

In the Middle

The Episcopal Academy MS Newspaper

2025-2026 ~ Edition 1 (Fall 2025)

8th Grade D.C. School Trip

By: Leo Wang & Ellen Le

Every year, each grade level of The Episcopal Academy embarks on a school trip that is unique to them. For sixth grade, it's a fun and engaging trip to Boston, perfect for learning about the start of America. For seventh grade, it's quite the turnaround in the wilderness at Echo Hill, where students embrace the arms of Mother Nature. However, the 8th grade trip takes you directly to the heart of the United States of America. With tours of landmarks, museums, and even a moon-lit cruise featuring dancing and dinner, the annual trip to Washington, D.C. is certainly one that they won't forget.

The Class of 2030 reports:

At 6:30 on Wednesday morning, we gathered at the bus circle with not much time to sleep in (and in uniform, too.) With the rising sun, we hauled our luggage on the bus and headed south. Zooming past roads, forests, and towns and cities that became more and more unfamiliar, we stayed on the road for what felt like forever. Yet, every moment of the drive was filled with friends, laughs, and...yes, phones. Once we arrived, we went straight to lunch at L'Enfant Plaza, a mall bustling with activity and even students from other schools, where we were given a \$20 bill for the freedom to purchase the food we wanted.

After lunch, we headed to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, where we mourned the lives lost to the Nazis, learned of the stories and experiences of those who had their lives changed, and gained insight into the impact religion had during World War II.

Then, we visited our first landmarks, where we were greeted with a stunning view of the Washington Monument from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. There we witnessed a curious detail in the Lincoln Memorial: a typo at the monument, where the engravers carved "euture" instead of "future". Most of us found this quite hilarious, and one of our teachers even promised a bag of Mike-and-Ikes to whoever found the error first. We also visited the Vietnam War Memorial, reading soldiers' names on black stone and observing life-like statues just next to them, marching through the rice paddies of Vietnam in drenched rain jackets.



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A 30-minute ride to Mount Vernon brought us to the home and burial site of George Washington. Walking through the restoration of his house, we were able to appreciate Washington's taste in architecture, and maybe not-so-great taste in color, with a room being painted bright green for no apparent reason. We also visited the backyard of the red-roofed house, bathing in the afternoon light hitting the Potomac River and drinking in the relaxing view of the breezy waters.

Following another half hour on the bus, we finally arrived at our hotel, where we checked into our rooms and changed into casual clothes for the night. Gathering together in the lobby, we then hopped back onto the buses and headed to what many looked forward to that night: dinner at Pinstripes. Afterwards, we all rushed down to the bowling alleys where we were able to spend the night bowling and playing bocce. We kept these activities up until 9:15, when we returned to the buses and drove back to the hotel. Once we got back, we returned to our rooms with our newfound roommates, and then had our phones taken away at 10.

A wake-up call at 6am on Thursday brought us down to breakfast, after which we departed for Capitol Hill. Shortly after arriving there, we met with an EA graduate who worked as a banking assistant for Senator McCormick. She explained to us how the Capitol Building operated, answered many of our questions, and provided her own experience with the government. Afterwards, we took the traditional panoramic class picture in front of the US Capitol Building despite the eye-watering winds that day. Following that, we visited the National Cathedral, which was truly a sight to behold. With over 300 feet in height of Gothic stone architecture, it was truly a marvel of a landmark. The interior was no less astonishing, with hundreds of stained glass windows and massive designs all hand-carved. Lunch was held at the Pentagon City Mall that day, where we were once more given \$20 for the variety of food and treats at the mall, with some of us even purchasing some souvenirs.





At 2, we departed for Arlington National Cemetery, where we visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where we witnessed the Changing of the Guards. Then, perhaps the most memorable of the entire trip (second only to the cruise) was when four members of the 8th grade formally laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Ellen Le, Ella Diaz, Graham Evans, and Alex Patitucci held the full honor of this unforgettable moment and later received U.S. Army Challenge Coins that could be used for both bragging rights and catching other members off guard. If a coin was shown to another who should have a coin, and the other person didn't show theirs, then they now owed the original individual a soda—a fun twist for such an honorable item.

And, finally, after changing into dresses and polos...the famed dinner and dance cruise. Group pictures were taken at the dock, and we set sail at sunset on the Potomac. The booming music was blasting at full volume, and we danced all our energy out as we pushed 100 decibels on the ship. On the chilly upper decks, we watched planes land at Reagan National Airport and snapped pictures of both sides of the river. It was truly what it was hyped up to be.

On the last day of the trip, we packed up our bags and checked out of the hotel on Friday morning. Our first stop was the World War II Memorial, where a ring of pillars dedicated to each state that

contributed to the effort surrounded a beautiful fountain of water. Then, with the chilly wind piercing through our coats, we visited the towering MLK Jr. memorial: a massive stone monument cut out of a mountain of stone, carved into the shape of Martin Luther King Jr. Traveling along a calming lake-side, we also visited the FDR Memorial, gaining more knowledge about America during the Civil Rights Movement and the Great Depression.

Afterwards, we indulged in pasta and parmigiana as a farewell lunch at Carmine's Italian Restaurant. Delicious take-home cookies were handed out, the priceless Challenge Coins were given, and at long last, we were headed home.

