

SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Two weeks ago I addressed the issues of safety and security at Mead Hall in my message to you all. In that article, I highlighted the progress that we have made over the past few years to better protect our students and faculty on each of our two campuses. This week we added a new element to our campus security, a guard outside St. Thaddeus Church during our chapel services. As always, if you have questions or concerns about security at Mead Hall,

I invite you to reach out to me. As well, the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), which represents most all South Carolina private schools, is petitioning the State of South Carolina to include our schools in the protection that is being provided to public schools. If this is something that you support, I invite you to read the message below from SCISA and sign the petition.

Blessings and peace,
Frank Sawyer
fsawyer@meadhallschool.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Lower School News](#)

[Middle & Upper School News](#)

[PTO & School Store](#)

[MLK Jr. Poster Contest](#)

[Panther Athletics](#)

[St. Thaddeus Church News](#)

Dear Families,

Our hearts are heavy as we remember the recent tragedy at Annunciation Catholic Church School, where innocent lives were lost in a senseless act of violence. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and community who are grieving. This heartbreaking event reminds us all that no school is immune, and that the safety of our children must remain our highest priority. Recently, Governor McMaster signed a law that provides a School Resource Officer in every public school across South Carolina. While this is an important step forward, independent and alternative schools like ours were not included. This is not fair. Our families pay the same property taxes as everyone else, yet not a single dollar comes back to support the safety of our children. If the more than 58,000 students in independent and alternative schools suddenly entered the public system, it would collapse under the weight. And yet, when parents make the choice for independent education, their children are left less protected. We cannot accept this any longer. Outdated laws written generations ago, many with discriminatory intent, still block funding for independent schools. But in 2025, those relics of the past should not determine whether a child is safe at school.

That is why we are asking you to stand with us in this fight. Please take a moment to sign the petition linked below and share it with friends, family, and neighbors. This petition is the first step in demanding that all children in South Carolina, no matter where they go to school, have equal access to protection.

Your voice matters. Your signature matters. Together, we can send a strong and unified message: our children's safety must come first.

The South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) and Mead Hall Episcopal School

[SIGN THE PETITION HERE](#)

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

I had the privilege of leading the PK/K chapel this week, and there is nothing that will lift your heart like the sound of young children raising their voices together in song and prayer. For the message, I shared a story with the children about a woman who had a very difficult life, but who made it her mission to do four things every day:

Look for something beautiful;
Listen to something beautiful;
Say something beautiful, and
Do something beautiful.

I believe that no matter our age, we can all benefit from following this courageous woman's example each day.

See you at school!

Joanne



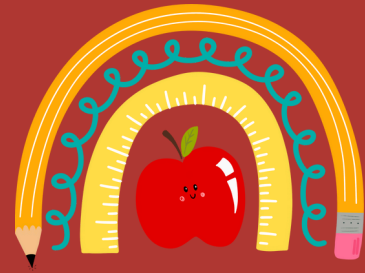
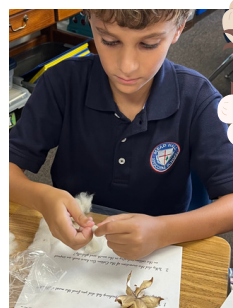
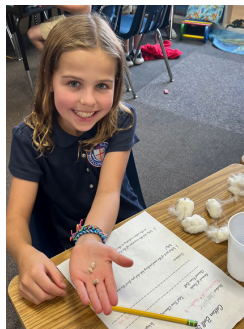
Fall Pictures

STC school pictures will be taken next Tuesday, September 16. All STC campus students should wear a red or blue Mead Hall polo with khaki bottoms.



Cotton Boll/Seed Lab

Mrs. Briggs' 4th grade social studies classes have been learning about the effects of the cotton industry in the 1800's and its impact on the growth of the American economy, culture, and society. Recently the students participated in a hands-on lab where they dissected cotton bolls and were timed to see how long it took to remove the seeds. It was concluded that hand picking seeds was a long tedious job, and that the invention of the cotton gin (which separated the seeds faster & easier) was a successful and profitable way to clean the cotton!



