

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of May 5

All School

Mark Your Calendar: We're Unveiling the 2025 Strategic Plan!

You're invited to join the Strategic Planning Committee and Joel Moore, chair of the board of trustees; Kate Denham, vice chair of the board and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee; and Stephen Lovejoy, head of school, as they unveil:



May 14, 2019

8:30 a.m.—Primary School Library on the South Campus

or

6:00 p.m.—Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus*

* Dinner and child care will be available. Please help us plan by letting us know if you will attend the evening session. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

Announcing Our New Interim Head of Admissions

We're excited to announce that Jennifer Glover will be joining St. Francis as interim head of admissions this fall! Mrs. Glover has 12 years of experience as an admissions director in independent schools, most recently as director of admissions at St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, MA. Before moving to Massachusetts, she was admissions director for The Regis School of the Sacred Heart here in Houston, where she also taught elementary and middle school grades for more than a decade. She holds a BS in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A & M University.

Mrs. Glover will be taking over the position from Steven Scales, who has served as interim head of admissions throughout the current school year. We are grateful to Mr. Scales for the wonderful job he has done, and are equally grateful that he'll remain involved with St. Francis admissions when he returns to his previous role as director of college counseling for Upper School students!

The 2019-20 School Calendar Is Available Online

The St. Francis calendar for the 2019-20 school year is available online [here](#). If you have any questions about next year's school calendar, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your division office!

Get Your Summer Reading On!

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

A Special Thanks From Our Festival Chairs

Bayou Bash Festival 2019 was awesome! Our loving community came together, and we were blessed with glorious weather for a fun-filled day of entertaining booths, tasty treats, and games galore.

We are proud to announce that we raised a net amount of \$75,000 for the One Community Fund, which benefits shared school and church initiatives and improvements.

Once again, a huge shout-out of thanks to all our amazing Festival in-kind sponsors, underwriters, booth supporters, and volunteers. Without you, this event wouldn't have been possible!

FESTIVAL UNDERWRITERS AND IN-KIND SPONSORS

Cadence Bank
The Calderwood Group
Compass—Rachel Conkling
The Lovoi Family
Luxington Boutique
W. Wayne Newell, DDS
Taylor Recovery Center, Sugar Land
Uptown Dance Center
Global Healing Center
The Taghdisi Family
Bee Well Pediatrics
Clark Law Firm, PC
Doeren Mayhew
The Parker Johnson Family/Silver Eagle Distributors
The Huggins Family/Houston Distributing Co.
The Mariner and Womble Families
Nancy Le and Quyen Nguyen
Doug Durkee Photography

OUR FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS

Shelby Stratmann—Data Entry
Lauren McCulloch, Shana Gordy, Abby Spinn, Lauren Wuertz, Dawn Persia, Melanie Miller, Neal Meyer, and Cassandra Emerson—Pick-a-Chop
Joelle Derrick, Ashley McTaggart, and Lisa Nelson—Volunteer Chairs
Kathryn Adkins and Leigh Williams—Bake Sale
Leigh Williams—Communications
Amanda Ollison, Rebecca Elmore, Christine Sherman, and Julie Cotuno—Primary School Area
Kandi Handel and Laura Hutcheson—Carnival Snacks
Maggie Baker, Leslie Moerer, and Ali Williams—Donut-Eating Contest
Wyatt McCulloch and Dave Knowles—Dad's Grill
Laurie Mariner and Marissa Womble—Iced Tea and Lemonade
Nikki Newell and Anna Goodman—Hairspray/Silly String
Lisa Freeman—Pig Races
Michael Settle—Speed Pitch
Jennifer Stringer—Boat Races

A special shout-out to the sextons, the faculty members—and all the wonderful Festival volunteers in between! Our volunteers truly are the heartbeat of this event, and we are so grateful for your donations of time and energy.

It has been a privilege to be a part of this awesome St. Francis tradition!

Check out the video highlights [here!](#)

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dale and Megan Tipton
2018 and 2019 Festival Chairs

2019-20 School Supplies: Online Ordering Now Available

School supplies may now be ordered online for the 2019–20 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 (grades 9 and 10 will use the same supply list), enter the code STF079.

The deadline to order is Monday, June 10, 2019.

