

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



WHERE LEARNING COMES TO LIFE

At Mead Hall, learning doesn't stay within the pages of a textbook—or even within the walls of a classroom. Across our campuses, students are discovering, creating, experimenting, performing, and experiencing their lessons in ways that make learning memorable.

Mrs. LaLuz's 8th Grade and Upper School art students brought their studies beyond the studio with a visit to the Columbia Museum of Art, where they experienced works of art firsthand and discovered new sources of inspiration.

Back on campus, Mrs. Gojda's 6th Grade science students rolled up their sleeves for hands-on lab stations, putting scientific concepts into practice through observation, experimentation, and discovery.

Our first graders took their learning all the way to the stars with a visit to the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center Planetarium, exploring the moon, stars, and constellations in our night sky. Meanwhile, Kindergarten welcomed a very special guest—Mother Goose! Through nursery rhymes, reading, and a little imagination, students celebrated the joy of stories and the importance of reading each night.

And sometimes, learning comes to life with a beat! Mr. McLaughlin's 8th Grade and Upper School band students put their musical talents on display with a spirited tribute to Dolly Parton's classic "9 to 5," ([click here to listen](#)).

From art museums and science labs to planetariums, storybooks, and musical performances, our students are doing more than learning about the world around them—they're experiencing it.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Lower School News](#)

[Middle & Upper School News](#)

[Development News](#)

[PTO](#)

[School Store](#)

[Panther News](#)

[St. Thaddeus Church News](#)

This is Mead Hall. This is where learning comes to life.



THE MEAD HALL EXPERIENCE: **Known. Creative. Prepared.**

What makes a Mead Hall education distinctive cannot be captured by a single program, classroom, or accomplishment. It is found in the relationships our teachers build, the creativity our students discover, and the preparation they receive for college—and for life beyond it.

At Mead Hall, students are known, loved, and supported. Our teachers understand their individual strengths, encourage them through challenges, and create an environment where they feel confident taking risks and discovering their gifts. This personal connection is at the heart of the Mead Hall experience.

Creativity also takes center stage. Through music, visual art, theatre, and performance, students learn to communicate confidently, collaborate with others, and approach the world from new perspectives. These experiences develop imagination, discipline, and the courage to share something original.

Our students are also prepared for college and an ever-changing world. They learn to think critically, solve problems, communicate clearly, adapt, and lead with integrity. As technology and artificial intelligence continue to transform the workplace, qualities such as empathy, discernment, creativity, and authentic human connection will become even more valuable.

The Annual Fund helps sustain the exceptional teachers, classroom resources, technology, Fine Arts, athletics, field trips, and meaningful experiences that bring these defining qualities to life. When we invest in the Annual Fund, we invest in the people and opportunities that ensure every Mead Hall student is known, inspired, and prepared to make a meaningful difference.

Our 2026–2027 Annual Fund launches September 10. We invite every Mead Hall family to be part of preserving and strengthening the experience that sets our students apart.



Development Office Contact

Director Advancement & Development
Emily Murphy
emurphy@meadhallschool.org

ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

BEYOND THE BOARDROOM

Last week, we began introducing you to the individuals who serve behind the scenes as members of Mead Hall's Board of Trustees. This week, we are pleased to continue the series by highlighting Chrissy Stoffer and the heart behind her service to our school. For Chrissy, Mead Hall is more than a school her family chose—it is a community in which her family



continues become more deeply invested. This year, that connection took on a new dimension as her husband joined the Mead Hall faculty as our High School Bible and Theology teacher, bringing his own gifts and passion for faith-based education into the classroom.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, Chrissy brings another important perspective to Mead Hall's leadership. Her service reflects a personal commitment to the school's mission, its students, and its future.

But what inspires someone to take on the responsibility of serving as a Trustee?

This week, we invite you to get to know Chrissy and hear, in her own words, why she chose to serve on Mead Hall's Board of Trustees and what makes this school community worth investing her time and talents in.

MEET CHRISTIANE “CHRISSY” STOFFER:

Chrissy joined the Mead Hall board in August 2025. She serves as board secretary and is on the Executive, Audit and the Governance and Nominations Committees.

Prior to retirement in 2024, Chrissy practiced law for almost 40 years in Wisconsin and Illinois, most recently serving as Associate General Counsel at State Farm Insurance Companies where she led a team of lawyers counseling on transactional, regulatory and compliance matters involving State Farm's investment portfolios. Her practice focused on a variety of financial and commercial real estate transactions. She also served as board secretary to a number of State Farm affiliates and counseled actively on governance matters.