On the way back, some slept, some listened to music, and others still flocked back to their electronics. Though all of our experiences were unique, the trip to D.C. was filled with laughter, memories, and unforgettable moments.

If only our May Term were as predictable.

Guess we'll have to find out.



AIS Haverford Day

By: Asha Ponnuru & Ava Budrieka

Feeling cold?...It's a good thing we got the swEater!!!

A Note of Inspiration

As the thrilling AIS/Haverford day draws near, the excitement is among the athletes gearing up for an epic showdown! This historic rivalry, dating back to 1889, began with the first football game between EA and Haverford. It's about more than just games; it's about pride, passion, and the pursuit of glory to win the sweater.

This year, the stakes are higher than ever. EA, our spirited co-ed school, is set to take on both Agnes Irwin and Haverford in a fierce battle across all fall sports. Last year, Haverford claimed the glorious sweater, but we're determined to get it back this year!

On the boys' side, EA athletes are ready to dominate in soccer, golf, water polo, football, and cross-country. The girls are amped up too, bringing their A-game in field hockey, soccer, tennis, and cross-country. Last year was a rollercoaster ride for the girls as they fought fiercely. They drew 1-1 in field hockey, clinched a thrilling 1-0 victory in soccer, suffered a tough loss in cross-country, yet absolutely crushed the tennis match 7-0!

With all this momentum, the energy is electric, and anticipation is building. Can EA rise to the occasion and reclaim the sweater? Let's rally together and show our spirit—this is going to be an unforgettable showdown!

Now let's talk about the sweater. This magnificent sweater has been passed between EA and Haverford since 1980. Episcopal Academy snatched the honored sweater first with a complete domination, with a score of 36-2. Wow, that wasn't even close!

This Year...

This year, the girls' soccer team won their match 3-1. Amazing passing skills and awesome teamwork. The girls' field hockey team won their match 4-2, with amazing playing skills and making all the shots.

Girls' tennis, let me bring you through it. First singles won, second singles won, third singles lost, and first and second doubles won. They all played great shots and demonstrated great sportsmanship. Lastly, cross country, we won the top 5! But the average we lost. So AIS officially won cross country. Hard opponents, but with amazing perseverance, they all got the job done.

All the girls' teams played amazingly. Confidence is built when you keep showing up, even on the hard days. You don't need to be perfect — just brave enough to try. Play with passion, believe in yourself, and never back down. You belong on that court, that field, that track — anywhere your heart tells you to go.

This year was a very intense year when it all came down to football! Episcopal Academy snatched the first win in golf with a close score of 176-187. They haven't beaten Haverford on the Merion West golf course since 2011. Water polo with a close battle of 6-5 to Haverford. The score was 2-2, leaving a lot of pressure on the football team. Can they pull out one more win and take the sweater?!?! It was all up to them. They pulled out an amazing win with complete domination, with a final score of 24-3, which gave the sweater to the Episcopal Academy!!!

The Episcopal Academy had a very successful year with fall sports, bringing home the coveted Banner and the cherished sweater.



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7th Grade Echo Hill Trip

By: Sara Adibi

On Wednesday, October 14th, the seventh-grade class departed for Echo Hill, located on the southern side of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland . Upon arrival, we were greeted by the Echo Hill staff and shown to our cabins. The cabins, filled with bunk beds, held room for eight students. After dropping off our belongings in our cabins, we started our orientation session, where we learned about our schedule and general important information for our trip. After orientation, we formed a gratitude circle, where people could share gratitude to staff members, friends, or teachers. This is a tradition we would participate in before every meal. After our first lunch, we learned about the slop bucket, in which we piled our table's food waste and ultimately measured how much food we wasted. This simple task taught us an important lesson about not wasting food and being grateful for what we have. On the first day, after measuring our food waste, we were informed about our walking groups, our activities, and the necessary items for each activity.

One such activity was Pathfinders, which was centered on team bonding with our walking group, comfort in the outdoors, and building communication skills. At the end of our first activity, we were given "passports"—a small booklet in which we reflected on the lessons we learned from our various activities.

Other activities offered included Seeds and Weeds, which taught students about different aspects of plants; Garbology, where students examined garbage; Bay Studies, which taught students about the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay by finding and observing fish and crabs; Aquatic Studies, where students caught fish in different areas; Survival, which was a class focused on survival strategies in the wilderness; and Ziplining, which was a fun course built around team bonding. After three hours of partaking in our respective activities, we enjoyed an hour of free time, where we could shower, go down to the beach, gather with our friends at tentside, or explore the campsite.



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After our free time, we had dinner followed by our evening activity. For both nights, there were two evening activities offered: Opinions and the Night Hike. Opinions is the only indoor class offered at Echo Hill, and it kicked off with a short staff production of The Lorax. Following the production was a debate that focused on the environmental impact of eating meat. On the other hand, the Night Hike involved trekking through the pitch black forest and stargazing. Although walking through the dark forest was scary, it allowed us to step out of our comfort zone and learn to trust our friends. After the hike, we celebrated and roasted s'mores together.

After the evening activity, it was time to head back to our cabin and get ready for bed. Once all were in our cabins, an Echo Hill staff member or EA teacher read us a story, and then we had some time to chat quietly with friends before we had to go to sleep.