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

Please note:

- Incoming third and fourth graders will need to purchase a 2-inch three-ring zipper binder for the 2019-20 school year (if they don't already own one).
- Incoming seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth graders must have a TI-84 graphing calculator for the 2019–20 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 2019–20 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.

Water Bottles, Jackets, and Fleeces—OH MY!

As we wrap up for the summer, please take a minute to check the lost and found closet, which is **located next to the Crum Library entrance in the closet under the fifth-grade stairs**. It currently contains LOTS of navy blue hoodies and jackets, non-St. Francis clothing, water bottles, and miscellaneous items.

- Any items that haven't been claimed by **Friday, May 31**, will be donated to either Uniform Resale or the local community.
- View just some of the items currently in Lost and Found in the photos [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- With questions, please [e-mail Ali Williams](#), lost and found coordinator.

Changes to Summer on the Point

Registration for Summer on the Point continues online. There have been a handful of changes to our summer 2019 schedule, and we've listed them below. For newly added camps, registration is available through "Program Registration" in My BackPack.

CANCELLATION

The June 3-6 section of our SOTP volleyball camp is cancelled, due to construction on the Crum Athletics Center gym floor. The July 29-August 2 section will continue as planned.

ADDITIONS

- **Edible Art (June 10-14; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)**—In this fun camp with Maria Cruzalegui-Reardon, students will look at food as art. They'll decorate cakes and cupcakes, work with dough, and cut fruits and vegetables to create edible works of art, while also developing fine motor skills, practicing measurements, and gaining hands-on understanding of some kitchen chemistry.
- **Additional STEAM Camps With Kara Cooney-Galli (July 22-26)**

- **Super Hero Training Academy (1:00-2:30 p.m.; grades K-3)**—Join us as we test our X-ray vision, create some delicious kryptonite to use against the bad guys, eat some super-power cupcakes, and test our web-shooting skills at the end of the week. Each child will take home a Lego superhero figure!
- **Think Fun, Ignite the Mind (2:30-4:00 p.m.; grades K-3)**—The greatest logic camp ever is ready to take off—and ignite campers' problem-solving skills! The mission is to use science and logic to challenge the mind, encouraging creative thinking and problem-solving through some really fun games—including out-of-this-world challenges! This fun camp combines critical thinking, logic, and problem-solving to give little scientists a boost of 21st century thinking.
- Special combination pricing is available for those who would like to participate in both camps.
- **BACK BY STUDENT REQUEST! Pokémon World Building (July 29-August 2; 1:00-4:00 p.m.; grades K-3)**—One of the elements of storytelling is world building. The ability to create characters, environments, and a set of societal rules is a part of the storytelling process, and this begins through adapting pop-cultural worlds and dissecting them through play. Students will use the popular Pokémon games and movies as a jumping-off point to create their own characters through both dramatic play and art projects. Engaging in favorite games such as capture the flag and dodgeball through the lens of becoming characters like Pikachu, Squirtle, and Charmander, campers will adopt elements or characteristics of their chosen character and look at how activities are changed when using those elements. Through fun scavenger hunts, craft projects, and science experiments, a created world will come to life.

From the PA: End-of-School-Year Faculty Gift Donations Due Today

Twice a year, the Parents Association asks each family to contribute toward faculty and staff appreciation gifts. **Both at Christmas and the end of the school year, the PA provides monetary gifts to each and every person employed by St. Francis.** All faculty, staff, sextons, Dining Hall personnel, police officers, full- and part-time coaches, and Explore & Extend after-school teachers are included and recognized. The funds raised are distributed evenly to all employees, including those working part-time, as a Christmas and end-of-year bonus.

These gifts help the entire parent community show its appreciation, while honoring the *School Handbook* policy that prohibits the purchase or solicitation of individual gifts for faculty and staff.

You may make your contribution via credit card or PayPal by visiting the Parents Association's online store using either the PA app on your mobile device or the PA website [here](#). All contributions must be received by **today, May 5, 2019**.

Virtue of the Month: Perseverance

During the month of May, the St. Francis community is focusing on the virtue of perseverance. A good definition for perseverance is staying focused on a goal until you achieve it. Our virtue verse is Romans 5:3-4: "Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." As a family, you can memorize this verse together.

