

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of May 6

All School

Parents, Please Take a Brief Survey to Help Us Plan

As part of our strategic planning process, we are surveying St. Francis parents. **Your input is critical in shaping our path forward.** Please take a moment to complete the survey, which is available by [clicking here](#).

You 'Art' to Check Out Our Online Gallery Winners!

Friends of Fine Arts offers a big round of applause to this year's Fine Arts Online Gallery blue ribbon winners—whose art ran the gamut from a ceramic turtle to a one-of-a-kind self-portrait to wildlife in copper repoussé! [Please click here to view the gallery](#).

These students and their families were honored at a reception on Tuesday, and you can take a peek at their artwork in the People Place. Special thanks to our Lower and Middle School visual arts faculty members Emily Arnot and Amy Chandler for their guidance and inspiration!

Kinder: Gabby Hendricks | *Turtle*

Grade 1: Mary-Claire Eidman | *Parrot*

Grade 2: Hutch Burrow | *Toucan*

Grade 3: Matthew Kandolha | *Self-Portrait*

Grade 4: Fife Famurewa | *Flowers With Pumpkins*

Grade 5: Bess Brazelton | *Graffiti Name*

Evan Stout | *Farm Animal (Dog)*

Grade 6: Lily Gay | *Tiger Copper Repoussé*

Izzy Hendricks | *Elephant Copper Repoussé*

Chloe Zagorski | *Keyhole Mixed-Media Drawing*

Grade 7: Elliott Theis | *Fox Sculpture*

Carys Howell and Katelyn Hodge | *Ceramic Monster Mugs*

Grade 8: Claire Fortney and Miya Voss | *Architectural Letters*

Health Forms for 2018-19 Now Available

Information about health-related requirements and all the necessary health forms for 2018-19 are now available. You can access them through the Parent Portal using the “Magnus Health Information” link or by [clicking here](#).

Please note that completed Magnus Health forms for the 2018-19 school year are due by **Friday, June 1**.

2018-19 School Supplies: Online Ordering Now Available

School supplies may now be ordered online for the 2018-19 school year.

Visit www.educationalproducts.com/shoppacks, and enter your division’s ID code in the box provided:

- To order a school supply pack for a student in LOWER SCHOOL, enter the code STF001.
- To order a school supply pack for a student in MIDDLE SCHOOL, enter the code STF018.
- To order a school supply pack for a student in UPPER SCHOOL, enter the code STF079.

The deadline to order is Sunday, June 24, 2018.

Supplies will be delivered to your child's homeroom prior to the first day of school.

Please note:

- Incoming seventh, eighth, and ninth graders must have a TI-84 graphing calculator for the 2018-19 school year. If you don’t already own one, you will want to purchase the newest model, the TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator. The TI-84 Plus CE is approximately \$135-\$165.

- Similarly, incoming sixth graders will need to purchase a TI-30Xa scientific calculator for the 2018–19 school year if they don't already own one. These are approximately \$12-\$15.
- *These items can be found at local and online retailers.*

Please [e-mail Kim Graeter](#) with questions.

FoFA Presents Kipling Quartet for Student Enjoyment

Friends of Fine Arts is pleased to provide opportunities to celebrate the arts at St. Francis—most recently by presenting the Kipling Quartet for the enjoyment of the St. Francis community. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed listening to the beautiful music performed by Oleg Sulyga (violin), Sylvia Oullette (violin), Lorento Golofeev (viola), and Steve Estes (cello).

Sylvia is a member of the St. Francis School of Music faculty and plays at St. Francis Episcopal Church's 11:00 a.m. service. Oleg plays at the church's 9:00 a.m. family service.

As Stevie Wonder sang, **“Music is a world within itself, with a language we all understand.”**

FoFA Needs Your Help This Tuesday

Friends of Fine Arts needs your help changing out the art in the People Place **this Tuesday, May 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m!** The frames need to be emptied, cleaned, and remounted with fresh student artwork.

It's easy and fun—and you may even get to see your child on his or her way to class or lunch! What a great way to help beautify our school!