Since relocating to Aiken in 2024, Chrissy has become active at St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church, where she is a regular volunteer in its Soup Kitchen, Co-Chair of its Newcomers Committee, a member of the Stewardship Committee and a frequent participant in Christian education programs. She is also a member and officer of the Order of the Daughters of the King.

Chrissy considers it an honor to serve on the Mead Hall board and strongly believes in its mission. She has gained additional insights into the Mead Hall community through her husband, John, also a retired lawyer, who teaches Sacred Studies in the Middle School and is a frequent substitute teacher. This vantage point has only strengthened her belief in the enduring value of a Mead Hall education.



“Opportunity follows difficulty” - Jim Rohn

I visited Preschool this week and watched students learning how to use scissors. Whew! It was challenging to watch them struggle and not to intervene. The students tried all kinds of methods - twisting their hands around, gripping the paper different ways, switching hands, and the results included chopped off corners of shapes and missing the line, but also good cuts along lines and a semblance of the desired shape at the end. It was a difficult task for a preschooler, but with practice, this new skill provides opportunities for creativity in the future. A glance in the PK or Kindergarten classrooms reveals a very different experience with scissors with students cutting using greater accuracy and added confidence. So many of the skills we teach in school require students to struggle before they find success. It is in the struggle that we all grow and learn, or as Jim Rohn put it, “opportunity follows difficulty.”



See you at school,
Joanne



Standardized Testing Update

This year we are transitioning to the Iowa Assessments which is a nationally normed test of academic progress. The online test covers reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies content. Students in 3rd-8th grades will take the two day test in May 2027. Switching to a Spring implementation will allow us to measure student growth for the year and will provide testing information for our families who participate in the ESTF grant program.

1st grade Field Trip

First Grade students visited the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center/Planetarium where the students followed Big Bird and Elmo as they explored the night sky with Hu Hu Zhu, from the Chinese co-production of Sesame Street. The virtual journey went to the moon and discovered how it is different from Earth. Students learned about stars and constellations that can be seen in our night sky.



Note:
The St. Thaddeus Church circle drive will be closed starting next week for church repairs.

Upcoming Dates

September

- 7 Labor Day (No School)
- 11 Field Trip - PK to Trinity
- 15 Field Trip - 4th Grade to Augusta Canal and Museum
- 15 Fall Pictures- STC - red or blue polo with khaki bottoms
- 16 Special Chapel & Kindergarten Chapel
- 17 Field Trip - PS to Library
- 22 Field Trip - 2nd Grade Aiken Trolley Tour
- 24 Field Trip 1st Grade to RPSEC 9:15am
- 21-25 Book Fair
- 27 Mead Hall Sunday





MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

trending
NOW

FROM FIRSTS TO FINAL YEARS:

A Week at the Aiken Prep Campus

There are weeks that perfectly capture what it means to be a Panther—and this was one of them. From hands-on discovery and musical performances to a milestone morning for our seniors and a new opportunity for students to build lifelong financial habits, the Aiken Prep Campus was full of moments worth celebrating.

Our 6th Grade scientists got hands-on, rotating through lab stations that transformed science concepts into experiences they could see, test, and explore for themselves. It's learning by doing—and curiosity in action.

For the Class of 2027, the week brought a moment they'll remember long after graduation. Our seniors gathered for Senior Sunrise, watching the sun come up together as they officially kicked off their final year at Mead Hall. It was a morning filled with friendship, reflection, and excitement for all that lies ahead. One sunrise, one senior year, and countless memories still to be made.

Our 8th Grade and Upper School Band also took center stage, debuting a spirited tribute to Dolly Parton's iconic "9 to 5." Their performance brought plenty of energy and showcased the talent, creativity, and confidence our students continue to develop through the arts.

And this week, we're adding another kind of real-world learning opportunity. Mead Hall is excited to kick off Security Federal Bank's Young Savers Program at the Aiken Prep Campus. A Security Federal representative will be on campus every Tuesday morning to collect student deposits, giving our Panthers an opportunity to practice saving and begin building smart financial habits at an early age.

From lab stations to life lessons, first notes to final years, these are the experiences that make a Mead Hall education so much more than a school day. It's learning. It's growing. It's making memories. And it's all part of being a Panther.



