

AUGUST 22, 2025

# IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



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## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

This week I had the opportunity to share the message at our Wednesday chapels to 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. Our upper school has spent Wednesday through Friday this week in North Carolina for their annual community building trip, "Mountain Madness", so they had their chapel up in the mountains, led by our chaplain, Father Joseph.

My text was Jeremiah 1:4-10, where the Prophet Jeremiah reflects on God's call to him as a prophet, where God tells him, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." This lesson recaptured my message to the students at opening ceremonies - God made them, God knows them, God loves them, and God has given each of them a purpose to do good things in the world.

I went on to tell the students that each of them can be a prophet just by seeing clearly and speaking truth about what they see about the present and what could happen in the future should certain decisions be made - one example I used to illustrate this is a group of friends who are all saying they should do something that is dangerous or wrong until the one prophetic voice speaks up to say, "This really isn't a good idea." I emphasized that every one of them can be a prophetic voice in this way or countless other ways just by speaking up, and that like Jeremiah, they cannot use the excuse that they are "too young" to speak up like a prophet. I also admitted to them that it is not easy to be a prophet because people might not like what they are saying, and that Jeremiah was not always appreciated for being a prophet. However, I added that if we are speaking truthfully and without selfish motives, it is the right thing to do, and it will make a difference among our friends, in our classrooms, and in the world, as well as bring us joy and satisfaction.

It is truly challenging to speak with a prophetic voice, but what a difference the voice of the prophet makes, both in scripture and in our own lives. Therefore, I challenged the students to be prophets this year and always.

Blessings,  
*Frank Sawyer*



# Sabbatical for Father Joseph Whitehurst

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On Labor Day weekend, Father Joseph will begin his clergy sabbatical. He will not return to Mead Hall until after the Christmas holidays. Fr. Joseph has served St. Thaddeus Church faithfully as curate, then as assistant rector and school chaplain, and currently as associate rector and chaplain and director of spiritual life for more than eighteen years. Ordinarily, clergy are afforded a sabbatical every 5-7 years. This will be Fr. Joseph's first sabbatical, so it is both well-deserved and long-overdue.

During his sabbatical time, Father Joseph will not have any pastoral, administrative, or teaching responsibilities at St. Thaddeus or Mead Hall. In order to preserve this intentional time of sabbath rest and restoration, he will also not be returning phone and email messages related to his pastoral and administrative duties at the parish and school. Father Joseph will be with us next Wednesday for school chapels and we will send him forth with God's blessing.

Fr. Joseph spent time in reflection and prayer in discerning his sabbatical plans. He writes, "The theme I have chosen for my sabbatical is "back to my roots"—both a literal and metaphorical exploration of them. Because I find time in nature to be life-giving, I will spend time reconnecting with my local roots here in South Carolina by exploring our state parks, with the goal of visiting all of them by the end of 2026. I'll also be hiking the West Highland Way in Scotland (I have Scottish ancestors on both sides of my family tree). On a day-to-day basis, I have many reading projects lined up; I'll be tackling N.T. Wright's multi-volume Christian Origins and the Question of God first! I also hope to get a dog and housebreak her over these next few months. In short, I'll be spending time pursuing renewal and reconnection. I look forward to rejoining everyone at Christmas!"

We wish Fr. Joseph every blessing as he begins his sabbatical!

Thanks,  
*Frank*







## LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

### THE LONG GAME

"Playing the long game" is a phrase often associated with financial investments; however, it seems to be equally appropriate to apply long game principles to the process of learning. Students learn small amounts of knowledge over many years, and the "compounding" effect of consistent learning across time is evident as a child matures.

What the long game looks like at Mead Hall is a four year old reciting a nursery rhyme and an eighth grade student reciting the Gettysburg Address; or a five year old using plastic dinosaurs to count to twenty and a calculus student using a graphing calculator to plot a function; or a first grade student watching a seed sprout into a plant and a ninth grade student extracting DNA from a strawberry.

As educators, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to see long term gains unfolding in front of our eyes from year to year, and we are delighted that your family is partnering with us in this amazing journey.

See you at school!