Thank You PTO

We want to thank our fabulous Mead Hall PTO for providing Chick-fil-A lunch for the faculty and staff.

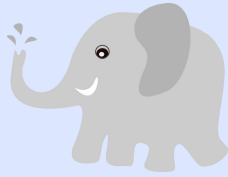
School Counselors at Mead Hall

Ms. Nicole Pioli
School Counselor
Monday 8:00 - 12:00
Tuesday 8:00 - 12:00
Wednesday 8:00 - 12:00
Thursday 8:00 - 12:00
Friday 8:00 - 12:00

Ms. Leanna Bryant
School Counselor Intern
Monday 8:00 - 10:30
Tuesday 8:15 - 10:45 - 1:30
Wednesday 8:00 - 1:15
Friday 8:00 - 10:30

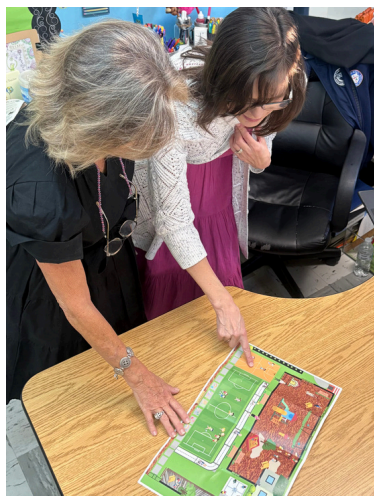
Being Different is OK

PK students studied the book, *Elmer the Elephant* by David McKee, and learned through craft and writing activities that everyone is special in their own way.



Serious about Safety

According to consultant, Rob Chadwick, feeling confident about taking action is a key strategy for faculty in a security situation. To boost our mental “muscle memory”, the STC faculty spent part of our September meeting discussing various tabletop security scenarios.



Upcoming Dates

September

- 12 Field Trip PK to Trinity
- 8-12 Standardized Testing Grades 3-4
- 12 Preschool Grandparent Celebration
- 16 Fall Pictures- STC
- 18 Field Trip - 4th Grade to Hitchcock Woods (group 1)
- 19 Field Trip - 4th Grade to Hitchcock Woods (group 2)
- 19 Field Trip - PS to Library
- 15-20 Make-up Standardized Testing
- 23 Field Trip - 3rd Grade to Phinizy Swamp
- 24 Combined Chapel & Kindergarten Chapel for Bishop Richards
- 30 Field Trip - 1st Grade to RPSEC