Table Talk: Virtue sightings—where do you see examples of perseverance in books, films, and real life?

Summer Camp Notes From a Chaplain

Father Wismer and Reverend Heinemann would love to send your children a note at summer camp. It's a great way to shower them with love while they are away. If you would like them to receive a note from a Chaplain, please complete [this form](#). (If you have more than one child, please submit a form for each child.)

Primary School

From the Division Head

In the coming school year, we will begin a Teaching Fellows program in the Primary School. Teaching Fellows are new career professionals interested in teaching and eager to learn from experienced lead teachers. Our goal is to identify candidates with great potential, give them the experiences they need to grow professionally, and prepare them for work in independent schools. Having the opportunity to serve as a co-teacher will give a Fellow guidance in project-based learning and our Reggio Emilia-based approach to early education. Our Primary School will serve as an incubator for growth-minded, aspiring teachers who are eager to learn from our talented faculty.

We will begin our program in Primary II next year with one fellow, with a goal of growing this number over time. Fellows will work under the supervision of a lead teacher for one to two years. We are excited about this initiative and our work with promising new teachers.

I also wanted to let you know who will be joining our Primary School faculty for the 2019-20 school year:

Madison Brecevich is joining SFES as a Pre-Primary lead teacher. She is moving to Houston from New York City, where she currently teaches kindergarten at Saint David's School. Madison received her master's in education from Lesley University in 2011, and has since taught threes, pre-K, and kindergarten in Boston and New York City. She also lived in Ireland for four years with her husband, Antonio, and their two children, Egan and Stella. Being a native Texan, she is excited to return to the Lone Star State and make Houston her home!

Madison will be missed by her Saint David's School community. Described by her division head as an "extraordinarily special teacher," we feel very fortunate to have her joining our team!

With 14 years of experience in early childhood education, **Brian Dominick** joins the Primary School team as a Primary II lead teacher. In his early career, he taught English in South Korea before moving to New York City to teach pre-K at River School in Manhattan. There, Brian fell in love with the project-based model of education and was able to study it in greater detail while getting his master's degree at Fordham University.

After four years in New York City, Brian and his family moved to St. Louis. His wife, Megan, had taken a job at The Muny, which is the largest outdoor musical theater in the country. While in St. Louis, Brian held pre-K positions at Forsyth, an independent school, and at The Biome, a charter school focused on STEAM education. Last July, Brian made the move to Houston with his family. His wife works at TUTS, and their daughter, Olive, is in kindergarten. Many of you may recognize Brian from his time spent substituting with us in Primary School this semester.

Conversations with Brian's former heads of school had a recurring theme: "Parents and students still ask about Mr. D. We all miss him." And as his head at Forsyth said, "Any school would be lucky to have Brian." Brian says he can't wait to join the Primary II team next year! The feeling is mutual!

Margaret Dexter will be our first Primary School Teaching Fellow. She will work in Primary II under the mentorship of Michelle Staller. Many families will know Ms. Dexter from her time in Primary II this year during Mrs. Owens's family leave. Ms. Dexter holds a bachelor's in art from the College of Charleston, and she will use her artistic talents to help further shape and develop our studio work in Primary II.

"I love helping children grow into creative and confident young people," says Ms. Dexter. She began working with children in 2012 during her role as the head of the fine arts program at Camp Champions. She developed a curriculum that focused on helping children build 21st century skills. In this role, Margaret discovered her passion for working with children. Upon returning to her hometown of Mobile, AL, she worked at a children's museum, educating school groups through lively storytelling and leading group discussions. She believes that the words and actions of teachers, no matter how small, can have a profound effect on students. Margaret strives to develop positive relationships with students by treating them with respect and having an enthusiastic attitude.