For the remainder of the trip, my activities included rock climbing, aquatic studies, the Night Hike, and Bay Studies. Rock climbing allowed us to step outside of our comfort zone and to set goals. In aquatic studies, we learned about the animal ecosystem in different types of water and caught all kinds of critters (which were then released) from the different water environments.

My Echo Hill experience ended with Bay Studies, an activity that involved catching and observing different aquatic creatures, such as fish and crabs, and learning about the rich history of the Chesapeake Bay.

Overall, the Echo Hill Trip was definitely a trip to remember, filled with fun activities, deep moral reflections, gratitude, an understanding of environmental sustainability, familiarity with the outdoors, and a bond with friends. Although the Echo Hill Trip might be classified as a trip that forces us to leave the comforts of our daily lives, it taught us how to engage with nature and set challenging goals for ourselves. Thank you, Echo Hill staff and teachers, for a fun trip this year!



Costume Contest

By: Sarah Van Horn & Lindsay Ferry

Ghosts, pumpkins, tricks, treats, and, especially, costumes! It's finally October, the time of the year for piling leaves and carving jack-o'-lanterns. But the real star of October is Halloween! As Halloween approaches, people have been scouring the internet for sparkly, spooky, scary, silly, and unique costumes! But who will have the best costume?

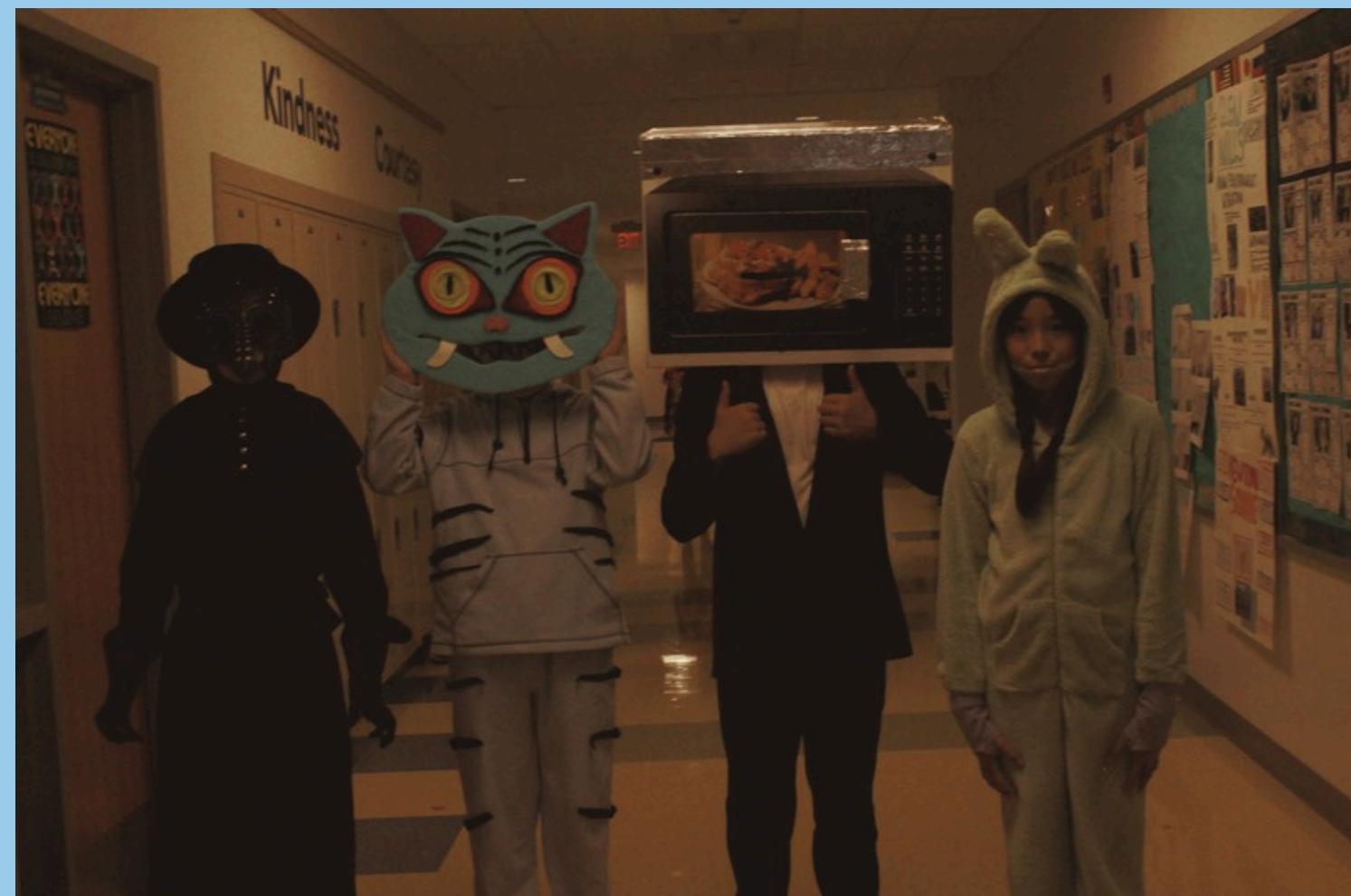
This year, the Middle School Halloween Costume Contest was truly a success! The preceding downpour wasn't part of the initial plan, yet it only set up the event for the better. The rain and the clouds painted the perfect horror-Halloween picture. With over 25 contestants, the competition was fierce. Participants brought new creativity and personality to the contest, making the event even more entertaining. The music and the makeshift runway were the perfect stage, invoking the crowd to go wild.

