OCTOBER 16, 2026

IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School

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From the excitement in carline to the incredible show of support throughout the week, our Annual Fund celebration highlighted exactly what happens when Panthers come together! Our student-athletes brought amazing energy, our families answered the call, and our entire community built powerful momentum for the school we love.

To everyone who cheered in carline, spread the word, or committed their support—thank you! We extend a special thank-you to our student-athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, and parent volunteers for infusing true Panther pride into this week's festivities.

There is still time to be a part of this journey. If you haven't yet participated, we invite you to consider making a contribution to the Mead Hall Annual Fund. Every family's involvement strengthens our community and helps elevate the everyday experiences of our students.

THANK YOU!

Mead Hall's Niche Rating Rises to an A+

Mead Hall Episcopal School has officially moved from an A to an **A+ rating from Niche,** placing it in the **top 2.5% of schools nationwide.**

Niche is a data-driven school review platform for private, public, and charter schools. It combines public data from sources like the U.S. Department of Education with parent and student reviews to grade schools on a scale from A+ to D-. Mead Hall Aiken earned its top overall rating by excelling across the core metrics defined in the Niche K-12 Grading Methodology.



Mead Hall's top marks stem from the following institutional strengths:

1. Academic Excellence & Advanced Outcomes

Academics hold the heaviest weight in Niche's proprietary algorithms. Mead Hall qualifies as one of the elite high schools in the state due to these benchmarks:

- Strong College Prep: The school maintains a 100% graduation rate, and the student body achieves high average SAT and ACT scores.
- Advanced Coursework: It is one of a select group of South Carolina schools to earn an Advanced Placement (AP) Platinum rating from the College Board, offering robust AP, Honors, and Dual Enrollment courses.
- Individualized Attention: A remarkably low student-teacher ratio ensures personalized instruction, directly boosting academic success and positive student feedback.

2. Stellar Community Feedback

Niche's algorithm incorporates a Bayesian adjustment score for community reviews, heavily prioritizing qualitative satisfaction. Mead Hall holds an outstanding **4.52 out of 5 rating** from dozens of user reviews. Alumni and parents consistently praise the school for its tight-knit community, rigorous college preparation, and unique opportunities to forge supportive relationships with the faculty.

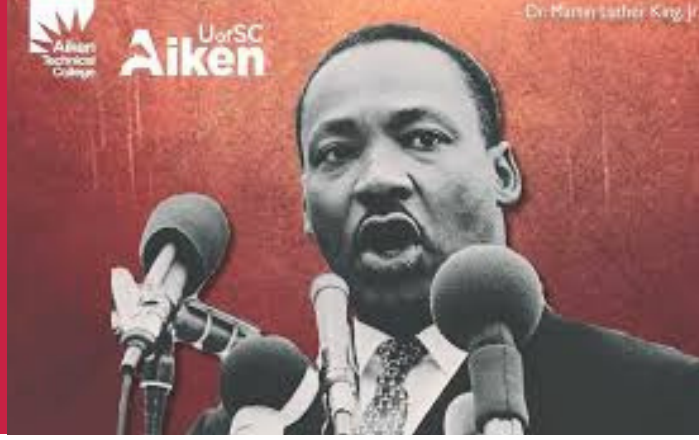
3. Well-Rounded Student Life & Co-Curriculars

Niche grades the "whole child" experience, including extracurriculars, sports, and culture.

- **Athletics:** Mead Hall fields an array of interscholastic sports within the South Carolina Independent Schools Association (SCISA), ranging from traditional sports like basketball and soccer to unique offerings like archery and pickleball.
- **Enrichment & Culture:** The school integrates robust fine arts, mandatory community service for the upper school, weekly chapel services, and specialized middle school art blocks directly into its tuition-covered curriculum.

Students! You are all invited to participate in the annual poster/essay contest in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday celebration, which will be held January 24, 2027 @ USC Aiken. Prizes will be awarded to winning posters/essays. The deadline to participate this year is Monday, November 16, 2026. I hope you will participate! Attached are the directions! Let me know if you have any questions!
Thanks!

~ Dr. Pontoo



2027 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 24th, 2027, 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.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Steering Committee is inviting all Aiken County students to submit an original poster or written essay that draws on their experience to respond to the following questions:

- For Kindergarten-5 th grade creative visual poster contest: **"What does Martin Luther King, Jr. Day mean to you?"**
- For 6th -12th grade essay contest: **"What does it mean when Dr. King said, *"... we must never allow ourselves to become satisfied with unattained goals."*** - Quote from Rev. Dr. King's sermon at Temple Israel of Hollywood.