[Click here to sign up.](#)

Parent Community Bible Studies

Please join us for upcoming Bible studies aimed at our parent community:

DADS' BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER WISMER

- **Thursday, May 10, at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms** (at the end of the Middle School hallway)

- This study explores faithful obedience in the Gospels and helps us uncover and develop practices of faithful obedience.
- All dads are welcome!

MOMS' PRAYER DEVOTIONAL WITH MRS. HEINEMANN

- **Monday, May 14, at 8:40 a.m. in the Chapel of St. Clare**
- This is a peaceful time of scriptural reflection, prayerful meditation, and supportive fellowship.
- All moms are welcome!

End-of-Year Collection Due This Friday

If you have not done so yet, please note that **this Friday, May 11, is the last day to contribute to the end-of-year collection for St. Francis faculty and staff!**

This program has been very successful over the years due to the generosity of our parent community. It's a win-win for all: It's an easy way to show appreciation to faculty and staff, and it honors the *School Handbook* policy that prohibits the solicitation of money for individual gifts.

You may make your contribution via credit card or PayPal in the online store through the MySchoolAnywhere app [here](#). If you would prefer to pay by check, please leave it in the Parents Association box in the school office. Please make checks payable to the St. Francis Parents Association and write "End-of-Year Gift" in the memo section of the check.

The gifts will be presented with a thank-you letter on behalf of all St. Francis families, and we know our faculty and staff will be truly touched by your generosity.

Sign Up for Summer Camp Notes by May 21

Summertime is almost here—and that means summer camp! As your children head off toward adventure, help Father Wismer or Mrs. Heinemann send them a bit of St. Francis love by completing [this form](#). **The sign-up deadline is Monday, May 21.**

Donate Your Gently Used School Uniforms for Resale

As the school year comes to an end and the kiddos get bigger, it's time to clean out those closets and make room for summer!

Please bag up any *clean, gently used* uniform items your child has outgrown and drop them at the location that's most convenient for you:

- On the **Main Campus**, please leave them at the front desk with Rose Ann Gregory.
- On the **South Campus**, please leave them at the front desk with Leslie vanArsdale.

Questions? E-mail [the Uniform Resale Boutique](#).

Thank you!

Angela Bookmyer, Jill Smith, and Kristin Valicek

The Tellepsen Challenge: Put Some Swing in Our Playground Renovation!

The Tellepsen family doesn't play around. That's why we're so pleased to roll out the Tellepsen Challenge, a matching gift opportunity that pairs the generosity of one of Houston's most philanthropic families with the giving power of the St. Francis community. When the Tellepsen family learned of our plans to renovate our Main Campus playground—complete with installation of all-new equipment and the eventual addition of a soccer field and outdoor basketball court—they jumped in with an offer to match kickoff donations dollar for dollar up to \$150,000.

What this means for you is **double the giving power** of your Tellepsen Challenge donation! What it means for our Lower and Middle School students, however, is even more powerful. Outdoor play on fantastic updated and expanded facilities can only be made more special by the social, emotional, and physical boost that comes from time spent in nature among friends.

To help make this long-held dream a reality, please contact Head of Development Kelly Cliburn by [e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6172. And please join us in thanking the Tellepsen family for their game-changing kindness!

Primary School

From the Division Head

Several times a week, a meeting brings me to the Main Campus. While I don't know many of the students there, I do know most of the faculty and staff, and I see their interactions with their students.

There is mutual respect between the students and adults. Teachers have high expectations for students to learn, to lead, and to handle themselves responsibly, and students understand what is expected of them. St. Francis is a safe place to take risks and make mistakes. No one expects perfection, but they do expect students to give their best effort.

I enjoy seeing how students—from the very youngest kindergartners through eighth graders—are guided masterfully by teachers and staff who understand the right balance between how much help and how much independence is needed to support student growth. They know that this formula changes throughout the year, and they raise the bar incrementally to ensure that growth is steady and expectations are appropriate.