Service Hours Opportunity

When? Tuesday, September 8th 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where? Aiken Civic Ballet Storage House located at 1437 Pine Log Rd.
*near Houndslake

Who? The ACBC needs a few strong guys to help with moving props and boxes in our storage house



If you are interested in available to help, please contact
Mrs. Bruckner at CBruckner@meadhallschool.org

Help is greatly appreciated. Thank You!!

MS STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

Dates

- September 4th
- September 18th

Where: Auditorium

Time: 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM

If you have any questions, see
Ms. Thomas in room 208

Beta Club Tutoring

Beta Club is offering tutoring
services. Please email

wlawso27@meadhallschool.org or
ssmith@meadhallschool.org if you
would like to tutor or be tutored!



Tuesday

PANTHER PLANNER

View Full Calendar

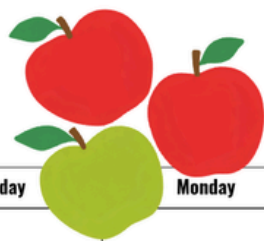
SEPT. 7
Labor Day
No School

SEPT. 10
Senior Lunch
with Rev. Jolly

SEPT. 14
Senior Pictures
In the Auditorium

SEPT. 16
APC Fall
Pictures
In the Auditorium

SEPT. 25
Homecoming
Dance
8-10:30 p.m.



September

PTO
NEWSLETTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 PTO DAY 	17	18 TSHIRT DESIGNS DUE 	19
20	21	22	23 OCT. CFA ORDERS DUE	24	25	26
	BOOKFAIR					
27 PANCAKE BREAKFAST	28	29	30			

PTO DAY

EACH MONTH ON PTO DAY, THE PTO WILL RESTOCK THE TEACHER WORKROOMS FROM THE DONATIONS BROUGHT IN, AND PULL A NAME FOR OUR STAR TEACHER OF THE MONTH!

AUGUST'S STAR TEACHER

MRS. SERAGO WON PTO STAR TEACHER FOR AUGUST! SHE WAS TREATED TO A LUNCH OF HER CHOOSING, LUNCH COVERAGE FROM PTO VOLUNTEERS, AS WELL AS A BLUE COLLARD CASSEROLE TO TAKE HOME FOR DINNER!

CONTACT INFO

PTO@MEADHALLSCHOOL.ORG

MEAD HALL PTO

THIS MONTH



9.4 CHICK-FIL-A DAY

9.16 PTO DAY

9.18 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
TSHIRT DESIGNS DUE

9.21-9.27 BOOKFAIR (LOOK FOR
SIGN UP GENIUS SOON!)

9.23 OCTOBER CFA ORDERS DUE

PARENT SHOUT-OUT

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED ITEMS FOR THE TEACHER WORKROOMS! THIS WILL HELP US KEEP OUR TEACHERS FUELED FOR A FEW MONTHS!