There was a wide variety of costumes, ranging from scary to silly, each one being better than the one before. This year's winner of the silliest costume was 7th grader Alex Lo as a Microwave Lawyer. Alex's inspiration for this costume was his profile picture on his computer. He also said that he wanted to create an extremely funny costume. He stated that he dressed up in this costume as a joke.

For the most creative, there was no shortage of clever costumes. Each costume offered its own ingenuity, bringing loud cheers from the audience. Costumes ranged from Elsa to Elphaba, but our overall winner was Harry Rheam from 7th grade. Harry was dressed up as the tiger Derpy from the film KPop Demon Hunters—his costume made from scratch and heart. His friends decided to be the iconic Saja Boys who star in the same film.

For the most Halloween-themed costume or the scariest. At first, everyone was rocked with fear as a spooky witch doctor walked by. This contestant truly picked an outfit that would scare the audience. This only brought more cheers from the audience. Ben Shane, the mastermind of this costume, had selected this costume intending to be the best one there. He had known about mysterious doctors and intended to make them come to life for this contest—and he did just that as he grabbed the attention of all the judges and won.

The participation from the crowd would not go unawarded, which brings you to the final section of the contest: Fan Favorite. The cheers could be heard from the Science Hall as the audience shouted for their favorite costumes. Eventually, after 26 competitors stepped in front of the crowd, we had our top 3: a Scarecrow, a Labubu, and The Lorax. The race was close, but the eventual winner was Arden Cha as a Labubu. Arden said that her costume idea came from her desire to dress up as something preppy, which she successfully did with first place in fan favorite! In the end, the Halloween Costume Contest was the best opportunity to celebrate the creativity of those who dressed up. Be sure to dress up next year, and Happy Halloween!



Chapel Council Corner

By: Ellen Le

MS Chapel Council sees many of its big events in the first third of the school year. Three more members from each grade were officially added to this year's roster. From 6th grade: Isabella Fiedler, Ryan Shane, and Glory Wilson; from 7th grade: Lydia Aller, Bailey Mercedat, and Christian Cloud; and from 8th grade: Alma Vennera, Ella Christie, and Ryan Burke. The President and Vice President of Chapel Council have also been chosen: President Riley Romanczuk and Vice President Katie Esterhai are excited to lead the council this year!

Along with elections, the annual blessing of the animals took place in St. Francis Chapel, where students and staff had the opportunity to bring in their pets to Chapel; anything from dogs to fish to even a rat were welcomed before the altar!

The annual Can Drive also kicked off recently with a skit performed by Chapel Council. This year, 6th grade partners with Memorial Church of God in Christ, 7th grade with St. James School, and 8th grade with ACLAMO. As a new change this year, "I donated" stickers will be given out to those who bring in items; as always, 100% participation is heavily encouraged!

Though a trimester of the school year hasn't passed yet, Chapel Council forever bustles with activity and will continue to do so throughout the year!

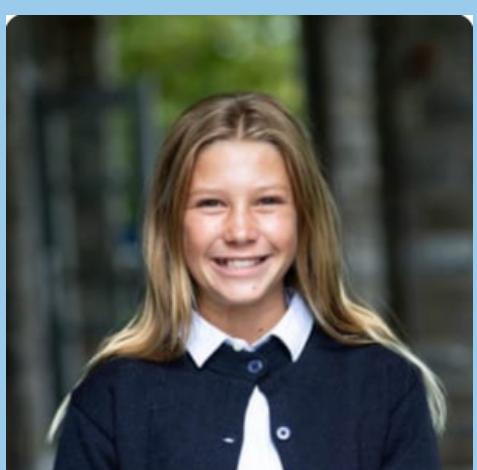
Student Council Corner

By: Gus Ebmeyer

The new student council members have been elected!! New council members include Remy Meininger, Arden Cha, Nicholas Bailey, and Logan Wright from 6th grade; Ishaan Wani and Tess McNeely from 7th grade; Dev Patel, Elise Markle, and Maya Rajan from 8th grade. All new members have done and will do a great job and bring important ideas to meetings. Already, we have had a great start to the year, with events like Game Night, the Halloween Costume Contest, and Are You Smarter Than a Middle Schooler!! The categories that students were able to compete in for the Costume Contest were silliest, spookiest, and most creative. Ben Shane won silliest, most creative went to Alex Lo, and silliest went to Harry Rheam. This year, there was a new category decided by the students: Fan favorite, won by Arden Cha as a Labubu. This was chosen for the person who got the most applause for their costume. An upcoming StuCo event is In the Middle, which is a StuCo-run fifth-grade shadow day. Also, the Spirit Week daily themes are picked by StuCo as well!! This year's themes are Jersey Day, Seasons Day, Clash Day, and the classical and traditional Blue and White Day.