It is always hard to see the oldest class of students leave your division at the end of a school year. This year will be no different when our Primary II students matriculate to kindergarten on the Main Campus.

However, knowing that they are prepared for the challenges ahead and are joining faculty and staff who will care about them just as we have makes it easier. We may be in different divisions, but we all share the same mission. We strive to “challenge and motivate students in an academically and spiritually stimulating environment to become imaginative, critical thinkers and people for others.”

I can't wait to follow our Primary School students' journey next year. They are ready for the next adventure!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

2018-19 Faculty Transitions

Maggy Britton is new to St. Francis and eager to join our Pre-Primary team. She currently teaches pre-kindergarten in public school and previously taught in North Carolina. Maggy holds a BA degree from Rice University and an MEd from Vanderbilt University. She is currently enrolled in the Rice Literacy Storytelling Program, and will be a wonderful addition to our Pre-Primary teaching team!

Emily Hughes will transition from our Primary I program to Primary II in the fall. Emily joined us this year following her teaching experience with pre-K students in public schools. Emily is a mentor and leader in the Rice University School Literacy and Culture program. The PII team is excited to welcome her!

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Notes From the Clinic Manager

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING FIFTH DISEASE

One of the reasons we report cases of fifth disease in schools is because of the potential harm to pregnant women and their unborn children. The CDC reports that about half of pregnant women are immune to fifth disease (*Human parvovirus B19*), and that women who are not immune usually only have mild illness if they are exposed. While it is reported that babies usually do not have any problems, unborn children CAN experience serious complications, including severe anemia, heart failure, and even death. Please contact your doctor or health care provider for additional information, or if you suspect that you or your child has symptoms of fifth disease. (Learn about symptoms [here](#).)

For further guidance, please contact your doctor or health care provider. Additional information may also be found on the CDC website [here](#).

SCHOOL CLINICS ARE PAPERLESS

Please remember that both school clinics are paperless. Please do not drop off physical exams, immunization records, or other medical documentation to the school or via the school bags. All documents must be scanned and

uploaded to your child's Magnus account. If you do not have a scanner, there are multiple free apps that you may download on your phone to achieve a better-quality document than can be achieved through a cell-phone photo.

MAGNUS DOCUMENT UPLOADING: PLEASE DON'T 'BUNDLE'

When uploading your child's documents into Magnus, please do not "bundle" the different forms together. Physical exam forms, immunization records, action plans, and medication permission forms each have their own folder in Magnus; each of these documents needs to be uploaded into its respective folder for review and approval.

DON'T HAVE YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE FAX DOCUMENTS TO MAGNUS

You may see a cover sheet providing the option to have your doctor's office fax records to Magnus. However, for several reasons, we discourage this. The most effective method is for you to scan your documents and upload them yourself.

Should you have any questions regarding Magnus, please feel free to call Michelle Ly, Primary School clinic manager, at 713.458.6167.

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

To view the Primary School Dining Hall menu for May, please click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, May 8

- *Chapel (Primary II Bible Presentation): 9:30 a.m. in the Crum Athletics Center*
- *Primary II Students Wear Uniforms*

Wednesday, May 9

- *Chapel (Brooks' Drama Performance): 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary I and Primary II Students Wear Uniforms*
-

Thursday, May 10

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Step-Up (Field Trip to Primary I):* Students only
 - *Primary II Field Trip to Main Campus for the Lower School Play:* Students only
-

Friday, May 11

- *MWF Pre-Primary Step-Up (Field Trip to Primary I):* Students only
 - *Primary I Step-Up (Field Trip to Primary II):* Students only
 - *Primary II and Kindergarten Parent Coffee: "Engaging Your Child in Summer Reading"* from 8:45-9:30 a.m. in the Crum Library on the Main Campus
-

Sunday, May 13

- *Mother's Day*
-

Tuesday, May 15

- *Chapel (Wiener's Drama Presentation):* 9:30 am
-

Wednesday, May 16

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; **Primary I and Primary II students wear uniforms**
-