Outside of the classroom, Margaret enjoys going on walks with her dog, visiting with friends, and painting. She is excited for the unique opportunity to become our first Fellow. We are thrilled to have Ms. Dexter in this new role, and can't wait to see her artistic talents at work.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, May 7

- *Chapel (Primary II Bible Presentation):* 9:30 a.m.
- *Open Library Time:* 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library

Wednesday, May 8

- *PS Parent Education Series ("Toilet Learning")*: 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
 - *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
-

Thursday, May 9

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Step-up to Primary I*: 9:00 a.m.
-

Friday, May 10

- *3- and 5-Day Pre-Primary Step-up to Primary I*: 9:00 a.m.
 - *Primary I Step-up to Primary II*: 9:00 a.m.
 - *Primary II/Kindergarten Parent Coffee ("Engaging Your Child in Summer Reading")*: 8:45-9:30 a.m. in the Crum Library on the Main Campus
-

Tuesday, May 14

- *Strategic Plan 2025*: 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
 - *Chapel (Dr. Wishnow Visits)*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Chapel Dramatization (Hughes)*
 - *Open Library Time*: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
 - *Strategic Plan 2025*: 6:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus
-

Wednesday, May 15

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
-

Thursday, May 16

- *Splash Day (Ferguson T/Th Pre-Primary, Meriwether, Oteiza, and Primary II)*
-

Friday, May 17

- *Splash Day (3-Day Pre-Primary and Primary I)*
-

Monday, May 20

- *Pre-Primary End-of-Year Party (Britton and Ferguson): 1:30 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, May 21

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Pre-Primary End-of-Year Party (5-Day and Ferguson T/Th): 1:30 p.m.*
 - *Open Library Time: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, May 22

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary I End-of-Year Party: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, May 23

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

Friday, May 24

- *Last Day of School for Primary School*
- *Early Dismissal: 11:00 a.m.*
- *No Explore and Extend*

Lower School

From the Division Head

We certainly had a busy week last week! Declamations were a huge success—your children worked so hard and learned a great deal by having an authentic audience with whom to share!

This week will be a bit more slow-paced, but we are still learning and staying plugged in. Thank you for your efforts at home to maintain normalcy as we wind down the year.

I have been so pleased to share faculty news with you. This week, I am delighted to let you know who will be joining the Lower School faculty for 2019-20:

- **Emily Senchuk** is joining us as our fifth kindergarten teacher. She is an alum, attending SFES in grades K-5. She transitioned to Kinkaid, and then traveled north to Indiana University. She taught for six years in an independent school in Chicago, but her husband's job recently brought them back to Houston—lucky us! Emily has her master's degree in reading instruction and has utilized our curriculum approaches in her school. She will bring a great deal to our already stellar kindergarten team.
- **Lauren Lake** will be our new teaching fellow, working primarily in kindergarten as a sixth teacher. She has two years of teaching experience in kindergarten and first grade and was Sarah Warren's student teacher three years ago. She is married and has a precious 6-month-old son.
- **Cheryl Rossy** is joining us as our fourth-grade STEAM teacher. She has nine years of Lower School teaching experience, most recently as a fifth-grade gifted and talented math and science teacher. She has two grown children (and lots of wisdom!) and is looking forward to concentrating on STEAM, working closely with Mrs. Nguyen in fourth-grade math. Welcome, Cheryl!

- **Kimberly Wiley-Jules** will join the first-grade team. She has 19 years of teaching experience and is very knowledgeable about our curricular approaches. Additionally, she was Teacher of the Year in Spring Branch ISD in 2016-17. Mrs. Jules taught at the same school as Mr. McCormick and Mrs. Shindler previously, so she is thrilled to be joining both her friends at SFES and the first-grade team.

As you can see, we are adding more amazing teachers to our already esteemed faculty. I'm sure you will extend a warm SFES welcome to our new friends!

Have a wonderful week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Reading Help for Summer Vacation—Meetings This Week

Learn how to help your child be successful this summer at our upcoming summer literacy information meetings!

- **Tuesday, May 7**—For parents of incoming kindergarteners and first graders
- **Friday, May 10**—For parents of incoming second, third, and fourth graders
- Please see additional details in the Mark Your Calendar section, below.

Hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 6

- *FAC Chapel*: 8:05 a.m.
-

Tuesday, May 7

- *Grades 1-4 Parent Coffee (“Avoiding the Summer Slide”)*: 8:15 a.m. in the Crum Library
-

Wednesday, May 8

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between May 5-11 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, May 10

- *Primary II and Kindergarten Parent Coffee (“Engaging Your Child in Summer Reading”)*: 8:45 a.m. in the Crum Library
-

Monday, May 13

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between May 12-18 and in the month of June will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, May 15

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

Friday, May 17

- *Field Day for Grades 3 and 4*: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
 - *Field Day for Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2*: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
-

Monday, May 20

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between May 19-31 and in the month of July will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Thursday, May 23

- *End-of-Year Class Parties*
-

Friday, May 24

- *Fourth-Grade Completion Ceremony*: 10:00 a.m. in the FAC
- *Early Dismissal*: Kindergarten and first grade at 11:00 a.m.; grades 2-4 at 11:15 a.m.

Middle School

From the Division Head

Hello, Middle School families! I hope this finds you well!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the eighth-grade production of *The Wizard of Oz*! It was a fabulous weekend for the arts department and a grand showcase of our students' talents on the stage.

Speaking of our eighth graders, please wish them safe travels on their trip to Boston. We leave this Tuesday for the week, and we look forward to a fun, meaningful time away from school.

We are excited to announce our newest MS team members for the 2019-20 school year:

- **Jasmine Umenyi** will be teaching fifth-grade English. A graduate of The University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in print journalism and communications, she has more than seven years of experience teaching English language arts at the middle school and high school

levels. A beloved member of the YES Prep faculty, Ms. Umenyi will be sorely missed at her current post.

- **Anika Fuller-Willis** will be teaching fifth-grade math. A current doctoral candidate at Texas Southern University, Ms. Fuller-Willis holds a master of arts degree in curriculum and instruction with math specialization from Prairie View A & M University and has more than 20 years of experience teaching math at the middle and lower school levels. A former Kinkaid School faculty member, she will be departing Quail Valley Middle School's Academy for the Gifted and Talented to join SFES.
- **Halie Berrigan** will be teaching sixth-grade math. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a master's degree in education from her alma mater, she has more than three years of experience teaching math at the middle school level. Ms. Berrigan will be leaving Incarnation Catholic School in Tampa, FL, to join us.

We wish our departing faculty the very best in their professional and life journeys, while we look forward to bringing our newest team members aboard.

I wish you all a wonderful week! It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Student Ambassador Forms Due Friday

Middle School student ambassadors serve the school by helping the Admissions Office with tours, hosting prospective students, and filling other needs as they arise.

- Further details are available on the application [here](#).
- If your child is interested in being a student ambassador for Middle School next year, **return the form to your child's teacher or to the Admissions Office by this Friday, May 10.**
- With questions, please e-mail [Kathryn Spinelli](#).

Los Lobos Tienen Éxito Otra Vez!

Thirty-four St. Francis seventh graders and 42 eighth graders took the

National Spanish Examination at the end of March. This two-part online assessment tests vocabulary, grammar, listening comprehension, and reading comprehension.

Out of the 157,000-plus students who took the test nationwide this year, our St. Francis test takers made quite a showing!

Congratulations to the following medalists and honorable-mention recipients:

SEVENTH GRADE

Gold Medal

Silvia H.

Silver Medal

Madison L.

Bronze Medal

Lena H., Caroline N., Elliott P., Ainsley S., Brian B., Jalynn W., Javier H., Nicholas S.

Honorable Mention

Ryan H., Izzy H., Mykayla M., Ford M., Emily M., Claire O., Caroline O., Bella R., Owen S., Marguerite F., Joshua S., Emily S., Isabel P.

EIGHTH GRADE

Gold Medal

Cole H., Lucas R., Dwight S.

Silver Medal

Christian M., Taylor R., Cooper V., Natalia B., Sophie D., Cameron E., Aidan V.

Bronze Medal

Dominic A., Matthew T., Giacomo V., Carys H., Ava S., Katelyn H.

Honorable Mention

Walker D., Teddy L., Ethan M., Robert R., Evan W., Kendall B., John B., Katelyn C., Grace Anne M., Hunter M., Colton M., Estelle R., Soraya S., Kate T.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, May 5

- *School of Music Spring Recital*: 1:30-5:00 p.m. in the FAC
 - *MS Summer Travel Meeting (Parents and Students)*: 1:00-6:00 p.m. in the HBR
-

Monday, May 6

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Eighth-Grade Art Show*: Through May 10 in the People Place and on Main Street
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Chapel (Grades 5-8 Community Service Certificates)*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.; students only
-

Tuesday, May 7

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 8 Trip to Boston*: Through May 10; students wear eighth-grade T-shirts to airport
 - *Grade 7 People for Others Service Day (Generation One)*
 - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *MS/LS Art Show*: Through May 11 on Main Street and in the People Place
-

Wednesday, May 8

- *Grades 5 and 6*: Special Schedule for MS Physicals/Regular Uniform
- *Grade 7*: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform
- *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.