*Joanne*

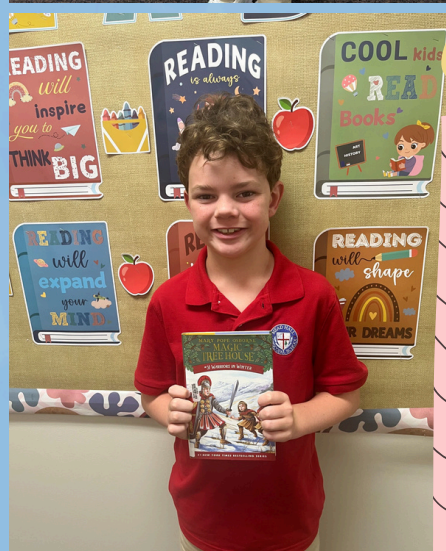
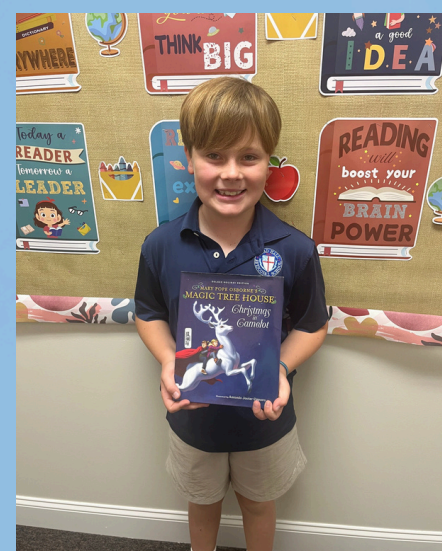
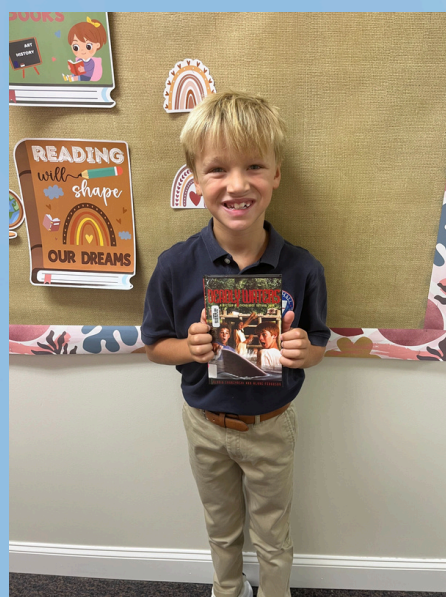
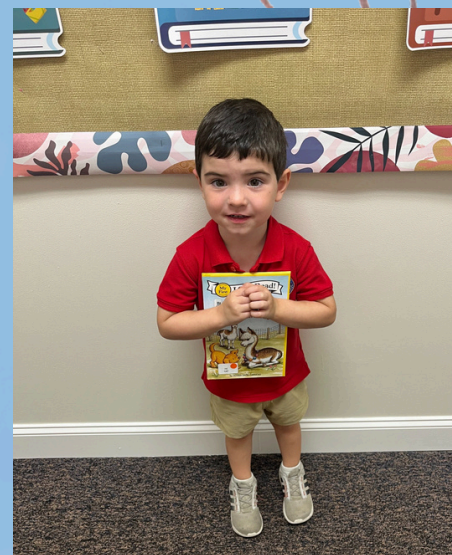
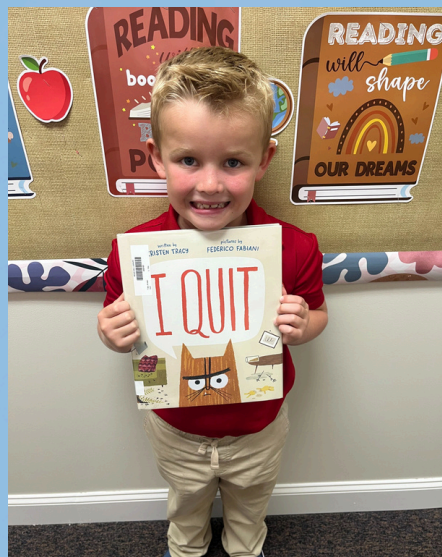




# Birthday Book Club

Our August Birthday Book Club members include: Colt Molony, Bella Baish, Meyer Grande, Graham Bolen, Brooks Rudnick, James Lockwood, Bennett Derr, James Reynolds, and Liza McAlhaney.

