to the sanctuary with your child for our start of school service.

**8:30** 1st/2nd grade families should park on Pendleton Street and report to the sanctuary with your child for our start of school service.

**9:00** 3rd/4th grade families should park on Pendleton Street and report to the sanctuary with your child for our start of school service.



### Special PTO Welcome Back Tent

All families are encouraged to drop by the tent in front of the sanctuary to enjoy a cup of coffee after dropping off students in the classroom and/or sanctuary. Come by and meet the PTO board, learn about upcoming events, introduce yourself to new families, and catch up with old friends.

### Friday, August 4

**7:45 - 8:00** PS and PK families should park on Greenville Street and walk students to the classroom.

**8:00 - 8:10** K - 4th grade families drop off students on Greenville Street

### Monday, August 7

**7:50 - 8:05** Regular Morning Carline. If you need to get out and unbuckle or walk a child to the gate, please park below or above the carline area. Do not park along the median and cross carline traffic. After 8:05 am the gate will be locked, and families will need to park on Pendleton Street, and walk students into the main office

### Afterschool Carline

The afternoon carline runs on Greenville St. - not on Richland Ave. This is very important. You will not be allowed to cut into the carline off of Richland Ave. If you are coming East on Richland ave, turn left on Greenville St. and circle around to the back of the carline North of Richland on Greenville St. See: [Carline Map](#)

Please review the carline procedures here: [Carline Procedures](#)

### Carline Times

**2:20 - 2:30** Carline for PS, PK, and K

**Important Note:** PS, PK, and K students with siblings in the 1st-4th grades will wait in the classroom for the second carline. Families only need to attend the carline of the **oldest** sibling.

**2:30** Second carline families may begin to line up.

**2:50 - 3:05** Carline for 1st-4th grade families (and their younger siblings)





## ALL OTHER SCHOOL BUSINESS

The cemetery entrance to the main office is the only entrance for any school business. All other gates providing access to the campus will be locked. Park on Pendleton St. or in the St. Thaddeus church circle near the cemetery and walk down the brick path to the school office entrance. Use the main office entrance for:

- **Late arrival**
  - **Dropping off Items**
  - **Signing out Students**
  - **Parent Conferences**
  - **Visits for Lunch**
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### UNIFORMS

The school store hours and details about uniform requirements can be found at the following links:

[School store information](#)  
[Uniform requirements](#)




### UPCOMING DATES

#### August

2	Meet Your Teacher
3	Students Report
8-16	Boosterthon Week
29	Open House

#### September

4	Labor Day (No School)
5	Reservations open for Lunch with students
11-15	Standardized Testing Grades 3-4
18-22	Make-up Standardized Testing
19	STC Student Pictures
27	See You at the Pole/ Pinwheels (Peonies) for Peace



## BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

We are very excited about the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year! Please review the following information below as it contains important information about the start of the school year.

Please remind students to complete their summer reading assignments. They can be found on the school website at [meadhallschool.org](http://meadhallschool.org)

Aug 2nd - Meet the Teacher Details\*Bring supplies!

Aug 3rd - First Day of School Details MS start at 9:30 HS start at 10:00 Parents welcome to attend! Be sure to stop by the PTO Welcome Tent in front of Sanctuary

### Meet the Teacher

#### August 2, 2023

All middle and upper school students and parents must attend Meet the Teacher to drop off school supplies the day before school and to meet the teachers and see the classrooms.

2:00 New to Mead Hall Student Orientation in Auditorium

3:00 - 4:00 5th Grade and High School "Drop-in style" Meet the Teacher

3:45 Students pick up already purchased School Supply Packs in the Auditorium

*\*\*Student schedules will be in their 1st period class*

*\*\*Don't know your 1st period teacher?? Look at the sign to the left of the main office*

4:00-6:00 6th-8th Grade Meet the Teacher (families will follow the below bell schedule)

Specials Teachers will meet families in the Auditorium

6th - 8th period

7th/8th - 2nd period

Art Block Teachers will meet families in their classrooms

6th - 7th period

7th/8th - 6th period

1st: 4:00 - 4:12

2nd: 4:15 - 4:27

3rd: 4:30 - 4:42

4th: 4:45 - 4:57 (6th Grade enjoy a small treat in the Cafe during "Lunch")

5th: 5:00 - 5:12 (7th/8th Grade enjoy a small treat in the Cafe during "Lunch")

6th: 5:15 - 5:27

7th: 5:30 - 5:42

8th: 5:45 - 6:00

### AUGUST 3rd, 2023

#### 5th-8th Parents, Students, and Teachers

All students will gather in front of the church by grade.

