



July 24, 2023

All-School News

Welcome to the Panther Post!

Our weekly newsletter, *The Panther Post*, is sent to all current families each Monday (or the first school day of the week) during the school year. Parents will receive an email link to the Post and a mobile text reminder, and may also find it displayed on our website at www.EDSAugusta.com/PantherPost. The Post is divided into sections, where you will find All-School News and division updates, as well as Chapel, athletics, EDS Association, and much more! It is important to take time to review the Post each week to stay informed and not miss any pertinent information regarding your child's classes.

Shortly after the school year begins, we will add current grandparents to the mailing list for Panther Post. If you have an email address for a grandparent that you would like to add to our list, please let Susan Huff know at shuff@edsaugusta.com.

Back to School Webpage and All-School Welcome Day

For your convenience, we have published the [Back to School page](#) on our website, located in the top right corner (desktop) or in the menu (mobile). This helpful resource contains information pertaining to all things "back to school," including summer reading, class supply lists, athletic forms, and much more! Please continue to check this resource page throughout summer for updates.

We are excitedly preparing for All-School Welcome Day on Tuesday, August 15. This day is for all students and parents and serves as both our "Meet the Teacher" and "Parent Orientation" events. Parents will check in at the front of the school at their assigned arrival time and will receive a packet of important information, including name tags, carpool numbers, and much more. Students will have the opportunity to visit their classroom and meet their teachers before engaging in fun and interactive centers led by EDS staff. Parents will have a group meeting with their child's teacher and will get to visit our EDS Resource Fair in the newly reimaged Morris Library.

Detailed information and schedules for All-School Welcome Day will be coming soon!

School Supplies

Parents can still order their child's school supplies through [School ToolBox](#) with the ship-to-home option! Thank you to our amazing EDS Association for providing this service to families.

If you prefer to shop for your own supplies, you will find all classroom lists on the Back to School webpage.

New Service Learning Program

We engage in service learning as one way to live out EDS's mission "to guide children to discover their place in God's world for lives of wisdom, love, and service." We aim to follow a pattern/rhythm of awareness, education, action, and reflection for areas of need in our community and beyond.

All EDS students will take part in age-appropriate service learning opportunities throughout the year, interacting with community partners and serving needs identified to us by the recipients of the assistance.

There will also be a school-wide service learning project for each of our three trimesters. These will be student generated and led by our middle school students. While there is no requirement for students to volunteer beyond our school-sponsored initiatives, we do require middle school students to contribute five (5) hours of service to EDS throughout the school year. Numerous opportunities will be available for our students to give back to our EDS community through helping at Fall Festival, sporting events, community events, tutoring others, and supporting our youngest Panthers.

EDS is an approved provider of the President's Volunteer Service Award. This program is for students beginning at age 5 and is led by Americorp and managed in partnership with Points of Light. Students may earn service hours through working unpaid volunteer hours that benefit others.

These hours may be earned through the EDS Service Learning program, as well as through volunteering for organizations outside of EDS (serving as a tutor, a coach for a sports team, working in a soup kitchen, helping out at a camp, etc). Service hours are earned on a 12-month basis starting March 16th and ending the following March 15th. Hours must be logged using the EDS form by March 15 of the year to receive the PVSA in May of the same year. Award levels are as follows:

Age Group	Bronze	Silver	Gold
5 - 10 years old	26-49 hours	50-74 hours	75+ hours
11 - 15 years old	50-74 hours	75-99 hours	100+ hours

Students self-report their hours through completing this form for [Inside EDS Hours](#) and this form for [Beyond EDS Hours](#).

Questions regarding our Service Learning program should be directed to the [Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton](#) or [Ms. Alison Wright](#).

EDS Classroom Volunteers

This summer, we continue to work towards providing more opportunities for parents and grandparents to participate in school activities and invite you to participate in our classroom volunteer program.

At EDS, we greatly value the partnership between parents and the school community. Your involvement and support play a vital role in creating an enriched learning environment for our students. By becoming a trained volunteer, you can actively contribute to the success and growth of our school community.

This training allows you to gain valuable insights, knowledge, and skills to effectively engage with our students and staff. Whether you're a new or experienced volunteer, this program will help you enhance your abilities and provide a solid foundation for meaningful involvement.

If you are interested in a role as a classroom volunteer, room parent, acolyte parent, or field trip chaperone, please [click here](#) for requirements and training.



Georgia GOAL 2024 Tax Credit Applications Now Available!

Since it started in 1944, Episcopal Day School has been one of the most visible and impactful ministries of the Church of the Good Shepherd. The school has expanded its footprint into every corner of the CSRA and is committed to making an EDS education affordable. The Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program is a critical component of tuition assistance for qualified students who continue to enrich our student population. Please take a moment to see how you can participate!

The window is now open to [apply for your 2024 Georgia GOAL 2024 tax credit!](#)

If you have already enrolled for your 2024 tax credit, thank you! If you have not, click [here](#) for simple, step-by-step instructions and additional tax credit information for individuals and businesses.

Questions about the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program?
Please contact Ginger Chew at gchew@edsaugusta.com or 706.733.1192

Thank you for all you do for EDS!

Online School Store

[Click this link](#) for our current school apparel and spiritwear offerings. Deliveries are made to the front office every other Wednesday. Parents will be notified of their delivery date via email.