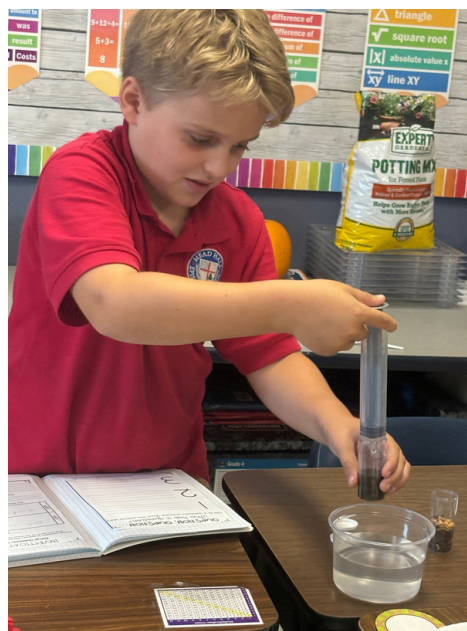
These students enjoyed picking out a title from our new book selection in the library. After reading the book they donated the book to our library for other students to enjoy! We are thankful to these students.





## LEARNING BY DOING

Mrs. Water's fourth grade students had fun while learning about place value through a dice game in math, and in science students worked together to test the physical properties of soil.



## READING & STEM

2nd graders completed a STEM activity last week in the Library. After reading the book, *Too Tall Houses*, students worked in teams using 40 index cards and tape to create the tallest tower possible.





## MOTOR SKILLS

Small motor skills development in young students leads to reading and writing skills in lower school.



## LOWER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

### August

- 27 Last day to order Chick-Fil-A
- 29 K - Teddy Bear Picnic

### September

- 1 Labor Day (No School)
- 5 Chick Fil-A Day
- 12 Field Trip PK to Trinity
- 8-12 Standardized Testing Grades 3-4
- 12 PS Grandparent Celebration
- 16 Fall Pictures- STC
- 19 Field Trip - PS to Library
- 15-20 Make-up Standardized Testing
- 23 Fall Makeup Pictures
- 23 Field Trip - 3rd Grade to Phinizy Swamp
- 24 Combined Chapel & Kindergarten Chapel for Bishop Richards
- 30 Field Trip - 1st Grade to RPSEC

### Reminder!

Purchase **Chick-Fil-A** for your student on the FACTS family portal. The last day to order is August 27



OPEN  
HOUSE

The STC Open House was a great success. The faculty enjoyed having the opportunity to showcase classrooms and to answer questions about procedures. Thank you STC families for taking the time to come out on a weeknight to support our faculty and to learn more about our programs.

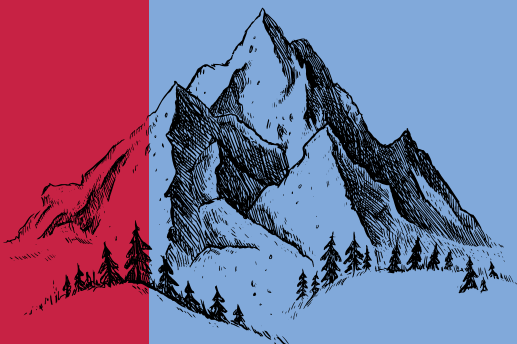


# Middle & Upper School News



## Mountain Madness High School Trip

The Upper School visiting Wofford College on their way to their "Mountain Madness" trip to North Carolina this week, where they were given a tour by alumnus Jack Thomas Hamrick, Mead Hall Class of 2024.







# Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

**National Beta Club** is hosting their annual Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive beginning *September 2nd* and ending on Friday, *September 26th*.

There will be a competition between Upper School and Middle School on who can bring in the most peanut butter and jelly jars!



**Upper School: Jelly**  
**Middle School: Peanut Butter**



“ The winner will receive a **Dress Down Day** on Friday, Oct 3rd. Bring in your peanut butter and jelly jars and place them in the **two bins** by the **front office**. All peanut butter and jelly collected will be donated to the St. Thaddeus Soup Kitchen.”