- *Grades 5-7 Physicals:* 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the gym; **bring completed Physical Forms (from Magnus Health) to school**
 - *Grade 7 Carpool Times:* Girls at 4:00 p.m.; boys at 4:30 p.m.
-

Thursday, May 9

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *MS Councils:* 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms
 - *Grade 7 Howlers Practice:* 11:20-11:50 a.m. in the Dance Room
-

Friday, May 10

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Choir Competition at Splashtown Choral Festival (Grade 7 Choir)*
 - *Advisory:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Saturday, May 11

- *School of Music Spring Recital:* 1:00-4:00 p.m.
-

Monday, May 13

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *No Chapel*
 - *Recognition and Awards Ceremony:* 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the FAC
 - *Yearbook Staff Distribution Party:* 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 - *Stock Market Game Awards Ceremony:* 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the FAC
-

Tuesday, May 14

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *No Homework*

- *Yearbooks Distributed in Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*
-

Wednesday, May 15

- *Eucharist Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Grade 8 Eucharist Celebration (Parents of Eighth Graders Only Invited): 11:05-11:55 a.m. in the Chapel*
 - *Spikefest Student/Parent Volleyball Tournament: 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Main Campus gym and on the OAC*
 - *Main Campus Rally Meeting: 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the HBR*
-

Thursday, May 16

- *Grades 5-7: Special schedule; SFES spirit dress with athletic bottoms*
 - *Grade 8: Special schedule; students wear eighth-grade T-shirts and uniform bottoms*
 - *Art Crawl Field Trip for Grade 8: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; off campus*
 - *Field Day for Grades 5-7: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Main Campus gym, on the field, and on the OAC*
 - *MS Wolf Tube Videos Available Online: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Graduation Rehearsal: 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Girls Powder Puff Game (Grade 7 vs. Grade 8): 3:00-3:30 p.m. on the Main Campus field*
-

Friday, May 17

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Year in Review Celebration: 7:15-7:50 a.m.*
- *Grade 8:*
 - *Early Dismissal: 12:00 p.m.*
 - *Graduation Dinner: 6:30 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Parents Champagne Toast: 6:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
 - *Class Video Presentation (Eighth Graders and Parents Only): 7:15 p.m.*

- *Graduation Dance for Grades 6-8: 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the gym; "Hollywood ... A Night on the St. Francis Red Carpet"; admission is \$10*
-

Monday, May 20

- *Monday Schedule*
 - *Grades 5-7: Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 8: Casual Dress*
 - *Grade 8 Exams: May 20–22 in classrooms*
 - *Graduation Rehearsal: 3:05-3:45 p.m. in the FAC and Chapel*
 - *End of Fall Preview*
-

Tuesday, May 21

- *Grades 5-7: Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 8: Casual Dress*
 - *Students Report to Assigned Testing Rooms: 8:00 a.m.*
 - *Chapel: 8:05-8:25 a.m.*
 - *English Exam/Assessment for Grades 5-7: 8:30-10:00 a.m.*
 - *Math Exam for Grade 8: 8:30-10:00 a.m.*
 - *Break: 10:00-10:10 a.m.*
 - *Review Classes for Grades 5-7: 10:15-11:45 a.m.*
 - *Spanish Exam for Grade 8: 10:15-11:45 a.m.*
 - *Study Hall and Locker Clean-out: 11:45 a.m.-12:10 p.m.*
 - *Carpool/Dining Hall: 12:15 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, May 22

- *Grades 5-7: Regular Uniform*
- *Grade 8: Casual Dress*
- *Students Report to Assigned Testing Rooms: 8:00 a.m.*
- *Review for Exams Independently: 8:00-8:25 a.m.*
- *Science Exam for Grade 8: 8:30-10:00 a.m.*
- *Math Exam/Assessment for Grades 5-7: 8:30-10:00 a.m.*
- *Break: 10:00-10:10 a.m.*
- *History Exam for Grade 8: 10:15-11:45 a.m.*