- Opening Ceremony at 9:30 in St. Thaddeus Sanctuary
- Regular Daily Uniform
- Students will sit by Grade Level with Teachers
- Students will be dismissed by grade to stand on the front steps for a class picture
- Students and Teachers will walk back to APC upon conclusion



## **9th-12th Grade Parents, Students, and Teachers**

**All students will gather in front of the church by grade.**

- Opening Ceremony at 10:00 in St. Thaddeus Sanctuary
- Regular Daily Uniform
- Students will sit by Grade Level with Teachers
- Students will be dismissed by grade to stand on the front steps for a class picture
- Students and Teachers will walk back to APC upon conclusion
- High School Students will pick their lockers upon their return and report to their 2nd period class

## **Bell Schedule for the Remainder of the Day:**

- 1st: return - 10:55 (5th-8th only)  
2nd: 11:00 - 11:30  
3rd: 11:35 - 12:05  
4th: 12:10 - 12:30 (5: Lunch, 6: Recess)  
12:30 - 12:50 (6: Lunch, 5: Recess)  
5th: 12:55 - 1:15 (7: Lunch, 8: Recess)  
1:15 - 1:35 (8: Lunch, 7: Recess)  
6th: 1:40 - 2:20 (HS Lunch/Recess)  
7th: 2:25 - 2:55  
8th: 3:00 - 3:30

## **UPCOMING DATES**

### **August**

- 2 Meet the Teacher  
3 First Day of School  
8 Boosterthon Kick-off Event (details coming soon!)  
11 M'Aiken Magic Robotics Presentation for interested HS students (6th period)  
16 Boosterthon Event (details coming soon!)  
23-25 HS Mountain Madness Trip to YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly

### **September**

- 4 Labor Day (No School)  
6 Combined Chapel with Lower School at 1:00 pm  
11-15 Standardized Testing (Grades 5-8)  
14 College Night @ James Brown Arena (5-8:30 pm)  
20 Upper School Pictures in Auditorium  
21 Senior Pictures in Auditorium  
27 See You at the Pole



## SCHOOL STORE

Regular Weekday School Store Hours will resume on Monday, August 7th. The School Store will be open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check ITL for weekly updates on store hours and closures.

Shopping hours for July 24th - August 4th will be available by appointment. Please email Courtney Bruckner at [MHstore@meadhallschool.org](mailto:MHstore@meadhallschool.org) to set up a time to shop for all your uniform needs! Make sure to check the school website for [Uniform Guidelines](#). The school store stocks new uniform polo shirts in sizes YXS to AXL, classroom approved outerwear and everything you need for chapel including ties, blazers, cardigans and plaid skirts/jumpers.



## PTO FALL 2023 EVENT CALENDAR

- August 3 rd - WELCOME BACK TENT (Outside Chapel)
- August 8 th -16 th - FUN RUN
- September- (Date tbd) BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY
- October 1 st - Mead Hall Sunday/ Pancake Breakfast
- Sept 25 - October 1 - Book Fair
- October 6 th - Chick Fila Day
- October 27 th Great Pumpkin Wall STC
- October 28th- Fall Festival/ MH Band Bake Sale
- November 17 th - Chick Fila Day
- December 10 th - Aiken Christmas Parade





# MEAD HALL PANTHERS

Physicals are required before we begin the regular season. Please see attached flyer for more information for Sports Physicals being offered on July 20th, July 28th and August 4th.