Thursday, May 17

- *Splash Day for T/Th Pre-Primary and Primary II:* **Students only**
-

Friday, May 18

- *Splash Day for MWF Pre-Primary and Primary I: **Students only***
-

Monday, May 21

- *MWF Pre-Primary End-of-Year Party: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, May 22

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *T/Th Pre-Primary End-of-Year Party: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, May 23

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; **Primary I and Primary II students wear uniforms***
 - *Primary I End-of-Year Party: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, May 24

- *Primary II End-of-Year Party: 1:00 p.m.*
-

Friday, May 25

- *Last Day of School!*
- *Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m. for Primary School*

Have a great summer!

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you enjoying your Sunday afternoon!

Last month was National Poetry Month, and I know many grade levels explored poetry and shared their learning with you at Declamations. We also had our first annual ***Poem in Your Pocket Day*** last week. Every Lower School student made a pocket of some sort and chose one favorite poem they had written to place in the pocket.

All day, we visited different grade levels and shared our poetry with one another. We had surprise poetry readers visit some pods. This day also provided the children with the opportunity to practice speaking and reading with fluency in front of both their peers and other age groups of students. In addition, faculty members chose their favorite poem, and we displayed them across our halls for everyone to enjoy. It is so heartwarming to be part of a community that celebrates literature and authentic writing!

Parents of students in grades 1–4, please join us in the Crum Library at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, for a discussion on “Avoiding the Summer Slide.” We will give you some great ideas, plus activities to do over the summer to keep your child plugged in and actively learning.

Additionally, for **parents of Primary II and kindergarten students, we will be talking about “Engaging Your Child in Summer Reading” in the Crum Library starting at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, May 11.** Reading to and with little people looks different than reading with older children, so we hope you will join us for some great discussions!

You should have received the summer reading material last week. If you did not, please visit the Parent Portal. This is a great way to keep reading at the forefront of your summer activities!

See you at school!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

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Friendly Reminders Regarding Magnus, Our Medical Records Portal

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Should you have any questions regarding Magnus, please feel free to call Debbie Toler, Lower School and Middle School nurse, at 713.458.6128.

Fourth-Grade Parents, You're Invited!

Fourth-grade parents, mark your calendars! Our fourth graders will be performing ***The Best School Year Ever*** in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall at **11:40 a.m. on May 8, 9, 10, and 11**. A different homeroom class will be performing each day.

Check your My BackPack account for your invitation, which contains more detailed information about the performances.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 30

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between April 29-May 5 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Thursday, May 3

- *Spring Book Fair (Main Campus)*: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library
 - *St. Francis 101 New Parent Brunch*: 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

Friday, May 4

- *Spring Book Fair (Main Campus)*: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library
-

Monday, May 7

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between May 6-12 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, May 8

- *Grades 1-4 Parent Coffee: "Avoiding the Summer Slide"* from 8:15-9:00 a.m. in the Crum Library
 - *Fourth-Grade Play (Mrs. Hall's Homeroom):* 11:40 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Wednesday, May 9

- *FAC Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
 - *Fourth-Grade Play (Ms. Heidemann's Homeroom):* 11:40 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Thursday, May 10

- *Fourth-Grade Play (Mrs. Price's Homeroom):* 11:40 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Friday, May 11

- *Primary II and Kindergarten Parent Coffee: "Engaging Your Child in Summer Reading"* from 8:45-9:30 a.m. in the Crum Library
 - *Fourth-Grade Play (Ms. Schwabenland's Homeroom):* 11:40 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Monday, May 14

- *Dress Uniform Day*

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between May 13-19 and in the month of June will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, May 16

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Ascension Eucharist:* 8:05 a.m.
-

Friday, May 18

- *Third-Grade and Fourth-Grade Field Day:* 8:30-11:30 a.m.
 - *Kindergarten, First-Grade, and Second-Grade Field Day:* 1:00-2:30 p.m.
-

Monday, May 21

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between May 20-31 and in the month of July will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, May 25

- *Fourth Grade Completion Ceremony:* 10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
- *Last Day of School/Early Dismissal:*
 - 11:15 a.m.—Kindergarten and First Grade
 - 11:30 a.m.—Second, Third, and Fourth Grade

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School Families. I hope this finds you all well today.