- *Spanish Exam/Assessment for Grades 5-7: 10:15-11:45 a.m.*
 - *Study Hall and Locker Clean-out: 11:45 a.m.-12:10 p.m.*
 - *Carpool/Dining Hall: 12:15 p.m.*
-

Thursday, May 23

- *Last Day for Middle School Students*
 - *Grades 5-7: Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 8: Athletic attire for field day*
 - *Students Report to Assigned Testing Rooms: 8:00 a.m.*
 - *Grades 5-7 Review for Exams: 8:00-8:25 a.m.*
 - *Science Exam/Assessment for Grades 5-7: 8:30-10:00 a.m.*
 - *Grade 8 Field Day: 9:00-11:00 a.m.*
 - *Break: 10:00-10:10 a.m.*
 - *History Exam/Assessment for Grades 5-7: 10:15-11:45 a.m.*
 - *Grade 8 Graduation Rehearsal: 11:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Locker Clean-out: 11:45 a.m.-12:10 p.m.*
 - *Carpool/Dining Hall: 12:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, June 4

- *Trimester 3 Report Cards Posted Online: 8:00 a.m.*

Upper School

From the Division Head

¡Feliz cinco de mayo!

Only three weeks remain for our students this school year. Early this week, you'll receive an e-mail with information about our end-of-year celebration schedule and the associated permission slips. We have a fun day of team building planned to commemorate the conclusion of our inaugural year.

I also wanted to let you know about two faculty members who will be joining the Upper School in 2019-20:

- **Ximena Allub** will be joining St. Francis as our Upper School Spanish teacher in August. Ms. Allub will be moving to Houston from San Juan, Argentina. She has extensive experience teaching Spanish in independent schools across the country—from The Webb Schools in California to The Hewitt School in New York and Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. Ms. Allub’s passion for creating engaging language learning opportunities extends well beyond the four walls of her classroom. She has extensive experience coordinating community service and homestay opportunities in Spanish-speaking countries. These experiences enable her students to immerse themselves in other cultures and communities while practicing the language skills they develop in her class.
- **Jared Staller** recently accepted the chair of humanities position at St. Francis, and we are excited to have his creative thinking and leadership. Mr. Staller is currently completing his second year teaching seventh-grade history at St. Francis. He will continue teaching in the Middle School division during the upcoming school year, while mentoring our incoming Upper School humanities and writing teacher and developing the humanities curriculum across divisions.

Finally, please enjoy John Madden’s reflection on our April 30 service day, below.

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

From the Science Department Chair

The Founding Freshman class had a wonderful day in the field last Monday. As part of our science version of being “people for others,” the students traveled to the Indiangrass Preserve near Waller, TX, and assisted the Katy Prairie Conservancy staff with the removal of an invasive plant species (*Verbena bonariensis*, known commonly as purpletop vervain) along the Ann Hamilton Trail by digging it out by the roots. As you can see in the pictures ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), the students made quite a dent! After removing the non-native plants, the students then planted a variety of native prairie plants in their place. Though it was a breezy day, it was definitely hard work.

Here’s what three of our students thought of the day:

- *“I thought this was a great learning experience about how we deal with native species versus non-native species invading the original prairie ecosystem” —Chandler S.*
- *“It was a really fun opportunity to learn about the Texas Prairie, and I felt very accomplished in helping to remove non-native plants from the preserve. It was fun to learn about the different types of plant species and how to identify them ... and to pick the dewberries!” —Alex H.*
- *“It was so pretty, and you can see how much work has been done. It’s so great to see that people really want to bring back this section of the planet and make it a better place.” —Madison B.*

Sincerely,

John Madden
Science Department Chair

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 6

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, May 7

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
-

Wednesday, May 8

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, May 9

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*

Friday, May 10

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

Monday, May 13

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

Tuesday, May 14

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*

Wednesday, May 15

- *Day 4 Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Eucharist Chapel: 10:45 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*

Thursday, May 16

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

Friday, May 17

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

Church

Now Hiring: Nursery Supervisor

We are currently seeking a church nursery supervisor who is available to work with the nursery staff and children on Sunday mornings. If you know anyone who might be a good fit, please refer them to Allison Devlin at adevlin@sfch.org. To view the job posting, [click here](#).

