



The Christ Courier

Volume 17 Issue 1

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Episcopal School

September, 2025



The 2025-2026 School Year Begins . . .

by Catherine Oliver, Head of School

On behalf of the school board, faculty, and staff of Christ Episcopal School, I welcome all returning and new students and their families. We are so pleased to be your partner in the education of your children.

I want to share a few things with you that help make our partnership a great success:

1. Parents of students in preschool, check your child's *tote bag* EACH DAY for teacher and school communications, as well as student work.
2. Kindergarten to 5th grade parents:
 - A. Sign or initial your child's *Academic Planner* each day and review teacher notes, assignments, and reminders.
 - B. Check your child's backpack for his/her "take-home" folder, which will contain school notes and student work sometimes requiring your signature and return.
3. Communicate, via phone or email, with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.
4. Call **me** if you want to further discuss **anything**.



TWO COMMUNITY RECOGNITIONS



Christ Episcopal School

has recently been honored with 2 highly distinguished awards. This summer we again were voted **Best Private School** in Nacogdoches in the **Best of Nac 2025** survey. We also have received the **Medium Business of the Year** award from the **Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce** and will be recognized at the banquet being held on September 23rd.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are thrilled to announce our 2025 **Pumpkin Patch Chair**, CES Parent **Jena Rhodes** (Kate, 3rd). She will coordinate our Pumpkin Patch volunteers throughout the month of October. Pumpkins will be delivered on **Tuesday, October 14th!** We will need multiple volunteers to help unload and sign up for Pumpkin Patch shifts. Please join our CES annual tradition of selling pumpkins to our Nacogdoches community. This will be our 28th year! If anyone is interested in helping Jena co-chair the Patch, please let us know.

Welcome, Father David!



We are absolutely thrilled that **Father David Butorac** is now serving as **Rector of Christ Episcopal Church** and is serving as **Chaplain of Christ Episcopal School** as well. He is leading our chapel services on Wednesday mornings and sharing his message to the teachers and students and family members who attend. Please join us for our weekly chapel. It serves as a peaceful, joyful pause to center on God and experience His presence. We wholeheartedly welcome Father David, his wife, Emily, and their daughter, Eva Marie (Pre-K 3). Hallelujah!



CES GARDENS



We are excited about continuing to work in our CES Gardens with the **Nacogdoches Junior Forum (NJF)** and their support with another grant totaling \$1,303.19 that will help our students further learn about the beauty of growing plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables themselves. **Kristeen Hanes** (4th grade teacher) received the check from NJF representative **Carlie Allen**. NJF members will work with our **CES students** on garden projects this year.

Mission: Christ Episcopal School is a diverse community of learners who participate in an enriched academic program in a nurturing Christian environment which fosters a dedication to service to others and a love of lifetime learning.

Christ Episcopal School - Parent Association

Our CES Parent Association chairs this year are **Jena Rhodes** (Kate-3rd) and **Terri Eastep** (Abigail-2nd). They will hold the first **CES-PA meeting** on **September 9th at 5:30** in the **CES library**. The CES-PA communicates to parents via the classroom teachers, the CES Parent Association Facebook page, and the Remind App. I am so grateful for their efforts and time spent on organizing and following through with our CES-PA fundraising activities. Committee **volunteers are needed** to assist with the upcoming school year events. We would love new parental involvement in the **Parent Association**. Please attend the meeting if you can!



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

CES receives a percentage of your Kroger purchases throughout the year after you enroll online. Please enroll to

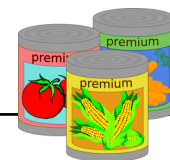
help benefit the school at <https://www.kroger.com/account/RewardsNow/>

CASH FOR CAPS M&S and Stripling's

CES earns 25 cents for every medicine bottle cap you turn in that is from M&S Pharmacy and/or Stripling's Pharmacy. Please participate!



T-Shirt Sale: The CES-PA is selling our new CES t-shirt design that can be worn on Fridays during the school year. Order forms will go home soon!



FOOD for H.O.P.E.

Our on-going community project is the local food bank, H.O.P.E. - *Helping Other People Eat*. Each Wednesday, students bring canned or dry food goods to Chapel to donate. Make an effort to send a food item each Wednesday for the rest of the school year. Christ Episcopal School does make a difference in the lives of our own neighbors!

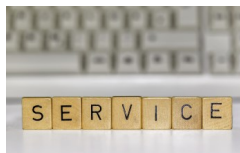


CES BOARD OF TRUSTEES!

The **CES School Board** held its annual Board Retreat on Saturday, August 16th. We have our Board President, **Joe Shelkey**, and our

Vice President, **Victor Lofgreen**, returning to serve. We will soon announce our new **Treasurer** and **Secretary**. Other members of the 2025-2026 CES Board of Trustees are: **Ken Deppisch**, **Carrie Gilcrease**, **Olivia Kiritsy**, **Brenda Lindsey**, and **Suzie Mayes**. We are extremely grateful to this group of dedicated volunteers who truly care about our school, its families, teachers, and most importantly, our students.

We are sad to say farewell to three outstanding school board members. Two of them served two 3 year terms and another served 3 years before moving out of state. All of them were valued and devoted supporters of CES. **Sydney Kroll** was our Secretary and guided her Committee on Trustees with her expertise in updating old and writing new policies and protocols. **Alan Sowards**, who helped start our CES gardens years ago, shared his love of teaching science with the students through his and their involvement in the gardens. **Morgan Wallace** served as Treasurer and improved our financial situation by applying his knowledge and experience with the help of his Operations committee. They will be greatly missed and we thank them profusely.



SERVICE LEARNING

Christ Episcopal School works extremely hard to teach its students the importance of serving others through service learning. This allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world situations while addressing community needs. Each grade has a community organization or group that it chooses to help by participating and interacting with them in a number of different ways. I will highlight our service learning activities throughout the year in my monthly newsletters. It is a valid part of what we do.

Important Dates in September

Mon., Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday, <u>NO SCHOOL</u>
Sun., Sept. 7	Blessing of the Backpacks, 10:30 am church service Rally Day at Christ Church
Mon., Sept. 8	Donuts with Dear Ones, 7:30-8:30 am, School Hall
Tue., Sept. 9	CES-PA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Library
Wed., Sept. 10	Mid 9 week reports sent home, Grades 1-5
Wed., Sept. 24	Individual Pictures
Mon., Sept. 29 - Fri., Oct. 3	Scholastic Book Fair
Mon., Sept. 29	Open House Night, 5:30-6:30 pm