NEXT MONTH



10.2 CHICK-FIL-A DAY

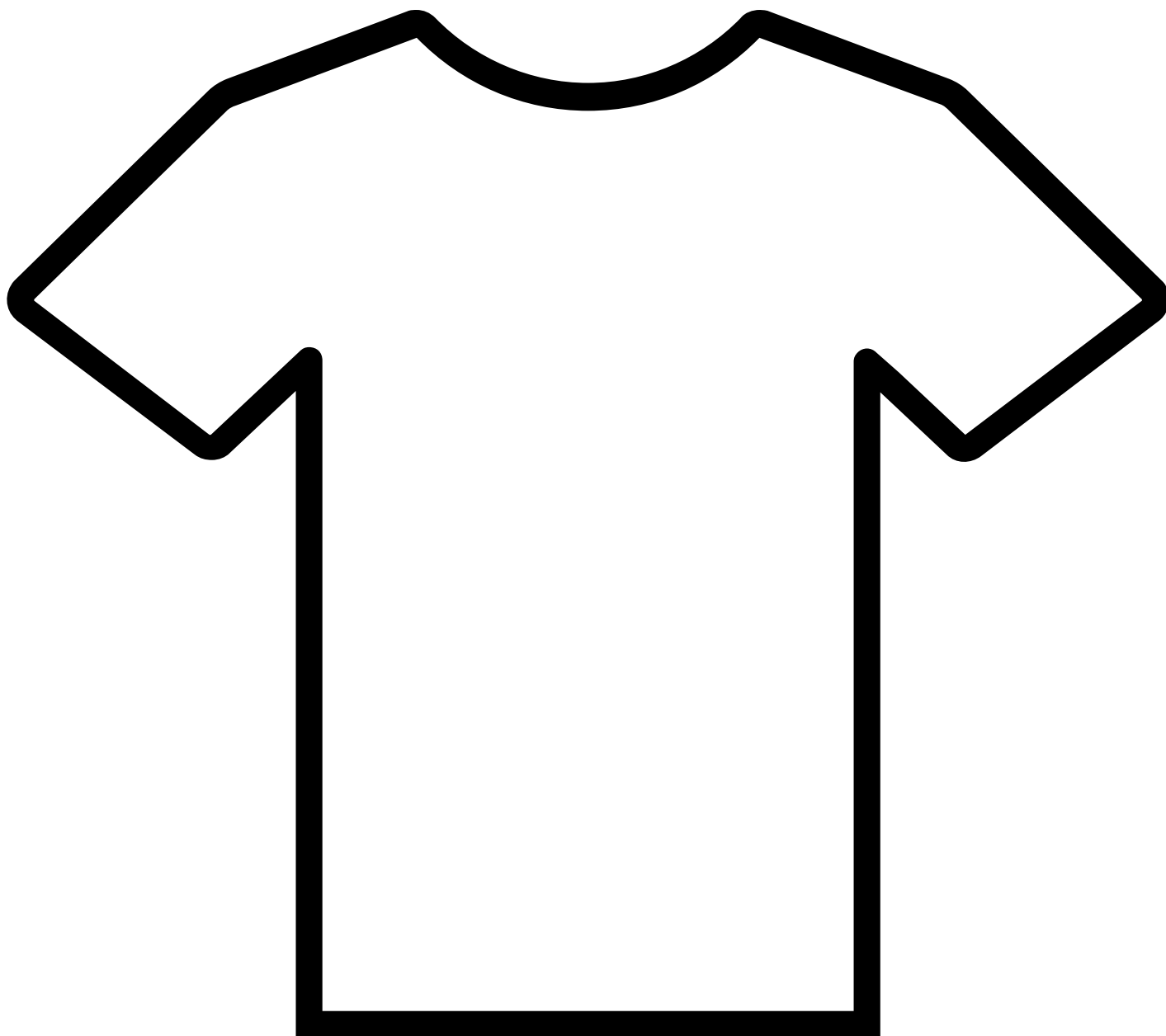
10.5-10.9 FALL BREAK

10.24 FALL FESTIVAL

10.30 GREAT PUMPKIN
WALL

2027 Strawberry Festival T-Shirt Design Competition

Time to get creative! We are excited to give YOU the opportunity to design this year's Strawberry Festival T-Shirt! Submissions will be voted on by PTO and the top designs will be sent out to our Mead Hall Community for final judgement! Design submissions are due to PTO by September 18th.



STUDENT NAME: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

You may submit your design to your teacher or email a copy to pto@meadhallschool.org
Please feel free to use more paper for your artwork if needed!

SCHOOL STORE HOURS

SEPTEMBER 7 - 11



Email MHStore@meadhallschool.org for appointment requests

M

LABOR
★ DAY ★

T

Open 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

W

Open 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m..

T

Open 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

F

Open 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.



MEAD HALL PANTHERS

JVVolleyball

Monday's match up against CCA proved difficult for the JV team. Coach Nikita noted that the girls gave their best effort from first serve to final point. Tuesday's away game at JDA brought another challenge and although the team did not leave with a victory, players recognized their mistakes and understand what to work on moving forward. The coach shared that the progress on the court is a win worth building on!

MS Golf

The team of 5 tackled the hilly and unfamiliar terrain of Mt. Vintage Golf Course on Monday. Coach Bennett noted that difficult is a fair description. The boys put in their best effort and finished with a team score of 185.



Varsity Volleyball

Coach T shared that the week didn't go the way we wanted on the scoreboard as the team came up short in both matches and noting "sometimes the scoreboard doesn't tell the whole story." The girls are starting to play as a team, find their rhythm and trust one another and most importantly believe in themselves. Coach T has encouraging words for the girls saying "I am proud of the way these girls compete and get better. The wins will come!"