Successful creative visual posters/essays will answer the question and refer specifically to personal experiences and observations.

Essay Categories: Middle School (up to 1,000 words)
High School (up to 1,500 words)

Creative Visual Posters Categories:
Kindergarten - 2nd grades (should be no larger than 8 by 11.5 paper)
3rd -5 th grades

Eligibility: Must be a student attending a public, private or home school in Aiken County.

Prizes: 1. First place essay and poster winners will receive a grand prize.
2. Creative Visual Posters will be displayed during the program.

Deadline: Monday, November 16, 2026
Winners will be announced on or before December 15 th , 2026.

Creative Visual Posters and Essays should be submitted to the teacher who will then forward to the District Office. For private school students, please submit to your teacher who can contact USC Aiken to pick up. First and last names, name of school, grade level and teacher should be included on contest submissions. For those students who are studying virtually this semester, please mail your entry to the address below.

For more information, please contact Ahmed Samaha, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the University of South Carolina Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. Or you can call 803-641-3411 or email ahmeds@usca.edu.

OCTOBER

PTO NEWSLETTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 TSHIRT VOTES DUE Chick-fil-A	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 BOOSTERTHON REGISTRATION OPENS	20	21 PTO DAY	22	23	24 FALL FESTIVAL STC 10:30-12
25	26	27	28	29	30 STC PUMPKIN WALL	31

FALL BREAK

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE DESIGN SUBMISSIONS! WE HAD ALMOST 70. WE HAVE NARROWED DOWN TO THE TOP 10 AND NEED YOU TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!

CLICK HERE

SEPTEMBER'S STAR TEACHER

MR. MCCUEN WON PTO STAR TEACHER FOR SEPTEMBER. HE WILL BE TREATED TO A LUNCH OF HIS CHOOSING, RECESS COVERAGE FROM PTO VOLUNTEERS, AS WELL AS A BLUE COLLARD CASSEROLE TO TAKE HOME FOR DINNER!

BOOSTERTHON

BOOSTERTHON IS BACK! REGISTRATION OPENS 10.19 AND THE EVENT KICK OFF IS NOVEMBER 2ND. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

THIS MONTH

10.2 CHICK-FIL-A DAY

10.5-10.9 FALL BREAK

10.19 BOOSTERTHON REGISTRAION OPENS

10.24 FALL FESTIVAL

10.30 GREAT PUMPKIN WALL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH FALL FESTIVAL AND BOOSTERTHON! PLEASE EMAIL US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH EITHER!

FALL FESTIVAL: SET UP, TAKE DOWN, DAY OF OPERATIONS, HOSTING A GAME TENT

BOOSTERTHON: DAY OF LOGISTICS. WE WELCOME ALL PARENTS TO COME!

NEXT MONTH

11.2-11.10 BOOSTERTHON

11.10 BOOSTERTHON RACE DAY

11.11 CFA ORDERS DUE

11.20 CFA DAY

Fall Festival

Bake Sale| Games | Music



24 *October*

STC Playground
10:30-12

PTO Pumpkin Sale Fundraiser

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winning t-shirt design was Design #1 by Cora Kate Dannelly-Rush in 7th Grade! The PTO will work with Cora Kate on finalizing the graphic design.



Design 1

((mockup not exact))

SCHOOL STORE HOURS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 19TH - 23RD

MONDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.
TUESDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY	Closed
THURSDAY	Closed
FRIDAY	Closed

IMPORTANT UPDATE - THE SCHOOL STORE WILL BE CLOSED 10/21 - 10/23 FOR TRAVEL, PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY. I WILL REOPEN AT 8AM ON MONDAY, 10/26. THANK YOU!