Our eighth graders broke a leg this past Friday and Saturday night! Thank you to the cast and crew of *Annie* for putting on a wonderful spring musical, and thanks to Julia Traber and Carlo Minotti for their leadership and direction. Thanks, as well, to Friends of Fine Arts for helping to facilitate this great spring pastime for our school.

The eighth grade leaves on Monday for Big Bend, so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they embark on their exciting journey.

Congratulations to our featured visual artists in the MS/LS Art Show on Main Street this week. Our students' work brightens the hallways and beautifies our school's environment.

Thanks to the sixth-grade team for their hard work in hosting the Greek Festival this week.

Please consider joining the Shutterfly account for your child's class. As parents, we often take great photos of sports events, school events, and special times at St. Francis. Photos from these sites are frequently used by the yearbook team, during Honor the Wolves, and by alumni and parents who want to keep a record of their time in the Wolf Den.

- If your child is currently in eighth grade, please join [here](#).
- If your child is currently in seventh grade, please join [here](#).
- If your child is currently in sixth grade, please join [here](#).
- If your child is currently in fifth grade, please join [here](#).

It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

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Should you have any questions regarding Magnus, please feel free to call Debbie Toler, Lower School and Middle School nurse, at 713.458.6128.

Get Your Summer Reading On!

It's almost time to hit the beach, the boat, the barbecue ... and our **St. Francis Middle School summer book list!** Please note that this year's *required* summer reading lists can also be found on the **Parent Portal** for quick reference. Please [e-mail Melanie Wallace](#) with questions.

INCOMING FIFTH GRADERS

- [Two titles from the HAISLN Grade 5 Reading List](#)

INCOMING SIXTH GRADERS

- [Two titles from the HAISLN Grade 6 Reading List](#)
- [One free choice from the Newbery Award List](#)

INCOMING SEVENTH GRADERS

- [One nonfiction title from the HAISLN Grade 7 and 8 Reading List](#)
- [One free choice from the HAISLN Grade 7 and 8 Reading List](#)
- [One title from the Newbery Award List](#)

INCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS

- **Required:** *The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel* by Gareth Hinds
- [One free choice from the HAISLN Grade 7 and 8 Reading List](#)
- [One free choice from the Newbery Award List](#)

MORE FUN READS

- [Scholastic Reading Resources](#)
- [National Endowment for the Arts: Big Read](#)
- [McGraw-Hill: Summer Literacy Strategies](#)
- [Article on Audiobooks: "To Your Brain, Listening to a Book Is Pretty Much the Same as Reading It"](#)

Step Into High School This Tuesday

Current seventh-grade students and parents, please join us **Tuesday, May 8**, for an evening that's all about high school! Our "**Step Into High School**" event will be held on the **South Campus** according to the following schedule:

- **6:00 p.m.—High School Information Night in the Crum Athletics Center.** Seventh-grade parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting together for valuable information about the high school application process and the St. Francis Upper School.
- **6:30 p.m.—St. Francis Upper School Spring Open House kicks off in the Andrews House.** This Open House experience will equip you and your son or daughter with tools to effectively plan for life during *and after* the high school years! [Learn more about the Spring Open House and sign up to attend here.](#)

Questions? Please [e-mail Christie Crummel](#), assistant head of Middle School.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, May 6

- *School of Music Spring Recital*: 1:30-5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Washington, DC, Summer Travel Meeting (Parents and Students)*: 2:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room
 - *Iceland Summer Travel Meeting (Parents and Students)*: 3:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room
 - *Costa Rica Summer Travel Meeting (Parents and Students)*: 5:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room
-