As a student-centered organization, National Beta Club seeks ways to develop students by providing opportunities and experiences that demonstrate the ideals of achievement, character, leadership, and service. It is committed to recognizing high academic achievement, as well as rewarding and nurturing worthy character.







## PTO FUNDRAISER SEPTEMBER 5TH

SANDWICH \$6    8 COUNT FRIED NUGGETS \$5    COOKIE \$2

\*\*NO SUBSTITUTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE MENU\*\*

### HOW TO ORDER

**ORDER BY  
AUGUST 27TH**

NO LATE ORDERS

LOG INTO **FACTS FAMILY PORTAL**  
CLICK **STUDENT** FROM LEFT MENU  
CLICK **LUNCH** FROM DROP DOWN MENU  
CLICK **+CREATE WEB ORDER** AT TOP OF SCREEN  
CLICK YOUR CHILD'S **NAME**  
CLICK **LUNCH ITEMS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH**  
CHOOSE THE QUANTITY OF ITEMS FOR YOUR CHILD  
**REPEAT** FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN  
**SUBMIT AND PAY** FOR ORDER

**ONLINE  
ORDERS  
ONLY!**

## PTO SPONSORSHIP QUICK GUIDE



Scan the QR Code

OR

Grab a payment envelope

1



2

Purchase a Family Sponsorship  
for \$10 and get ONE ticket  
into the monthly raffle!

3

Purchase MORE raffle tickets  
for MORE chances to win! Only  
\$5 each!

4

Purchase "Teacher Raffle Tickets"  
for your teachers to get their  
names entered into a special  
raffle! \$5 each.

#### RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE:

- Back to School SWAG bag
- Priority Seating at various events
- Headmaster for a Day
- Homework Passes
- & MORE!

**FAMILY RAFFLE**  
drawings on the last  
Friday of EACH month!

**TEACHER RAFFLE**  
surprise drawings  
throughout the year!

**DIDN'T WIN?**  
non-winning tickets stay  
in for next month's  
drawing!



# AUGUST

## FAMILY RAFFLE



### BACK TO SCHOOL BASKET!

- MEAD HALL SWAG & SCHOOL SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL STORE
- HOMEWORK PASS
- CAROLINE'S/PITTER PATTEN GIFT CARD

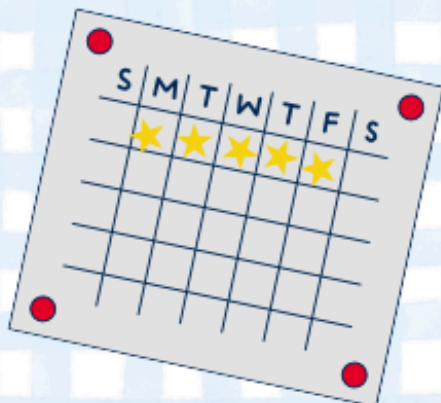
## TEACHER RAFFLE

THE WINNING TEACHER WILL WIN A PTO PERSONAL ASSISTANT FOR A DAY! COMPLETE WITH THEIR COFFEE/BREAKFAST OF CHOICE, LUNCH OF CHOICE, AND DINNER PROVIDED BY BLUE COLLARD! BE SURE TO ENTER YOUR TEACHERS FOR THEIR CHANCE TO WIN!

# School Counselor Hours

2025 - 2026 School Year

Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 12:00pm  
& Available by Appointment



Visit our Website!



Lea Bryant

lbryant@meadhallschool.org

Nicole Pioli, MSW

npoli@meadhallschool.org



# Alumni News



Rhodes College

Livi Cato of Jackson, South Carolina, was named to Rhodes College's Spring 2025 Dean's List.

## SCHOOL STORE HOURS AUGUST 25-29



Email [MHStore@meadhallschool.org](mailto:MHStore@meadhallschool.org) for appointment requests

M

Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

T

### AFTERNOON HOURS

Open 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

W

Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

T

Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

F

Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

## SCHOOL STORE



Reminder!  
School Store hours can be  
subject to change. If parents  
or caregivers  
need anything they can  
always email  
[MHStore@meadhallschool.org](mailto:MHStore@meadhallschool.org)





# MEAD HALL PANTHERS

## IMPORTANT

All students participating in Sports at Mead Hall will need to turn in all of the Athletic Paperwork to include Updated Physician Physical. Please turn in the paperwork to the main office or you can email it to Coach Hawthorne at [dhawthorne@meadhallschool.org](mailto:dhawthorne@meadhallschool.org).

