

Dear EDS Parents and Students in Grades 5-8,

The Athletic Department is gearing up for the 2022 – 2023 school year and getting all of our cubs in a row before we unleash the Panthers in the AAMSL jungle. This letter is jam-packed with important updates and reminders, so please take a moment to continue reading.

If you are not familiar with EDS Athletics and the Augusta-Aiken Middle School League feel free to contact me. You can also find out about our program and the league at www.edspanthers.com and www.augustaikenleague.com. I strongly encourage you to sign up for email and/or text alerts as well as 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 which will allow families and players to attend more than one team meeting.

The schedule for Zoom meetings can be found below.

Monday, August 8:

- **6:00pm - Football**
- **6:30pm - Tennis**
- **7:00pm - Volleyball**
- **7:30pm - Golf**

Tuesday, August 9:

- **5:00pm - New to Middle School Athletics Zoom Meeting**
- **6:00pm - Fall Cheerleading**
- **6:30pm - Cross Country**
- **7:00pm - Clay Target Shooting Team**

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. Zoom is at 5pm Tuesday, August 9.

- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87596487841>
- Meeting ID: 875 9648 7841

2) Health Forms: All athletes *must have all health forms* completed and uploaded to www.PlanetHS.com by the end of the first week of school. The required forms can only be accessed through PlanetHS.com, BigSis, and edspanthers.com

- o 5th-8th Athletic Physical Form
- o 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 would like to discuss any ideas about the athletic program, please contact me to schedule a meeting.

5) Fall Team Information

Below is 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.

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

Fall Sport Specific Information

EDS Fall athletics will begin Wednesday, August 10. Please read each team description for the days and times of tryouts / practice.

Football – Head Coach: Steven Josey, sjosey@edsaugusta.com

Assistant Coaches: Scott Connell, Jackson Ammons, Wayne Carter, TJ Barton, Morgan Quiller

- Team Size: 40
- Preseason Practice: August 1 – 5
 - o **at Flowing Wells Campus** – 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
 - MONDAY - Helmets only. Players will need mouthpieces and cleats. Only contact with air and bags
 - TUESDAY - (9:30am-12:00noon) Helmets only. Players will need mouthpieces and cleats. Only contact with air and bags
 - WEDNESDAY - Helmets and shoulder pads. Mouthpieces, cleats are needed. Contact limited to controlled- contact above the waist and players stay on their feet.
 - THURSDAY - Helmets and shoulder pads. Mouthpieces, cleats and tennis shoes needed. Contact limited to controlled - contact above the waist and

players stay on their feet.

- FRIDAY - First day of full pads and full contact. Full pads consist of helmets, shoulder pads, practice pants with pads, mouthpiece and cleats.

- **Regular Season Practice Schedule:** Monday – Thursday 3:30 pm to 6 pm starting August 8
 - Regular Season Practice Location:
 - Morris Field at FWC
 - Pick up will be at FWC
 - Needs: Water bottle, cleats, mouth guard, athletic support/cup, white football practice pants and leg pads (*can be purchased at Johannsen's or most any sporting goods store*), and a personal face mask.
 - Team members will change into their football clothing at FWC not WWC.
 - EDS provides - helmet, shoulder pads, game day jersey, and game day pants with pads in them.
 - FRIDAY August 12 practice is needed to meet AAMSL, GISA, and state policy on football acclimation period for the safety of the athletes.
- Join Zoom Meeting - August 8 at 6pm
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85867133094>
- Meeting ID: 858 6713 3094

Tennis – Boys & Girls Head Coach: Kirby Melbourne kmelbourne@edsaugusta.com

Co-Head Coach: Zach Carpenter, **Assistant Coach:** Lillian Macgruder

- Team size: 10 boys; 10 girls
- Tryout days - If more than 10 tryout, tryouts will be August 10, 11, and 12.
- General Practice Schedule: Monday – Thursday from 3:15 to 4:30 pm starting August 15
- Practice Location: Newman Tennis Center.
- Needs: Player's own tennis racquet, tennis shoes, labeled water bottle, athletic shorts, t-shirt
- **Parents pick up players at Newman Tennis Center at 4:30.**
- Join Zoom Meeting Monday, August 8 at 6:30
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86871327971>
- Meeting ID: 868 7132 7971

Volleyball – Head Varsity and Jr. Varsity Head Coach: Candice Carlson coachcarlson86@gmail.com

Assistant coach and EDS alumna - Grace Roberts

Team Size: 8 Varsity, and 10 Jr. Varsity.