Make sure to keep an eye out for more fun and exciting events happening throughout the year!!

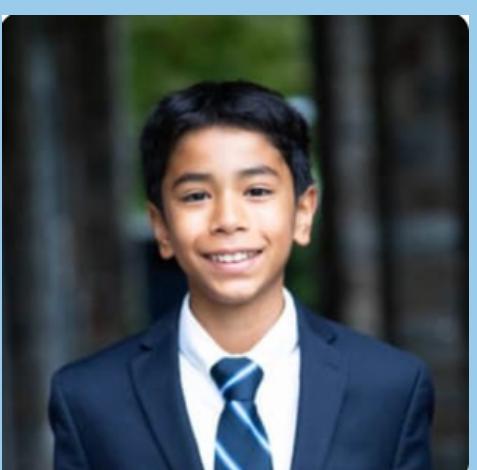
YOUR NEW STUCO MEMBERS!



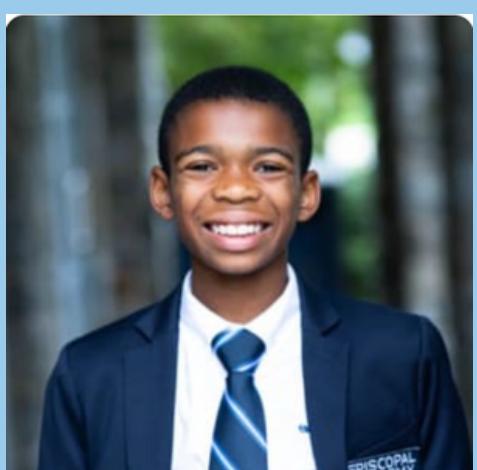
Remy Meininger



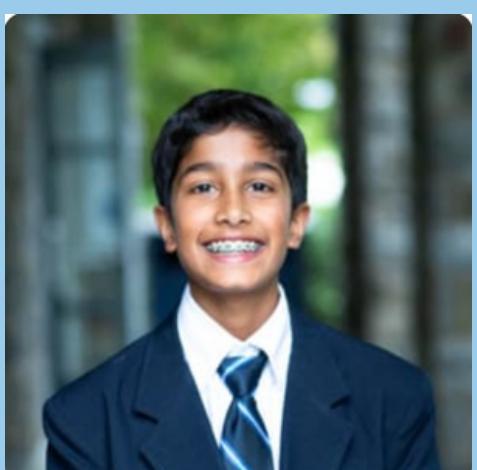
Arden Cha



Nicholas Bailey



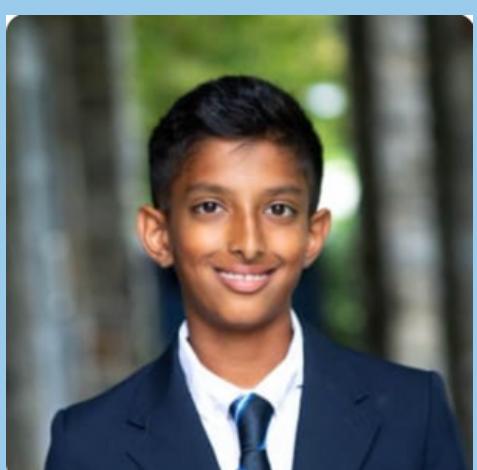
Logan Wright



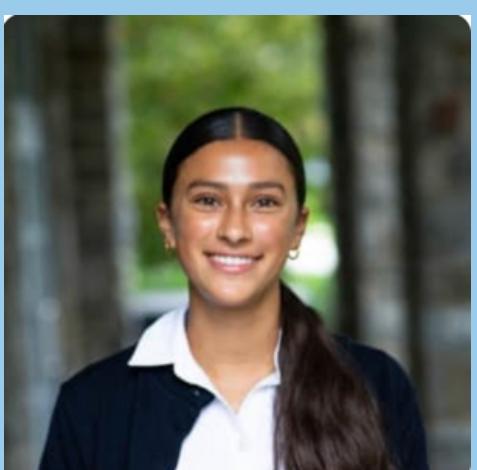
Ishaan Wani



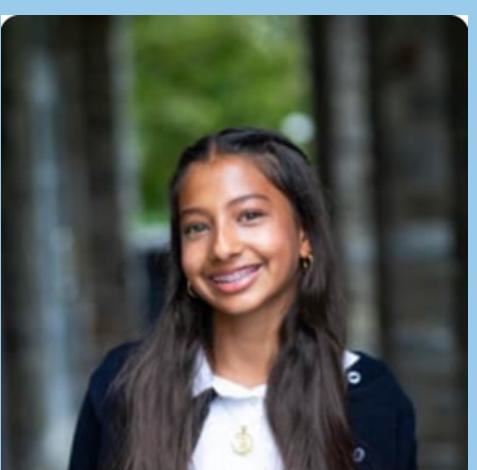
Tess McNeely



Dev Patel



Elise Markle



Maya Rajan

Girls Volleyball

By: Sunishka Agrawal & Eleanor Wood

Volleyball made a strong introduction into the fall sports program last year, and it made an even stronger return this year!