## **Fall Athletics Practice Schedules**

### **Middle and Varsity Cross Country**

Watch for the start date and more information  
Mon, Wed, Thurs 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

### **Middle School Tennis**

Watch for the start date and more information  
Mon, Tues, Wed 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Swimming for Middle and Upper School**

Begins on Monday, August 7  
Mon - Fri 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. (@ Aiken YMCA)

### **Middle and Varsity Volleyball**

The first official practice for the school year will be held July 31, 2023, in the St. Thaddeus Gym. No Middle School Practice on August 2nd.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Middle School 3:45-4:45 (students will be walked over from the Aiken Prep Campus)

Varsity 5:00-6:30

Volleyball Team Parent Meetings will be held after practice in the STC Gym:

Middle School: July 31, 5:15

Varsity: August 1, 6:30

### **Coach contact:**

Middle School and Varsity Coach is Coach Tierra Smith (Coach Tee)

[smithtierra195@gmail.com](mailto:smithtierra195@gmail.com)

678-935-2009

# PANTHER CLUB

The Mead Hall Panther Club is a volunteer-run organization whose mission is to provide support to the Athletic Department. That support comes in many forms. Our most recent project was the exterior preservation and painting of the Aiken Prep Gym this summer, through the success of the Mead Hall Golf Tournament. We are also introducing more new uniforms this year. We are only able to complete these projects because of the endless support of our Mead Hall community. Please consider supporting the Panther Club this year and be a part of the action! A sponsorship form can be found at the end of this newsletter and can be returned to school at any time.

Thank you so much. Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Becky Marks  
Panther Club President



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## Mead Hall Panther Club 2023 - 2024

### Panther Nation Sponsorship Levels

**The Mead Hall Panther Club (Booster Club) helps fund our athletic programs. Thank you for your generous support!**

----- **\$2,500 PRESENTING SPONSOR:** The Panther Club is offering the opportunity to be a presenting sponsor for the 2023-2024 school year. You will receive a 4X6 banner that will hang in the STC gymnasium on the scoreboard wall. Your logo will also be advertised quarterly In the Loop, bi-weekly In the Hoop, and will be recognized on all Mead Hall social media sites. Your business will receive recognition at all home games and during the Mead Hall Athletic Banquet. Sponsors will also receive a MHES Leadership Circle car decal and free admission for 2 adults to all Mead Hall home games held in the ST gym.

----- **\$350 PANTHER PRIDE:** You will receive a 2X4 banner in your choice of style, a car magnet, a yard sign and free admission for 2 adults to all Mead Hall home games.

----- **\$250 RENEWEL PANTHER PRIDE:** Your 2X4 banner will remain in the gym & 2 adult passes for all Mead Hall home games.

----- **\$125 PANTHER PACK:** You will receive a car magnet; yard sign & 2 adult passes for all Mead Hall home games.

### Contact

Information

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### SERVICE TIMES

#### SUNDAY

- 7:45 - HOLY EUCHARIST
- 10:00 A.M. - HOLY EUCHARIST - COMBINED SERVICE
- SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS 9:00

Adult Sunday School Class - Large Parlor (cafeteria) in the  
Stevenson-McClelland Bldg  
Led by Gibert Kennedy

#### WEDNESDAY

- 11:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST IN THE CHAPEL FOLLOWING BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for Sunday services. You may also attend virtually at the [VIMEO link](#). For those watching at home, the bulletin can be found at the [SERVICE BULLETIN](#) link above, and on the [St. Thaddeus website](#).



### **BACKPACKS, BURGERS, AND BINGO!**



Please join us on Saturday, August 5 at 5:30 pm for our August First Saturday. Bring your backpack for a blessing, enjoy burgers and play some bingo! Burgers and accompaniments, tea, and lemonade will be provided. Feel free to bring another beverage of your choice. We ask all those who are going to play bingo to please bring a prize. It can be adult or child appropriate as all ages are welcome to play. Come finish off summer and start the school year with a blast.

Suggested Cost is \$10/person or \$25/family  
Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 2 using this [LINK](#).  
We hope to see you there.

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ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122

AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223