- Tryouts: August 10, 11, and 12 at Walton Way Campus Gym
 - All girls from 3:05 to 5:30.
- Regular Season Practice Schedule (starting Monday, August 15)
 - Jr. Varsity: Monday through Thursday: 3 pm to 4:15 pm
 - Varsity: Monday through Thursday: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

- For Varsity players that intend to stay at EDS rather than go home, there will be a team study hall in the gym from 3 to 4:15.
- Practice Location: Walton Way Campus Gym
- Needs: Athletic court shoes, knee pads, shorts, t-shirt, water bottle
- **Parents will pick up players at Walton Way Campus after practice**
- Join Zoom Meeting - Aug 8 at 7:00 PM
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89609459741>
- Meeting ID: 896 0945 9741

Volleyball Preseason Skills Clinics

The EDS coaches are hosting a **voluntary skills clinic** the week before school starts, August 1-3 from 10am - 12pm. Any EDS athlete interested in playing volleyball and meeting the coaches before tryouts are welcome.

Golf – Head Coach: Bryan Fortune

Team size: 10

- Tryouts: Monday, August 15, 16, 17, and 18.
 - From 3:30 to 6:00 pm at Forest Hills GC
- Regular Schedule: Golf will generally meet Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Regular Practice Locations:
 - We will announce the locations once they are finalized. (Forest Hills, The Patch, River Club, and First Tee Augusta.)
- League Matches
 - Mondays starting Aug 23 at either River Club, and Forest Hills Golf Club,
 - Tuesdays - at Woodside Country Club or Aiken Golf Club.
 - For matches in Aiken, I will need parent volunteers to drive the team. Only 5 golfers attend the matches.
- Needs: Player's own golf clubs, golf balls, and golf shoes. For tryouts and general practices, players should wear a collared shirt, and either khaki shorts or pants
- Parents will pick up players at tryouts, practices, and match locations.
- Join Zoom Meeting - Aug 8 at 7:30 PM
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86835515194>
- Meeting ID: 868 3551 5194

Cheerleading – Head Coach - Alison Andrews '91, Aliusc99@hotmail.com

Co-Head Coaches: Kathy Burns, kburns@edsaugusta.com

- General Practice Schedule: Every Friday; 3:10p to 4:30p starting August 19
 - The team will have additional practices scheduled each week.
 - First practice Friday, August 19
- Practice Location: Walton Way Campus Gym & Stage
- Needs: Cheer shoes, athletic shorts, t-shirt, water bottle
- Parents will pick up players at Walton Way Campus after practice

- Join Zoom Meeting - Aug 9 at 6:00 PM
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82244279164>
- Meeting ID: 822 4427 9164

Cross Country – Head Coach: Shea Schmelzer (sschmelzer@edsaugusta.com)

Assistant Coach: Lakeisha Thigpen

- Team size: *No limit.*
- Practice Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 3:30 to 5pm pm starting Monday, August 15.
- Cross country meets are at either Augusta Prep or EDS-FWC. They are held on either Thursdays or Fridays. Please check the schedule for the EDS XC team.
- Transportation: The EDS bus will take them to FWC and parents are expected to pick up their athlete at 5pm.
- Practice Locations: EDS Flowing Wells campus, Walton Way Campus, or the Canal. A schedule will be sent out once it is finalized.
- Needs: A good pair of running shoes, athletic shorts and t-shirt, a water bottle
- Join Zoom Meeting - August 9 at 6:30
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88090313800>
- Meeting ID: 880 9031 3800

Clay Target Shooting Team - Head Coach - Trey Hargrove treyhargrove@knology.net

Assistant Coach: Timmy Pittman

- Students must first take the Hunters Safety Course as required by the Georgia Department of National Resources. This course can be found online at <https://www.hunter-ed.com/georgia/>
- Student-Athletes will be able to participate in other teams during the fall and winter.
- Practices - At Pinetucky Gun Club - Sundays at 3pm. Starting date to be announced.
- Meets - Most will be MS only meets at PGC on Tuesdays.
- The Interscholastic season runs from August to November
- Team members will need to be transported to practice by family or friends.
- Students are responsible for providing their own firearms, paying for practice targets & ammunition. (I have some ammunition from grants but not enough to support the whole team for the full season.)
- Students should have some prior experience of shooting shotguns.

At no time can team members bring their guns to the campuses of Episcopal Day School

- **More detailed information will be discussed at the August 9 Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm.**
- Join Meeting - Aug 9 at 7:00 PM
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86451042152>
Meeting ID: 864 5104 2152

Athletic Department Orientation Zoom Meeting- Tuesday, August 9 at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is for new families to Middle School athletics (5th-8th grade)

- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87596487841>

- Meeting ID: 875 9648 7841