Throughout this past fall season, the middle school Girls' Volleyball Team showed immense growth and development, both in sportsmanship and skills. "I think the biggest challenge has only been time; I wish we had more of it." Ms. Canavan, Girls' Volleyball coach, states.

Here's a rundown of the game. Two teams go against each other with six players on the court. There are three sets, played as a best out of three, with each set out of 25 points. There are three moves you can make, not including serving. The first is the receive (also called the bump), where you bump the ball up with your forearms. Next is the set, where you put your hands above your head and hit the ball up with your fingertips. And finally, the tap is where if you are close enough to the net you can hit the ball over with one or two hands.

Coaches Cerenzia, Selfridge, Canavan, and Pohlig could not be more proud of the teams this year. "People might take us for granted because we're new, but that's not the case when we actually play the game," Coach Cerenzia says.

Even other coaches believe volleyball is a perfect addition to fall sports. "It's a wonderful opportunity for kids who want to have that experience, and it's great that we have a team," states Coach Goens.

Volleyball is a sport where the environment is always positive, and all aspects of it make you want to try your best; there are so many different players, but they all blend together perfectly to create the best team.



Game Night

By: Sara Adibi

On October 24, before the last home football game started, students had the opportunity to participate in the first-ever Student Council-led Game Night.

Game Night was planned and run by Student Council members, who were each assigned a room to ensure everything ran smoothly. Before the event started, StuCo members helped transform classrooms to accommodate the activity.

At Game Night, there were fun and interactive stations positioned throughout the first floor of the middle school. Popular music could be heard in the background as students explored all the fun activities. Each game room had a specific theme to enhance the fun experience. The “Test Your Luck” room was a faux casino filled with card games, such as poker and blackjack, that quite literally tested your luck. Dance lovers could enjoy the “Just Dance” room, in which a screen projected various dance moves that students mirrored. The Game Rooms were divided into an interactive, athletic room (that housed ping pong, cornhole, and spikeball) and a stationary room (with games like Connect Four, Operation, card games, and giant Jenga.) Video game players got to enjoy competing in Mario Kart. Lastly, a BINGO room created competition. Overall, numerous classrooms were set up to offer multiple fun activities so that students could enjoy and explore a variety of games.

Lindsay Ferry, a 7th grader who attended Game Night, stated, “I really enjoyed the variety of games. My favorite part was the “Just Dance” station. But all of the other games looked really fun too, like Mario Kart.”

Ms. McGill, faculty advisor to the Student Council, states, “I think game night was a huge success! Students were able to hang out and have a great time playing all kinds of games. My favorite part was the most intense game of giant Jenga I've ever seen! I also loved seeing students get super into spikeball!”

Ms. Piette adds, “The variety of activities was perfect—from table tennis and cornhole in the Maple Family Hall to card games led by our eighth-grade student leaders, and classics like Operation!, Apples to Apples, and chess in the breakout space.”

Game Night was a huge success that will hopefully become an annual tradition for the middle school. As Ms. Piette states, “I would absolutely love to see this continue in upcoming years! The Student Council did an amazing job organizing everything, and it was wonderful to see students enjoying wholesome, interactive fun together. The energy was infectious, and it created such a positive sense of community.”

Fall Sports

By: Gus Ebmeyer, Maya Rajan, & Emme Tabasso

Athletics are an essential part of life at EA, and we are very fortunate to have so many fall sports options. These include Football, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Girls' Tennis, Water Polo, Soccer, Girls' Volleyball, and Fitness. Every student is supported and valued, no matter whether it is their first time trying a new sport or they have years of experience under their belt. Each team works hard during practices and games, showing both dedication and school spirit. Whether it's cheering from the sidelines or competing on the field, EA students come together to support one another, creating a strong sense of community. After all, sports isn't just about winning; it's about growth, friendship, and the excitement of trying your best. Our coaches play a huge role in making our fall sports successful and meaningful. They dedicate their time to countless hours teaching techniques and helping each athlete improve. They not only encourage, but also inspire all of our Middle School athletes and their journeys in their sports. As the season comes to a close, students have learned to build confidence, develop sportsmanship, and work well with their teammates, all while learning important life skills in the EA Middle School community.



MS Singers

By: Florrie Miles & Grace Finley

Middle School Singers (MS singers) is an amazing chance to learn, connect, and have fun if you enjoy singing, performing, or just want to try something new! Here you can learn about MS singers and what they do.

The first step to joining MS singers is to sign up for an audition spot and confirm with Ms. Hardison. Then, on the day of the audition, arrive a bit early and get ready to sing. Then you will be called in to sing some warm-ups, and Ms Hardison will find out if you are an alto (lower voice) or a soprano (higher voice). **CONGRATULATIONS!** You are now part of Middle School Singers!

One of the songs that the MS singers will be singing this year is 'Northern Lights', which is about the beauty of the phenomenon of aurora borealis. The song will take you on a journey to the North Pole, where you can see 'lights flicker, lights flash' in delightful arrays of color and light. Another song that the Middle School Singers will be singing is 'The Beauty of the Earth'. This song is about how we can enjoy our world and all the beautiful things we can find in it.

All of the Middle School Singers meet on days 5 and 8 during flex to practice their songs in the chorus room. Rehearsal kicks off with vocal warm-ups, then moves to learning/singing the songs.