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL NEWS



**"Intelligence plus
character—that is the
goal of true education."
-Martin Luther King Jr.**



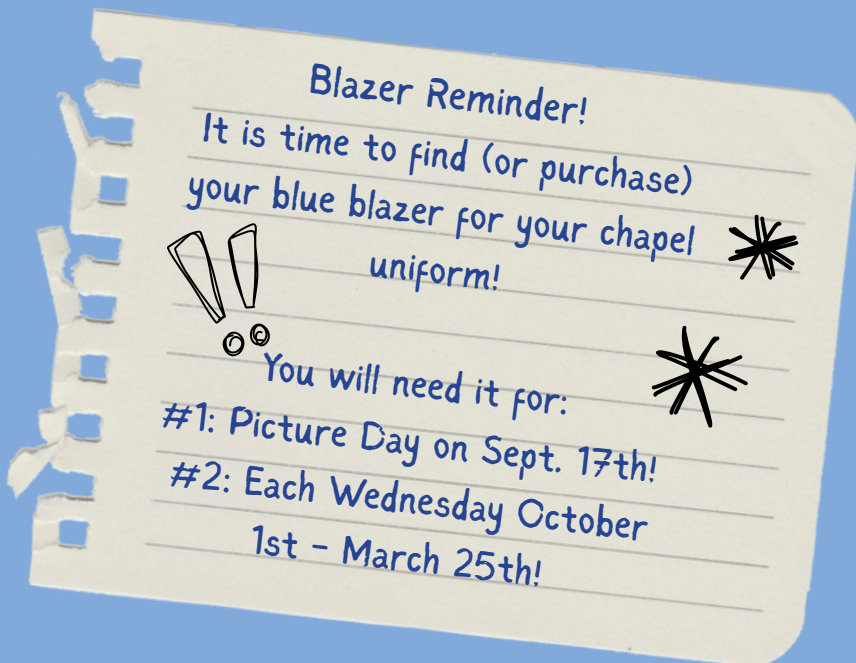
Upcoming Dates

September

- 15 Senior Pictures - Wilson Studio (in Auditorium)
- 15 Field Trip - 7th Grade to Augusta University 11:00-3:00
- 17 Fall Pictures - APC in Auditorium
- 15-20 Make-up Standardized Testing
- 23 Fall Makeup Pictures
- 24 Combined Chapel for Bishop Richards visit
- 26 Homecoming Pep Rally at STC Gym and Dance in APC Gym (8-10:30 pm)

Mead Hall Students Invited to Attend the Rotary Club of Aiken

Congratulations to Taylor Houck and Ronald Shepherd on being selected as the Mead Hall representatives for the Rotary Club of Aiken, a club with approximately 165 community leaders. Each student will attend lunch meetings for one month at Newberry Hall. On their last visit they will make short remarks to the Rotary club members and to their parents who are invited to attend the last meeting.



Picture Day Reminder



Senior Pictures will take place on **Monday, Sept. 15th!** Parents and students, check your email for details!

5th-11th Grade pictures will be on **Wednesday, Sept. 17th.** Chapel day uniforms WITH BLAZERS are required!

Homecoming Week and Dance

Homecoming Week will be September 22 - 26 this year. We will have spirit dress days on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for upper school and a middle and upper school spirit dress day on Friday. On Wednesday, students will wear chapel dress and welcome Bishop Daniel Richards to the school.

The Homecoming Dance for high school students will be on Friday the 26th from 8:00-10:30 pm in the Aiken Prep Gym. There is no charge for the dance as it is given to our upper school students by the Board of Trustees Advancement Committee in recognition that these students will one day be alumni of Mead Hall. Guests from other high schools may be invited by our students by seeing Dr. Buck and completing the form for guests.



2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay and Creative Visual Posters Contests

Aiken Technical College and the University of South Carolina Aiken will present the annual community-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. virtually on Sunday, January 25th, 2026 at 3 p.m. at the University of South Carolina Aiken Convocation Center. The celebration is a time to reflect on the past and focus on the future of humanity as a whole. Dr. King's legacy has taught us to commit ourselves to service by serving each other and those in our communities.



For 6th -12th grade essay contest: “What does it mean when Dr. King said, “Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be coworkers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.” – Letter from Birmingham Jail, 1963.

Deadline is: Monday, November, 21, 2025



Check your email for more details or contact
Dr. Pontoo at FPontoo@meadhallschool.org

College Guidance Has Been Busy!

by Dr. Felicia Pontoo

Dr. Pontoo pounced on USC's campus along with college counselors from around the state to hear from College of Charleston, Clemson and University of South Carolina admissions offices. Over breakfast, she heard updates from each school and wrote a ton of notes. For example, the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business holds the No. 1 National Ranking for its undergraduate International Business program, students can earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the College of Charleston and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from MUSC in only four and a half years and out of 61,517 applications received, 23,586 students were admitted to Clemson last year!

While on USC's campus, Dr. Pontoo ran into fellow alumna Maria Reyes, who is currently a junior. Although admitted to several schools (including Loyola University Chicago, Catholic University, Lake Forest College, Rollins College and American University to name a few), she decided to stay close to home...Go Gamecocks!

The very next day, Mead Hall's College of Charleston representative, Diamond Young, met with all of the upper school students to share knowledge about the college admissions process for College of Charleston and unique opportunities that students can take advantage of.