FOR APPOINTMENTS:

EMAIL MHSTORE@MEADHALLSCHOOL.ORG

MEAD HALL PANTHERS



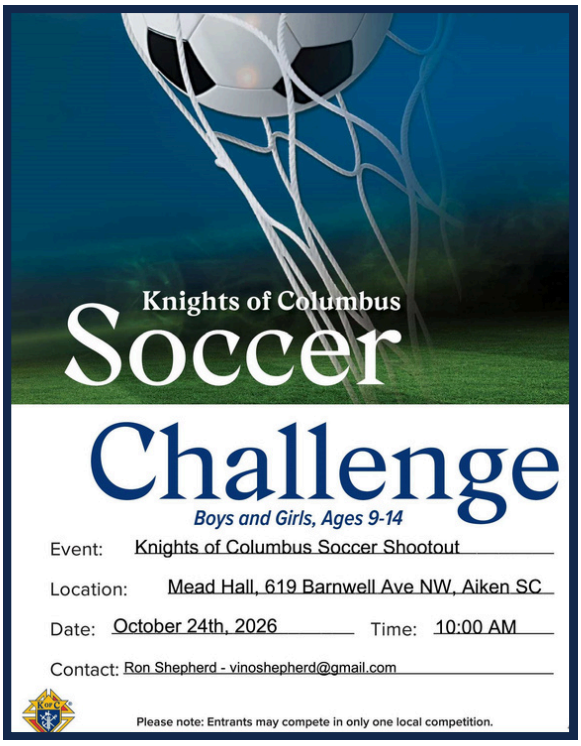
Congratulations

Benjamin Berdie and Kai Huskey

Kai Huskey and Ben Berdie attended SCISA Swimming Championships on Saturday, October 10 in N. Charleston. Both swimmers had personal best times in their events & Ben placed 7th in the 100 Backstroke in the 3A division.

We are so proud of Kia & Ben for their state showings and all our swimmers who worked so hard all season. We are looking forward to next year for another fabulous season.

Coach Johnston & Coach Marks



Games at a Glance

10/19
MS Golf League Championship 10:30 a.m.
JV/V Volleyball vs Curtis Baptist 4pm/5pm
SENIOR NIGHT - DRESS LIKE A SENIOR CITIZEN



10/20
MS Flag Football Semi-Finals vs Augusta Prep 5pm

10/21
Varsity XC SCISA Region II AAAA Meet in Charleston 5:15pm

10/22
MS Flag Football FINALS (tbd)



VOLLEYBALL



SENIOR NIGHT

Monday, October 19th

Theme: Senior Citizen

There will be a prize for the best dressed! The winner will be announced at the end of the game! Come pack the stands and support our seniors!



MEAD HALL PANTHERS

NEXT WEEK





MEAD HALL TENNIS

MEAD HALL FLAG FOOTBALL

MEAD HALL CHEER

MEAD HALL VOLLEYBALL

New Item Alert

Panther Sports Decals will be available in the School Store the week of October 26th. Decals will be available for ALL SPORTS TEAMS to show your Panther Pride! Approx. size 4" x 6" and will look great on the back windshield of your car.



$10 each plus tax

CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOURS TODAY!!

St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church

Worship Service

Sunday

7:45 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles

9 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Contemporary Music

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

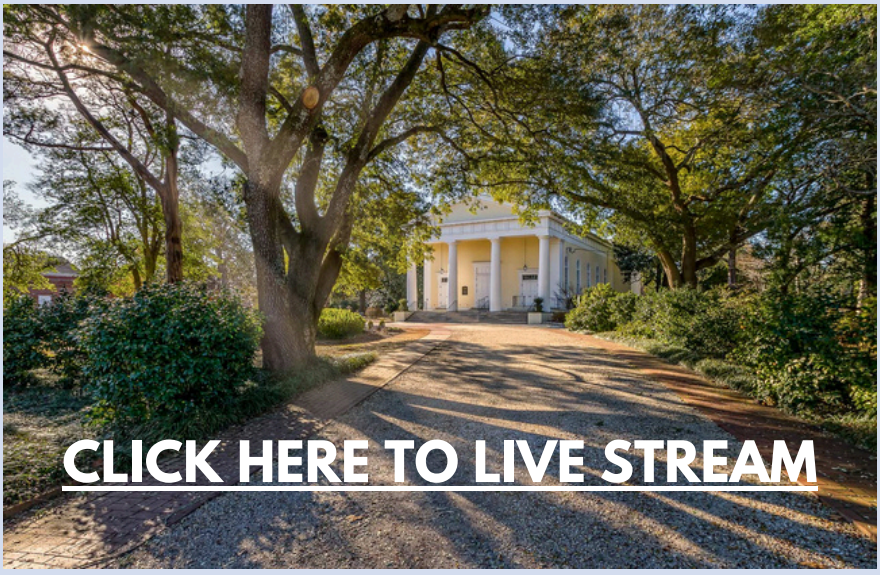
11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir & Organ

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

Wednesday

11:30 am - Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles



ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122 AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223