Amy Tomblinson Presents at SAIS Conference



Our Head of Preschool and Lower School, Amy Tomblinson, spoke to colleagues at the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) Summer Conference in Sarasota. Her presentation about “Supporting All Learners Through Differentiated Instruction” provided insight for attendees on recognizing students beyond their challenges and delivering curricula that is meaningful to all students.

Rising Preschool

[Click here](#) for a preschool division letter sent by Ms. Tomblinson on July 19.

Summer Reading Suggestions

Summer break is filled with all sorts of opportunities to support the literacy development of your preschooler. Providing summer access to books at home is critical in helping your child’s language development. Various summer reading programs around the CSRA will engage all ages with developmentally appropriate literacy activities to support vocabulary development, social-emotional learning, and a love of reading.

[Click here](#) for a list of summer reading suggestions for preschool students.

Rising Lower School

[Click here](#) for a lower school division letter sent by Ms. Tomblinson on July 19.

Lower School Summer Reading & Math Assignments

While we hope you are enjoying a summer filled with fun, family, friends, and activities, we want our students to stay connected to what they have learned this year to hit the ground running when school resumes in August. [Click here](#) for list of summer reading and math by rising grade level.

Rising Middle School

[Click here](#) for a middle school division letter sent by Dr. Andrews on July 19.

Middle School Summer Reading Assignments

Click on the links below to access summer reading for rising 5-8 grade.

[2023 Fifth Grade Summer Reading](#)

[2023 Sixth Grade Summer Reading](#)

[2023 Seventh Grade Summer Reading](#)

[2023 Eighth Grade Summer Reading](#)

Extended Day

All parents who may be registering their child in Extended Day programming at any point in the year must register online in advance by completing this [form](#). For questions about Extended Day, please visit our Extended Day & Enrichment [webpage](#) or contact EDS Extended Day Director, Jocelyn Johnson.

[Click here](#) for a message from Jocelyn Johnson about our new Extended Day programs (sent July 20.)

EDS Association

Join Us for Our First Meeting of the Year!

All parents are invited to attend the first EDS Association meeting of the year on **Friday, September 1** at 8:15 A.M. in the Parish Hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd. We look forward to seeing you there!

Athletics

Dear EDS Parents and Students in Grades 5-8,

The Athletic Department is gearing up for the 2023 – 2024 school year and getting our cubs in a row before we unleash the Panthers in the AAMSL jungle. This letter is jam-packed with essential updates and reminders, so please take a moment to continue reading.

If you are unfamiliar with EDS Athletics and the Augusta-Aiken Middle School League, feel free to contact me. You can also learn about our program and the league at www.edspanthers.com and www.augustaikenleague.com. Please sign up for email and/or text alerts and bookmark the www.edspanthers.com website.

1) Athletic Department Preseason Parent - Coach - Players meetings:

The EDS Athletic Department hosts preseason team meetings at the start of each season. The fall season Zoom meetings will be no longer than 30 minutes each, allowing families and players to attend more than one team meeting.

The schedule for Zoom meetings can be found below.

Monday, August 14:

- **5:00 P.M. - New to Middle School Athletics Zoom Meeting**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89467860187>
- **6:00 P.M. - Football**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82718854952>
- **6:30 P.M. - Tennis**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83708607634>
- **7:00 P.M. - Volleyball**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86515047719>

Tuesday, August 15:

- **5:30 P.M. - Golf**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85162072626>
- **6:00 P.M. - Fall Cheerleading**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82268617352>
- **6:30 P.M. - Cross Country**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82156016913>
- **7:00 P.M. - Clay Target Shooting Team**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85367723832>

New to EDS Middle School - Athletic Orientation - Zoom

This Zoom meeting is for all fifth-grade families and those new to the middle school that would like to know about the ins and outs of the EDS athletic department. This Zoom meeting is at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, August 14.

2) Health Forms: All athletes *must have all health forms* completed and turned in to the nurse or athletic office by the end of the first week of school. The required forms can be accessed on BigSIS and edspanthers.com.

- *5th-8th Athletic Physical Form*
- *5th-8th Parent Concussion Acknowledgement Form*

3) Game Schedules: The game schedules and driving directions to away games can be found on the EDS Athletics website at www.edspanthers.com.

4) Contact Information: If you need to reach me, please email me at jcohen@edsaugusta.com, or call my direct line at 706-261-0111. As always, my door is open to all visitors. If you want to discuss any ideas about the athletic program, please contact me to schedule a meeting.

5) Athletic Team Interest Form

Please help us prepare by having your child complete the interest form for the fall sport(s) they would like to tryout for. This is not a commitment sign up, just an interest to ensure we are appropriately prepared for the fall season. [Fall EDS Athletics Interest Form](#)

6) Fall Athletic Team Information

In the next Panther Post there will be detailed information on each fall team, including contact information for the head coaches. Please add these emails to any contact lists you may already have for future outreach.

7) Coaching Positions

We are still seeking a few coaches for the 23-24 school year. If you know of someone or you are interested in coaching, please contact me as soon as you can. We seek archery, pickleball, cross country, and track coaches.

Thank you all for your continued support of the EDS athletic program. We are excited to get back to school and start a great season! Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Jaye Cohen, CAA