Finally, Dr. Pontoo attended the annual Guidance Workshop in Orangeburg, SC hosted by the South Carolina Independent School Association. Several opportunities were shared with the counselors in attendance including an opportunity to explore Washington DC, available to sophomores and juniors during the summer. <https://ecsc.org/youth>

More college news coming your way soon!



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.






ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Middle School Students join Student Council for some ice cream!




12 September 2025
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM




APC Extended Care Building

PTO SOCIAL




Join PTO for wine and cheese.



SCHOOL STORE

SCHOOL STORE HOURS SEPTEMBER 15-19

Email MHStore@meadhallschool.org for appointment requests



M	Afternoon Hours Open 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
T	Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
W	Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
T	Open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
F	Closed

RESTOCKED



Mead Hall Super Soft Tees!!

Now available in Navy and Red – Youth and Adult Sizes



MEAD HALL PANTHERS

MS Flag Football

The flagfootball team will play their first game of the season on September 15th vs SRA at 5pm! **Volunteers Needed** to run the admissions table

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

MS/V Cross Country

The Middle School Cross Country Team ran their second meet at Augusta Prep last week. Milo Waskavitz finished with a time of 21:46 for the MS boys and Cordy Henley and Sunny Keigans came across the finish line at the same time resulting in a finish time of 27:43 for the girls.

MS/V Swimming

Panther Swim Team continued their progress and met up with over 400 other swimmers at the Wilson Hall Invitational meet in Sumter SC on Saturday, September 6th. While we were outnumbered by a lot, our team improved over their best times in almost every event. Keep up the great work team!!

This Week:



Games at a Glance

9/15 MS-B/MS Volleyball @ SAB 4:30/5:30

Varsity Volleyball @ SAB 6:30

MS Golf @ Pointe South GC 4:00

MS Flag Football vs SRA 5:00

9/16 MS/V Volleyball vs Sandhills 4:00/5:00

MS Cross Country @ EDS 4:00

9/18 MS/V Volleyball vs Westminster 5:00/6:00

VS = home game @ = away game

MS Tennis

Congratulations to our tennis players on their 4-0 win against Midland Valley last Thursday!



MS Golf

Golf team placed 2nd in their tournament against EDS, AP and Augusta Christian last Wednesday with a total score of 179. Congratulations Preston Boyd on a hole in one on hole 13!



MS/Varsity Volleyball

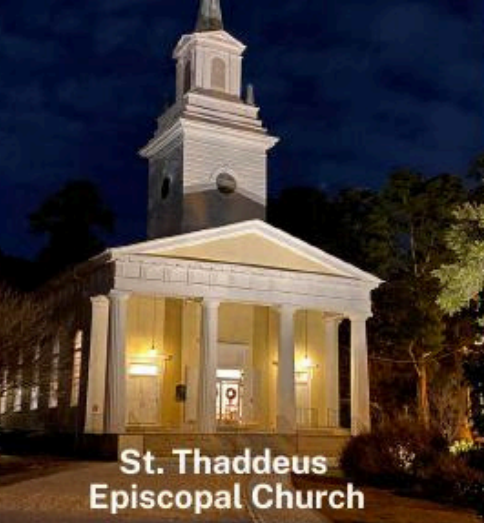


Congratulations to our B-Team players for a streak of wins the past week.

A team has also continued their success with Elly Brown serving up 13 points in a row during Tuesday's game! Varsity players also took home a win against Sandhills last week.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE EVENTS CALENDAR](#)





St. Thaddeus
Episcopal Church



803-648-5497



stthad@stthaddeus.org



125 Pendleton St, SW Aiken, SC 29801



www.stthaddeus.org

Worship Service

Sunday

7:45 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

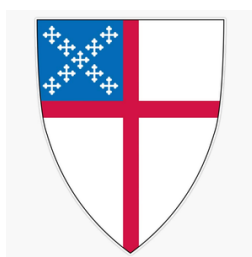
9 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Contemporary Music

11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir & Organ

Wednesday

11:30 am - Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

[CLICK HERE TO LIVE STREAM](#)



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