Varsity Cross Country



Carly Brown and Willson Lee Lawson represented the Panthers in their first Cross Country meet of the season last Saturday at Heathwood Hall. Willson Lee has a solid first outing and Carly finished her first ever 5-K. Both girls are looking forward to making improvements at the next on September 16th.



Games at a Glance

9/8 MS Tennis @ St. Mary's Augusta 4:00 (Newman Tennis Ctr)
MS Golf @ Aiken Golf Club 4:00
JV/V Volleyball vs SAB 4:00/5:00
Student Section Theme - Pajamas!



9/9 MS/V Swim Meet @ Fermata Club 6:00
Senior Night

9/10 JV/V Volleyball vs Sand Hills 4:30/5:30
Student Section Theme - Country or Country Club



REMINDER

ORDER DEADLINE - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH



\$50 each



\$85 jacket & pants

~ BLUE ONLY ~

Specify your jacket and pant size when ordering.
(\$95 ea if purchased separately)



\$40 each

Specify size and sport when ordering.
Sizing up 1 size is recommended

Fall Sports Athletes:

If you would like to purchase a backpack, hoodie or warm ups orders must be placed by this Friday! See Mrs. Gail in the school office - she will write your name on the order list and collect your payment.



MEAD HALL PANTHERS

MS/V Swimming

After several cancelled meets for weather issues, Mead Hall finally got in their first swim meet on Monday, August 31 at Woodside. It was a great meet, and we already had two swimmers make SCISA State cuts. Congratulations to Ben Berdie & Kai Huskey. Assistant Coach Marks noted "this year's team is a young team, but we know we will have some great meets ahead including next week's meet at the Fermata Club. We are excited to see some fun and fast swims."



MS Tennis

The MS boys and girls teams played their first matches of the season against EDS on Monday. Coach Mcalhaney noted it was a tough team to play and congratulated 5th grader, Meyer Grande, for winning his first singles match!

Winter Sports Codes

Middle School Pickleball 2026 Code- QCP2-M5AT

Middle School Girls Basketball 2026 Code- EBT9-Y3JT

Middle School Boys Basketball 2026 Code- 6PDY-NASX

Varsity Girls Basketball 2026 Code- 4TVT-XD66

Varsity Boys Basketball 2026 Code- YD5L-CFEV

Pom Squad 2026 Code- XN7L-JYLY

Archery 2026 Code- CRLY-XX95

Upper School Cheer 2026 Code- 6PYC-7YEU



sportsYouSM



For information on how to become a Panther Club Sponsor



CLICK HERE





Worship Service

Summer Schedule

5/24 - 9/13

Sunday

7:45 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles

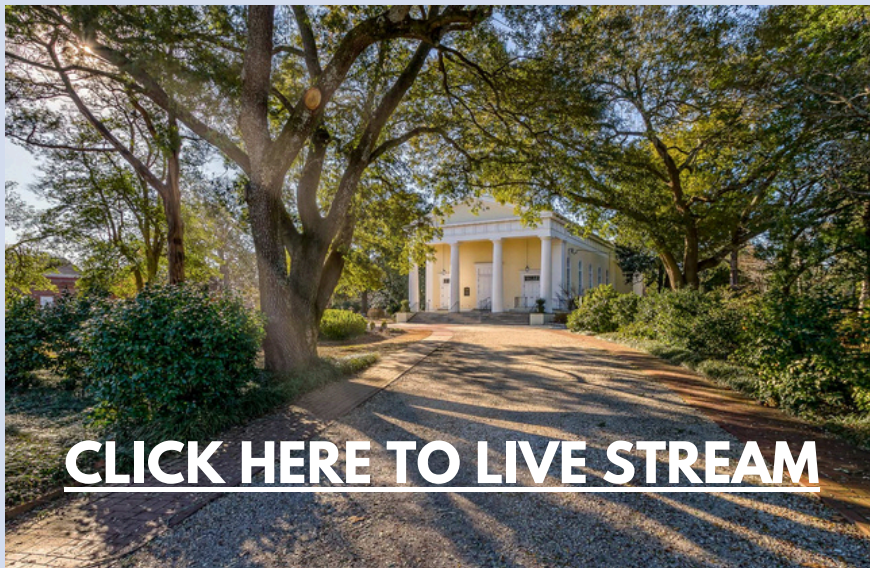
10 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Music

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9-3

Closed Fridays



CLICK HERE TO LIVE STREAM