Baptisms on Pentecost Sunday

A principal feast day celebrating the birth of the church, the day of Pentecost on Sunday, June 9, is especially appropriate for the sacrament of baptism. To schedule a baptism on Pentecost Sunday, please contact Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2983.

Week of Wonder VBS Is July 29-August 2

A weeklong faith experience for children ages 4 years old through rising fourth graders, Week of Wonder (WOW) is five fun-packed days of themed music, crafts, science projects, outdoor play, and Bible stories.

Date: July 29–August 2

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Theme: Salt Water Gospel

Ages: Children from 4 years old to those entering fourth grade (must turn 4 by July 29, 2019)

Registration Fee: \$50 per child

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All children are welcome (you don't have to be a church member to attend), but we recommend registering early as space is limited to 15 children per age group. Once registration is full for an age group, you will be placed on a waiting list. [Register online here.](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WOW is a rewarding volunteer opportunity for adults, high schoolers, and middle schoolers! We need lots of teachers, decorators, crafters, snack distributors, and behind-the-scenes helpers to make this a great week for the kids. Please consider joining the fun! [Register to volunteer here.](#)

Fall First Communion Classes Start September 8

First Communion classes begin Sunday, September 8. This is an 8-week course designed for second-grade students preparing to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Contact Allison Devlin [via e-mail](#) for information or to sign up.

St. Francis in the Woods Is October 25-27

Save the date! St. Francis in the Woods—a family-friendly retreat held at Camp Allen—is scheduled for **October 25-27, 2019**. Parishioners and friends of St. Francis gather for a weekend of fun, fellowship, worship, crafts, s'mores, and outdoor adventures.

For more details or to sign up to attend, contact Cindy Huteson [via e-mail](#) to be added to St. Francis in the Woods communications.

Sunday Programs at St. Francis Episcopal Church

- **Breakfast Bites and Fellowship:** Meet in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and light bites after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.
- **Lighthouse Expressions in Art:** Children in pre-K through middle school meet in the Guild Room to create an art project reinforcing the Bible lesson and key verse discussed during Let it Shine!
- **Adult Bible Study:** Meet in the People Place to develop a closer relationship with God through reading and reflecting on Scripture.
- **Adult Series:** Father Bates is currently leading the series *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Meet in the Hogan Board Room.
- **God Lights Our Way (GLOW):** Middle and high school students meet upstairs in CE 212 for lessons and activities.

Sunday Worship Services

St. Francis Episcopal Church holds four services on Sundays, as follows:

8:00 A.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

This is a contemplative service that includes a traditional sermon, communion, and time for prayer and reflection. Held in the St. Clare Chapel (accessed

through the main church entrance), this service is ideal for those who like to get an early start to their Sunday.

9:00 A.M.—FAMILY WORSHIP WITH HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

This is a family-friendly service with a blend of updated music, a children's message, Rite II liturgy, and full communion.

- Held in the sanctuary, you'll see youth ages 3 and older participating in parts of the service. Everyone is welcome, from newborns to centenarians. You don't need to have children to enjoy this service!
- After the children's message, students in pre-K through middle school are invited to Let It Shine! with Allison Devlin in the Robert Gay Foyer for a group lesson and project. High school youth are invited to join and help the younger students during this time. All children will return to the service during the announcements.
- After the service, please join us for breakfast bites and fellowship in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall, followed by [Sunday School](#) activities for all ages.

11:00 A.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II, WITH ORGAN AND CHOIR

Appropriate for adults and families, this is a beautiful service with traditional liturgy and hymns, communion, sermon, full choir, and professional musical accompaniment. After the service, please join us for breakfast bites and fellowship in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.

5:00 P.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

This reflective service in the St. Clare Chapel includes an adult message and communion and is appropriate for adults and teenage children. Casual dress is welcome.

CHILDCARE

Please note that childcare and playtime in the church nursery are available on Sundays from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. to allow parents time for church and adult Sunday School.