



## Upper School Grades 9 – 12

### Reflecting, connecting, celebrating, and preparing

The St. Francis journey culminates in our growing Upper School, where your student draws on all their knowledge, confidence, imagination, and skill to prepare for the next phase of their education and life. We combine intensive, interdisciplinary coursework with increasing autonomy to create a college-like experience, empowering students to hone their particular talents and interests while continuing to explore new possibilities—academic, personal, and spiritual.

*In Upper School, your student's best work develops and their best self **steps forward** through real-world-focused projects like these...*



# Upper School

*"Here, you feel like a leader. You can score in the basketball game, and all your teammates give you high fives. You have a leading role in the play as a freshman or sophomore. The confidence kids get here makes them more prepared for college."*

*-parent*



## PADDLE YOUR OWN BOAT

Combining math and physics, students design and build cardboard boats that they must paddle across a pool. They research boat design, calculate surface area and volume, research buoyancy, and try out different prototypes before putting their finished craft to the sink-or-swim test.

Ingenuity flourishes as students discover different ways that form can follow function—even as the laws of mathematics never change.

## THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES PROGRAM

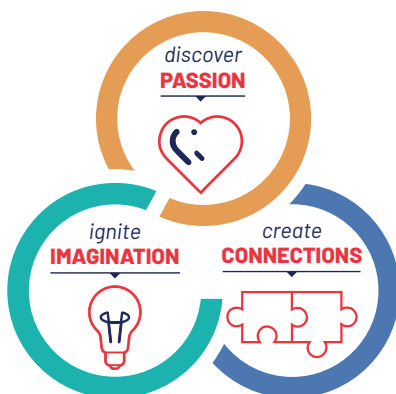
Launched as a way to share our students' creativity with the Primary and Lower Schools, this program has become a centerpiece of the Upper School's *people for others* mission. Students select a production to work on—such as *The Cat in the Hat*—and then choose and learn their roles as actors, technicians, stage managers, costume designers, directors, or even acrobats.

Then we take the show on the road, performing for children in underserved communities and hospitals. Our students especially love discussing what they've learned about theatre production with their audiences.

## THE ROAD SCHOLARS PROJECT

As part of our inaugural Immersions and Explorations term, this project combined hands-on work in many disciplines. In the sciences, students explored alternate fuel sources. In mechanical engineering, they created a lever that activated the car's "jaw." In art history, they dove deep into non-traditional community-based art, and in a practical auto shop class, students got under the hood of their art car.

Upper Schoolers showcased their brilliant and beautiful creation, Wolfie, at the Houston Art Car Parade, taking home a medal for their efforts.



### \*Our P.I.C. Approach:

**Passion, imagination, and connection** come together to shape, joyful, eager learners at every age.

# At a Glance: Upper School Curriculum



## CURRICULUM

In Upper School, our P.I.C. Approach\* prepares compassionate, confident, insightful graduates to thrive and lead in college and beyond.

Our Upper School core curriculum promotes in-depth understanding of subjects, skills, and technologies essential for success. St. Francis graduates confidently step forward into the future, knowing it's filled with soon-to-be-discovered opportunities—and fully prepared to make the most of them.

## CORE SUBJECTS

Computer Science  
Mathematics  
Science  
Spanish  
Fine Arts  
English  
History  
Faith and Spiritual Life  
Athletics and Physical Education

## SIGNATURE OFFERINGS

**Hands-On Entrepreneurship** In Upper School, we nurture an entrepreneurial spirit in our students culminating with their Senior Project, when students design and carry out their own passion project at the end of senior year.

**Experiential Travel** Reflecting our school's commitment to local and global engagement, we offer Upper Schoolers opportunities to study and serve in the Houston community, across the country, and around the world.

**Health and Wellness** As the world grows more demanding, personal well-being becomes ever more elusive and important. Our wellness curriculum helps students achieve and maintain balance and physical and mental health, which helps them today and throughout their lives.

**Internships** The St. Francis internship program extends classroom learning through practical work experience. Students' career prospects grow and broaden as they discover how professionals apply their education in the real world.

**Leadership** As *people for others*, Upper School students serve as leaders across campus, in the larger Houston community, and around the globe. Through multifaceted service learning projects, they connect with mentors and peers, forming meaningful, lasting relationships that change lives.

**Technology** Through high-level instruction in coding, computer logic, and 3-D technology, we provide Upper Schoolers with creative design opportunities that integrate engineering and computer science, while fostering responsible digital citizenship.

**College Counseling** Our personalized counseling program helps each student select, choose, and enroll in the college that fits them best. We guide students and families through every step of the process, including essays, resumes, the college list, standardized test prep advice, and much more.

**Ready to learn more?** We're happy to answer any and all of your questions! Please e-mail [Admissions@StFrancisHouston.org](mailto:Admissions@StFrancisHouston.org) or call 713.458.6112.