Some opportunities offered within Middle School Singers are travelling to Hershey Park to perform and compete, meeting special guests who come in, singing in chapel and in school concerts, and performing during school events like the Christmas tree lighting.

Meet Ms. Hardison:

Q: What is your favorite MS singer's memory?

A: My Favorite memory is the performance we did at Saint Francis Chapel.

Q: What do you do behind the scenes for MS singers?

A: I select music, coordinate performances, set up auditions, connect students with joining the group, and coordinate workshops with professionals

Q: What inspires your choice of music for MS singers?

A: I try to pick music that is more artistic and also enjoyable to listen to and perform. I also like to pick music with more complex harmonies or requirements for the amazing singers who I know will focus during meetings and sing it beautifully.

Meet a Middle School Singer:

Q: What are your favorite parts of MS singers?

A: "I love being able to sing with my friends."

Q: What have you learned in MS singers?

A: It has strengthened my ability to work in a team

Q: How have you grown as a singer since you joined?

A: I've explored my vocal range. I'm normally alto, but Middle School Singers has given me a chance to try soprano parts.

Q: Have you made new connections with people you don't usually hang out with through MS singers?

A: Yes, I like meeting people from other grades and forming new friendships.

In conclusion, Middle School Singers is a great opportunity to make new friends, learn responsibility and collaboration, along with developing confidence in your abilities. Whether you have done a lot of singing in the past or not, MS Singers is a great place for everyone who loves to sing!

MS Girls Tennis

By: Campbell Baird, Ava Budreika, & Grace Finley

Tennis is like a cycle: you serve, you struggle, you adapt, you strive, and you sometimes lose, but you always come back for the next point. Middle school girls' tennis is a great opportunity to get involved and try something new. Players can cheer on their teammates, work hard, and have fun at the same time.



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The middle school girls' tennis program consists of three teams: A, B, and C teams. The A and B teams have played matches against other schools. There are so many important things in tennis: footwork, your swing, and even where you stand on the court. However, the most important part about tennis is trying again and coming back.

The coaches for tennis have devoted their time to helping us succeed. The coaches this year were Coach Whalen, Ms. McGill, Ms. Montgomery, Ms. Dragwa, Ms. Yeager, and Ms. Fu.

Below is an interview with Ms. McGill, assistant head coach of A team:

Q. What is your favorite thing about coaching tennis?

I like that the group is very small, so I get to know the players better. We have beautiful facilities, and I love spending time out on the courts!

Q. Have you seen improvement from players this year?

Yes, I have seen tons of improvement, especially from the 8th graders over the years.

Q. Can you tell me about your coaching experience and background in tennis?

Before I came to EA I had no coaching experience, but I watched a lot of tennis.

Q. What inspired you to become a tennis coach?

I coached Boys soccer first but it was not my favorite and I was not very interested. I liked and had more interest in tennis so I switched and I learned so much from the players

Q. What do you believe are the most important skills for players to master?

I believe that hustle is very important. There are moments to relax and slow down but there are also times you must show commitment.

Q. How do you balance technical instruction with keeping tennis fun and engaging?

We like to integrate important practice into fun games and drills.

Q. How do you handle different player personalities or learning styles?

Working with singles is easier because you are coaching them directly, while it is harder to coach doubles because they must be evenly matched and work well together.

Q. How do you assess a player's strengths and weaknesses?

We must establish the ranking of the team: the order of mastery. We start with challenge matches, and who wins the highest percentage of matches. Once the ladder is established, we look at who has the best hustle and attitude.

How do you prepare players for tournaments or match situations?

I try to prepare players by making sure they show up and work hard. We have limited time. I think it is important to give your all and attempt to learn a lot from coaches and teammates.



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Jazz Band

By: Leo Wang

With so many amazing programs, groups, and clubs here at EA, there's definitely a wide variety of places that people can fit into. If you're into art, you might go to Art Recess to craft together a masterpiece. On the other hand, if you enjoy tackling difficult problems, the Math Club might be a better option for you. However, there are definitely some notable clubs that stand out, and this article highlights one of them: The MS Jazz Band. Every year, tons of people from all grades try their very best in a one-time audition, judged by none other than Mr. Dankanich himself, for the Jazz Band, playing a piece that they think best demonstrates their ability. This year, there was no shortage of people auditioning, and the number of people who got in was also significantly higher than last year, a clear sign of the growing interest in music and the arts. The Jazz Band is playing two songs this year: Ritmo Cristal, which features a catchy mambo rhythm, and a returning band favorite, Flight of the Foo Birds. Make sure to look out for the Winter Concert in December!

YOUR JAZZ BAND THIS YEAR

Woodwinds

Zach Chen

Caoive Donnelly

Alexander Bailey

Leo Wang

Helmut Dang

Naya Agarwal

Victor Tsai

Alexander Patitucci

Mak Enakhimion

Zack Stankewicz

Brass

Aubrey Whitman

Dev Patel

Nate Mackey

Lorenzo Zavatti

George Wentz

Viviana Calderon

Ben Shane

Rhythm/Percussion

Tommy van Binsbergen

Carl Deirmengian

Drew Michel

Robbie Deirmengian

Symphonic Band

By: Leo Wang & Adam Balogun

At the start of 7th grade, one of the most important aspects of EA comes into play: electives. Spanning subjects like STEM, marine biology and creative writing, there is a near-endless selection of fun and intriguing electives to take and enjoy. However, there are still some requirements students must fulfill for these electives: taking at least one theatre elective, such as Designing for the Stage and Improv, and one music elective, such as Guitar 101 and Handbells. Another option for students is taking a year-long music course, such as the famed Symphonic Band.