Monday, May 7

- *Grades 5 and 7*: Regular schedule; dress uniform day
 - *Grade 6*: Day field trip to Camp Allen; outdoor wear
 - *Grade 8*: Trip to Big Bend; wear eighth-grade T-shirt
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *MS/LS Art Show*: May 7-11 on Main Street and in the People Place
-

Tuesday, May 8

- *Grade 5*: Day field trip—artist boat. **Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes such as boots or sneakers; long pants; and a light, long-sleeved shirt.**
- *Grades 6 and 7*: Regular schedule; regular uniform day
- *Grade 8*: Big Bend trip
- *MS/LS Art Show*: May 7-11 on Main Street and in the People Place
- *Seventh-Grade Howlers Practice*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center dressing rooms
- *Step Into High School (South Campus/Seventh-Grade Students and Parents)*:
 - 6:00 p.m.—High School Information Night in the Crum Athletics Center

- 6:30 p.m.—St. Francis Upper School Spring Open House in the Andrews House
-

Wednesday, May 9

- *Grades 5-7:* Regular schedule; regular uniform day
 - *Grade 8:* Big Bend trip
 - *MS/LS Art Show:* May 7-11 on Main Street and in the People Place
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Seventh-Grade Howlers Practice:* 11:20-11:55 a.m. in the Dance Room
 - *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Grades 5-7 Middle School Physicals:* 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the gym
-

Thursday, May 10

- *Grades 5 and 7:* Regular schedule; regular uniform day
 - *Grade 6:* Special schedule; **athletics wear and athletics shoes**
 - *Grade 8:* Big Bend trip
 - *Grades 6 and 7 Electives Sign-up Becomes Available to Parents Via My Backpack*
 - *MS/LS Art Show:* May 7-11 on Main Street and in the People Place
 - *Community Time (Grades 5 and 7):* 9:15-10:00 a.m.
 - *Greek Fest (Grade 6):* In the Outdoor Activities Center and in classrooms
-

Friday, May 11

- *Grades 5-7:* Regular schedule; regular uniform day
 - *NJHS Meeting (Grade 7 Only):* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *Grade 8:* Big Bend trip
 - *MS/LS Art Show:* May 7-11 on Main Street and in the People Place
 - *Seventh-Grade Howlers Practice:* 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Dance Room
-

Monday, May 14

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Grades 6 and 7 Electives Sign-up Due Via My Backpack*
 - *Recognition and Awards Ceremony: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
 - *Yearbook Staff Distribution Party: 3:00-6:00 p.m.; dinner provided*
-

Tuesday, May 15

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Yearbooks Distributed in Advisory*
-

Wednesday, May 16

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Eighth-Grade Eucharist Celebration: 11:05-11:55 a.m. in the Chapel; only eighth-grade parents invited*
 - *Eighth-Grade Alumni Lunch: 1:10-1:40 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall; students only*
-

Thursday, May 17

- *Grades 5-7: Special schedule; regular uniform day*
 - *Grade 8: Eighth-grade T-shirt and jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Eighth-Grade Field Trip: Art crawl*
 - *Grades 5-7 Field Day: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the gym, on the field, and in the Outdoor Activities Center*
 - *Graduation Rehearsal: 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
 - *Grades 7 and 8 Girls Powder Puff Game: 3:00-3:30 p.m.*
-

Friday, May 18

- *Grades 5-7:* Regular schedule; regular Friday uniform day
- *Grade 8:* Special schedule; regular Friday uniform day; 45-minute core classes; **early dismissal at 12:00 p.m.**
- *Final Honors Decisions E-mailed*
- *Graduation Family Pictures (No Photographer):* 5:45-6:25 p.m.
- *Eighth-Grade Graduation Dinner:* 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center; students only
- *Eighth-Grade Parents' Champagne Toast:* 6:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- *Eighth-Grade Class Video Presentation:* 7:15 p.m.; eighth graders and their parents only
- *MS Spring Dance ("Evening Under the Stars" Theme) for Grades 6-8:* 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the gym; students only

Upper School

Upper School Update!