**Students will not be allowed to participate in any sports activities until all paperwork is turned in.**

## COACHES NEEDED



For our Winter Sports we still need the following:  
Middle School/Varsity Bowling  
Pom Squad

For our Spring Sports we still need the following:  
Middle School Soccer  
POSSIBLY Middle School/JV Baseball

**\*\*If we are unable to fill these positions the sport may not be available for that season**

Interested? contact Daryl Hawthorne  
[DHawthorne@meadhallschool.org](mailto:DHawthorne@meadhallschool.org)



click to download



## Stay Connected - Download the SportsYou App today!

For all of the Athletic Team information please download the SportsYou App and add the team that the student is participating in. Please see the codes below for the different sports.

- Varsity Volleyball Code- DJP6-MYS8
- MS Golf Code- D2BV-YQYM
- MS Tennis Code- Q4QV-3AL9
- MS Flag Football Code- LRB9-EU7S
- MS/Varsity Swimming Code- FTQ6-UQE3
- MS/Varsity Cross Country Code- 3JF9-FCLD
- MS Volleyball Code- CSX2-RWRH

## Take Note

Schedules for the upcoming Fall Athletic Season are now posted on the FACTS Calendar and in the team's SportsYou page.

*Click Here*



**High School Students interested in joining the Spirit Team should contact Coach Hawthorne**  
[dhawthorne@meadhallschool.org](mailto:dhawthorne@meadhallschool.org)



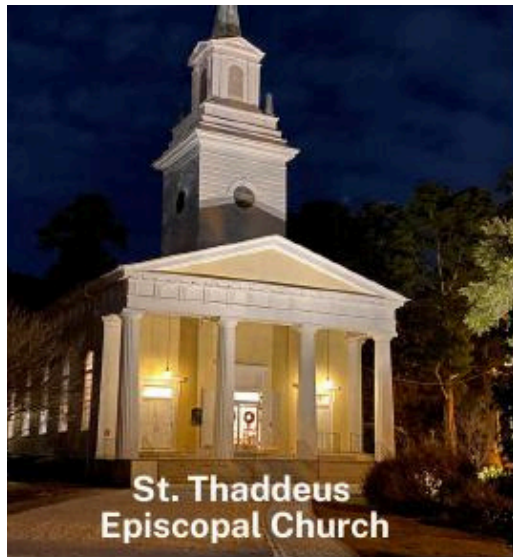
## Games at a Glance

- 8/25 MS Tennis vs St. Mary's AUG 4pm
- 8/26 V Volleyball vs Covenant Classical 5pm  
MS Cross Country @ Stable View 5pm  
MS Golf @ Woodside 4pm
- 8/28 MS Volleyball vs SAB 5pm  
V Volleyball vs SAB 6pm

VS = home game  
@ = away game







St. Thaddeus  
Episcopal Church



803-648-5497



stthad@stthaddeus.org



125 Pendleton St, SW Aiken, SC 29801



www.stthaddeus.org

We are a welcoming parish with a wide variety of services. Our regular Sunday services include:

**Spoken Rite I Eucharist at 7:45 AM**

**Rite II Eucharist with music at 10 AM**

There is also a mid-week Eucharist held in our chapel on Wednesday mornings at 11:30 AM.

## FIRST WEDNESDAY

Join us in the Cheetham Parlor on Wednesday, September 3rd, from 5:30-7:30PM for dinner, formation and fellowship, and leave with a new prayer journal and thoughts on prayer in our daily lives. There will blank prayer journals for youth and children to decorate and take home, and Fr. Marshall will lead a brief lesson on daily prayer and intentionally adding it into our routine. We'll also look into the "prayer journal" of the whole Anglican Communion: The Book of Common Prayer! **SIGN UP VIA MON. AM EMAIL** Hope to see you there!

(Suggested donations are \$5/person, or about \$20/family.)

## Saint Thaddeus Episcopal Church

*Founded 1842*

**Loving God ~ Serving Others ~ Living Our Faith**  
*A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina*

ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122

AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223