Playing catchy songs like All I Want for Christmas Is You, the Symphonic Band is a staple of the EA music department. The man behind the class is Mr. Dankanich, who teaches instruments such as the trumpet, baritone, saxophone, clarinet, flutes, trombones, and percussion all year long. Due to it spanning across the entire school year, we can choose which songs we want to play in accordance with the season, like in the Winter, we play Christmas-themed songs like Santa the Barbarian. This year, the Symphonic Band is playing 4 pieces, still featuring that classic Christmas theme: Candy Cane Clarinets, Jolly Ol' Saint Stickolas, A Glorious Noel, and A Bleak Midwinter, which will all be featured during the Winter Concert on December 10th.

In the Symphonic band, there is even a trip to Hershey Park for the Music in the Parks event, a real highlight of the experience, where EA students compete against other schools to earn awards with distinguished honor, with the rankings being Superior, Excellent, and Good. After competing, it's off to the rides for about an hour to go on roller coasters, have fun with friends, and overall have a blast at Hershey. So, if playing an instrument has any appeal to you, or maybe you just want to feel the beat, give Symphonic Band a try.



Mr. Dankanich, the man behind Jazz Band and the Symphonic Band

Newsies

By: Eleanor Wood

It's no secret that the 2025 MS musical is Newsies, but what really is Newsies? What happens behind the scenes? Here is all the information behind what Newsies is, what happens behind the scenes, and what the MS thinks about it.

Newsies is a movie-turned-musical based on the 1899 paper boy strike in New York. The original movie was released in 1992, and the story became a musical in 2011. This year's musical features the main cast of Riley Romanzuk, Ella Diaz, Katie Esterhai, Henry Goens, and Lander Snyder. On October 5, the cast of Newsies had a very special workshop with former Broadway Newsie Jess LeProtto! The Newsies cast learned a bit of original Broadway choreography and had a Q&A with him. A special shoutout to Jess for coming and giving us some Newsie magic!

Ms. Tomkowich, the musical director, provided some more information on this year's production in a short Q&A:

Q: What inspired you to choose Newsies for the MS musical this year?

A: "It's something that I've always really loved, and I thought about how many dancers we have and I thought Newsies, yeah!"

Q: Are you excited to see our MS cast perform Newsies?

A: "Yeah. I'm excited to see the passion come out. When Jess LeProtto was working with you all, it reminded you guys of how unified the newsies were during the strike, and I'm excited for you guys to know the choreo and the words and to have fun and act with it."

Q: What was going through your head during the Jess LeProtto workshop?

A: "I was thinking about how he is so dedicated to the discipline and the work that his job has to do, and here at EA we do it for fun, but he's always working on it, so I was thinking wow, and I thought it was good and that he could talk about it with so much passion, but he also has to work so hard."

Q: And finally, do you think the MS is going to love Newsies?

A: "Yeah. I think that it's about kids, and it's always fun to see kids your age, and the newsies are a very rambunctious group, so I think it will be fun for the MS to see that. It's also about kids finding their voices, so I think it will be inspiring for the MS."

Everyone is excited for Newsies. From the performers to the crew, every aspect is amazing, and the whole Middle School can't wait to see what the performance will be like! There will be an in-school performance on Thursday, 11/20, and additional performances on 11/21 and 11/22. See you there!



Photos courtesy of the New York Times.



Ms. Tomkowich, the musical director.

FUN & GAMES

By: Eleanor Wood

UNSCRAMBLE

Eegtrisoyn: _____

ievl Het Psiesrt: _____

Wpasnpere: _____

Ceoppiasl Daecmay: _____

Hftai: _____

SUDOKU

	7	8	3		2	6	5	9
6	5		9	1		3	4	
	3	4	5	7	6	2	8	1
	6	5	1		3		4	7
8	4			6		1	2	
3	1	7	4		9	8		
4	9	6	8	5		3		2
		3	6		1		7	8
7		1	2	3	4	5		6

ANSWER KEY

Eegtrisoyn: Generosity

Ievl Het Psiesrt: Live The Stripes

Wpasnpere: Newspaper

Ceoppiasl Daecmay: Episcopal Academy

Hftai: Faith

1	7	8	3	4	2	6	5	9
6	5	2	9	1	8	7	3	4
9	3	4	5	7	6	2	8	1
2	6	5	1	8	3	9	4	7
8	4	9	7	6	5	1	2	3
3	1	7	4	2	9	8	6	5
4	9	6	8	5	7	3	1	2
5	2	3	6	9	1	4	7	8
7	8	1	2	3	4	5	9	6

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Are you interested in writing for the MS Newspaper? Reach out to Ms. McGill at mmcgill@episcopalacademy.org for more information. We are always looking for more writing staff and photographers!