The Upper School Design Team is actively preparing for the arrival of our Founding Freshman. Two weeks ago, the entire team—including new Head of Upper School Cara Henderson—traveled together to take part in a four-day seminar on the Korda Method, an instructional methodology that combines design thinking, project-based learning, and entrepreneurship pedagogy to create engaging, real-world educational models.

This opportunity allowed us to analyze the projects we already have planned for the students and to envision new interdisciplinary projects for the upcoming school year. We are excited and ready to have our students with us in the fall!

TOP FIVE THINGS TO KNOW HEADED INTO THE SUMMER:

1. Looking forward to seeing you today at 4:00 p.m. at Ooh La La Town & Country for the freshman ice cream social and Tuesday morning for the Upper School Parent Coffee, which will be held at 8:30 a.m. at La Madeleine.
2. [A sample schedule is available here.](#) Please note the students' later start time. Extracurricular practices and rehearsals will begin at 4:15

p.m. For students not involved in a sport or arts rehearsal, parent pickup must conclude by 6:00 p.m. daily.

3. We'd like to hear about student sports and club interests. [Students, please take this quick survey](#) to help us plan for the fall! What do you do now that you would like to continue, and what new things would you like to try?
4. Tommy Hilfiger School Uniforms is our new uniform vendor. Find their [uniform ordering guide here](#), and be on the lookout for a sizing event this summer!
5. Keep your eyes open for our end-of-year e-mail packet, which will highlight summer reading, the Spanish placement test, and all your other need-to-know information for heading back to school. Also, starting at the end of May through the summer, the New Parent Portal will feature an Upper School Family Section. This is where to look for guidance related to all things Upper School.

It was a joy spending time with you at the St. Francis 101 New Family Brunch. We are so happy to welcome you to the St. Francis community.

Please feel free to reach out to me at AFlowers@StFrancisHouston.org or 713.459.6154, or to Cara Henderson at CHenderson@StFrancisHouston.org. Cara is graciously making herself available to our community early, but her official start date is June 25, and we can't wait to have her leadership heading into this historic fall school year.

Sincerely,

Angela Flowers

Head of Curriculum and Instruction/Interim Head of Upper School

Parents, Please Take a Brief Survey to Help Us Plan

As part of our strategic planning process, we are surveying St. Francis parents. Your input is critical in shaping our path forward. Please take a moment to complete the survey, which is available by [clicking here](#).

Church

Honoring Mothers and Their Graduates: Sign-up Deadline Is Tomorrow

On **Sunday, May 13**, we will honor our mothers and our graduates during Sunday services. **If you are graduating from eighth grade, high school, or college and would like to be recognized in the bulletin, please [e-mail Cindy Huteson](#) by tomorrow, May 7.** Women of the parish will receive a token of gratitude on this special day.

Day of Pentecost Baptisms Are May 20

Sunday, May 20, is the Day of Pentecost, a Principal Feast Day celebrating the birth of the church—and an especially appropriate day to offer the Sacrament of Baptism. To schedule a Pentecost baptism, please contact [Amy Homer](#) at 713.458.6307.

RSVP Today for Our Pentecost Party!

Since we celebrate the birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost, what better way to rejoice than with a party? Mark your calendars for food, fun, and festivities on **Sunday, May 20, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.** We'll feast on fried chicken (plus classic side dishes), play games, and enjoy birthday cupcakes.

Please RSVP as soon as possible by [clicking here](#).

SCENES Summer Theater Camp

Registration for SCENES, one of the highest-quality theater camps in Houston, is open! [Visit our website for more information and to register.](#)

CAMP #1: URINETOWN

July 9–13
Grades 7–12

CAMP #2: HONK

July 16–27
Grades 2–High School

CAMP #3: MUSICAL REVIEW

July 30–August 3
Songs from Disney, *Matilda*, *Annie*, and Classic Musical Theater
Grades K–6

Fall First Communion Classes

First Communion classes begin **Sunday, September 16**. This is an eight-week course designed to prepare second-grade students to receive Holy Eucharist. To sign up or for further information, please contact [Nichole Hilgert](#).