Cougar Vocabulary

Here is a broad sampling of the terms, phrases, buildings and events you'll see and hear referenced throughout your Collegiate experience. We hope this guide is helpful.

General or Multi-Divisional

**Auction/Winter Party** - A Collegiate tradition for more than 40 years that serves as the largest fundraiser of the School’s Development Office and generates funds used for numerous projects that enhance learning and teaching and improve School facilities.

**Brunch** - A lighthearted choreographed musical montage presented every year by the Junior girls for girls in Middle School and Upper School, and in special honor of 12th Grade girls. Brunch is always held the day before Thanksgiving break and the theme is kept secret until the day of the event.

**Centennial Hall** - The Lower School Cafeteria.

**Convocation** - An all-school gathering for students, faculty and staff held in September to kick off the school year.

**Cougar Classic** – A faculty/staff basketball game held in Jacobs Gym each February. Hosted by the Parents’ Association as one of its annual fundraisers.

**Cougar Holiday Express** - A family holiday dinner and shopping experience, coordinated by the Parents’ Association in early December.

**Cougar Pals** - Every student new to Collegiate in 1st-12th Grade is paired with a current student (a pal) in the same grade to help ease the student’s transition.

**Cougar-Paw-Looza** - A fun and informal evening for Collegiate family and friends to celebrate the new school year.

**Cougar Shop** – Collegiate’s campus store, which offers Collegiate clothing, hats, school supplies, books and gifts. Located in the brick building off Mooreland Road bearing the Cougar Paw, along with the Middle/Upper School Admission Office.
**Culminating Capstones** - Signature programming designed for 4th, 8th and 12th Graders at Collegiate conclude the student experience in Lower, Middle and Upper School. Utilizes design thinking methods and allows students to devise solutions for real-world needs or challenges.

**Lessons and Carols** – A Christmas celebration for boys in 5th-12th Grades. Held at the nearby Second Baptist Church.

**McFall Hall** – The Middle and Upper School cafeteria.

**Pageant** – A Christmas production presented by girls in 5th-12th Grades every December.

**Parents’ Night** – During the first month of school a special evening is held for all parents to meet the teachers and School administration. Many details are presented concerning curriculum, homework, field trips, parties and school routines. The three Parents’ Nights - Lower School, Middle School, Upper School - are held on different evenings to accommodate our families.

**Paw Print** - Collegiate’s print newsletter for parents, featuring news and events hosted by the Parents’ Association.

**Quest Programs** - Collegiate’s vibrant after school programs for students in Grades JK-8. Students in Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten can participate in Kinder Quest; students in Grades 1-4 can participate in Cougar Quest; students in Grades 5-8 can participate in Middle School Quest.

**Responsible Citizenship Initiative** - Brings together eight vital areas of the School under one umbrella - the pillars of Global Engagement, Service Learning, Economic Literacy, Inclusion, Ethics, Civic Engagement, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship - to ensure that each grade level builds on the foundation of the previous one, from JK-12th Grade.

**Seniors and Kindergartners** - In a longstanding Collegiate tradition, every kindergartner is paired with a senior student. The students spend time together throughout the year in various activities, from Convocation to reading time.

**Spark** - Collegiate’s alumni magazine, published three times a year and mailed to alumni, current parents, grandparents and friends of the School.

**Summer Quest** – Collegiate’s summer program for members of the Collegiate community and metro Richmond at large. Offers more than 120 courses and camps for ages 16 months to adult.
**Torch** – The school yearbook which comes out at the end of the school year.

**VGF (Village Green Fair)** - An on-campus family-fun event and fundraiser organized by the Parents’ Association and held each April. Features a variety of games and activities for all ages. Free and open to the community at large.

**Weekly Paws** - Email sent to parents once a week, to provide an overview of what’s ahead for the coming week, including programs, announcements and school-sponsored opportunities.

**Lower School**

**Across the Bridge** – Refers to the Middle and Upper School campus when you walk from the Lower School campus. The Middle School and Upper School are located across the wooden bridge near the School’s football field.

**Campus Cubs** - Fourth Graders who provide assistance on campus, particularly during Lower School arrival and dismissal.

**Cougar Savings Club** - A bank run by 4th Grade students with assistance from SunTrust Bank, which manages the student deposits. The bank is open to all Lower School students on specified days.

**Envision Collegiate** - 4th Grade Capstone Program
The entire 4th Grade immerse themselves in a design challenge that focuses on a particular theme. Students learn how to engage in research, collaborate for the purpose of design, convey their ideas and practice leadership skills.

**Parent Volunteer Experience (PAVE)** - A Parents’ Association program through which Lower School moms and dads volunteer to assist Lower School faculty with classroom, art and playground activities.

**States Fair** - A 2nd Grade study project of the 50 states, culminating with a parade and stage performance that features songs and dances.

**Big Sis/Little Sis** – To help smooth the transition from Lower School to Middle School, 5th Grade girls are paired with 8th Grade girls for various activities held on campus throughout the school year.

**Middle School**

**Cub Sports** - Fall, winter and spring team sports opportunities for boys and girls in 7th and 8th Grades. There is a no-cut policy.
**Halo Girls** – Girls in Grades 5-12 who are recognized by their peers as students who throughout the year perform acts of kindness without expectation of reward. Halo girls are announced during Brunch, the musical montage presented every year by the Junior girls for Middle School and Upper School girls.

**Middle School Council** - The student government organization for 5th-8th Graders.

**Envision Richmond** – 8th Grade Capstone Program
The entire 8th Grade uses the city of Richmond as a classroom during this innovative initiative. In fall and spring, 8th Graders engage with local nonprofits to learn about their needs and challenges, then work collaboratively to design viable solutions.

**Time Out** - Informal social events planned by the Parents’ Association for 5th and 6th Graders after school.

**Upper School**

**Community Engagement Week** - A weeklong service learning experience for 9th Graders that allows students to serve in local nonprofits, organizations and schools. The program is integrated into the English curriculum and features pre- and post-reflection activities.

**Envision Your World** - 12th Grade Capstone Program
The 2017-18 school year will see the implementation of the Senior Year Capstone, Envision Your World, which will help students explore the world in and beyond metro Richmond and work collaboratively to design solutions to specific needs or challenges they discover. Seniors participate in selected classes of interest from a diverse list of one-semester course offerings, each of which supports the eight pillars of Responsible Citizenship. Examples of classes include TEDxYouth@RVA and Global Issues through Film.

**Feast of Juul** - A dinner for senior boys and some Upper School faculty, hosted in November, during the week of Thanksgiving. Hosted by the Parents’ Association as a tradition that celebrates the boys’ final year of school.

**International Emerging Leaders Conference (IELC)** - A weeklong event hosted on campus each October. Brings together approximately 40 students from 10 countries, who use the design thinking process to create solutions to the world’s most pressing issues. Guest students are hosted in the homes of Collegiate families, and the visiting students meet with Collegiate students in Grades JK-12 during their stay. (Upper School programming in the spring semester also allows students to participate in IEL Americas and IEL China - similar collaborative programs that include visits to Mexico and China respectively.)

**Seniors and Fleurs** - In a tradition dating back to the early days of The Collegiate School for Girls, junior and senior girls are paired for various activities throughout the year.
**Sharp Academic Commons** - Located on the northeast corner of campus, this building houses the Saunders Family Library, the Julia Williams’ Archives, the Estes Cafe’, Upper School counseling offices, classroom spaces and the **Craigie Board Room**. School-related and community-wide events are routinely hosted in Sharp and/or the Craigie Board Room.

**The Match** - Collegiate’s online newspaper written and published by Upper School students. www.matchcollegiate.org