

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 16

All School

Safeguarding God's Children Now Requires Certification

Safeguarding God's Children is a program of the Episcopal Diocese that trains individuals to be aware of child abuse and potential child-predator situations. Since the inception of the program, St. Francis has asked our parents who volunteer their time in their children's classroom to become trained. Many of you participate in some programs that now require you to be in the classroom more than six times, and we sincerely thank you for your time. In following the Diocese's program, St. Francis is now asking you to become certified according to their requirements. You may even be certified already because you serve in the church's Sunday school or scouting programs.

Our next class, taught by Father Bob Wismer, is **Friday, September 14, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.** But before attending, please e-mail [Rose Ann Gregory](#) to help you determine if you need to be trained or certified.

Please Spread the Word! Upcoming Admissions Tours

The Admissions Office is hosting a **Primary School Tour on Friday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m.** and again on Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

A Message From the Board

Members of the St. Francis Board of Trustees often are asked what we do. Board members serve as stewards of the school's resources. Most of the work of the board is forward-looking and involves financial and strategic planning

for the school, while the head of school is responsible for the school's day-to-day operations. Our board strives to recruit members from a wide variety of professional backgrounds, and our bylaws require that our board be composed of 60 percent Episcopalians and 30 percent St. Francis parishioners. Parents of current students currently comprise two-thirds of the board, and we are fortunate to have four alums serving. Board members willingly and fully invest in the school through their time, talent, and treasure.

The Board of Trustees began the new school year with an all-day retreat focused on best practices for board governance and board composition, as well as on current issues facing schools today. Rich Odell from Heads Up Educational Consulting served as the speaker for the day, and we look forward to continuing to work with Rich as he guides St. Francis through its strategic planning process.

The board wishes to thank all of the parents, students, faculty, and staff who participated in the surveys conducted last spring. These surveys were part of the strategic planning process that Rich will continue this fall through focus groups, classroom visits, and meetings with the Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee comprises a broad group of constituents from the St. Francis community, including parents, faculty, staff, alum, and members of the board. The full strategic plan will be completed by this spring, and we look forward to sharing that plan with the community.

The board would like to extend a warm welcome to its three new members: Chris Graeter, Hank Holmes, and Taylor Tipton. Each new member brings valuable experience to the board, and we look forward to working with them. We also would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to outgoing board members Nidhika Mehta, former secretary of the board; Kyle Lippman, who was instrumental in the acquisition of the South Campus property; and Jimmy Vallee, former chair of the board. Together, we will continue to work to Challenge What's Possible!

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2018-2019

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Have You Ordered Your FoFA Poinsettias Yet? It's Not Too Late!

Order poinsettias by **Monday, October 1**, to support the St. Francis Fine Arts Departments *and* take care of your Christmas shopping at the same time. Poinsettias will come from The Brookwood Community, and you will pick up your order curbside (we will load the poinsettias into your car) at the South Campus on **Thursday, November 29**. Corporate orders are welcome!

Order your poinsettias online today at the [Wolf Den Campus Store](#), where you can also become a FoFA member.

Don't Have FOMO (Update Your Directory Information Today!)

The Mini-Directory is printing soon, and we have noticed that a lot of information seems to be missing. So, we've extended the deadline to **Friday, September 21!** [Here is a helpful video](#) to explain how to update your information and which items will or will not be printing in the Mini-Directory. Even if you think your data is correct, please take a moment to watch the video and check your account in My BackPack. We don't want to go to print without you! And don't forget to purchase your Mini-Directory in the "Our Store" menu of the MySchoolAnywhere website/app. [E-mail us](#) with any questions.

Uniform Resale Pop-up Boutique: September 20-21

School pictures are next month—need uniform tops and bottoms? **Shop the pop-up boutique on Thursday, September 20, and Friday, September 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the People Place.** Cash and checks only. All sales are final.

People for Others Day Kickoff: September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month!

As People for Others, we are partnering with Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance to support their Spare Change School Initiative. Candlelighters provides emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families.

Students are asked to find spare change around their house, in the car, under the couch . . . wherever they can! They should bring it to their grade-level pod **between Monday, September 17, and Friday, September 28**, to fill the collection jugs.

The People for Others Parents Association team thanks you for your support and participation in this effort to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer.

Parent Volunteer Opportunity: Campus Birthday Boards

Calling all creative and crafty parents! Help us celebrate Lower and Middle School birthdays by decorating the campus birthday board, which is located in

the Dining Hall. (View fun examples of past birthday boards [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)

Parent volunteers are needed to switch out the theme and student names each month. You can sign up for one month or multiple months! E-mail [Jen McDonald](#) (Chair) if you'd like to help.

Deadline Is Here—Grab Your Homecoming Gear by Tomorrow!

Homecoming Week is coming soon—it's time to gear up with a newly minted Homecoming-themed spirit T-shirt! Students may wear it on a designated day during **Homecoming Week (October 9-14)**, plus on Friday Spirit Days afterward.



Homecoming Week will be brimming with fun events and activities, and we'll be publishing the full schedule soon. Meanwhile, [click here](#) to hop over to the Wolf Den Campus Store and **order your Homecoming spirit T-shirts by Monday, September 17!** This shirt is ONLY available during this preorder sales period. A very limited surplus will be available on Friday, October 5. (Shirts will be sent home with your youngest child no later than Thursday, October 4.)

Virtue of the Month: Honesty

The virtue verse is Proverbs 12:19: "Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed." Talk with your students about the difference between the truth and a lie, and why the truth is important.

Parents' Bible Studies With the Chaplains

St. Francis dads and moms, please join us for morning Bible studies with our chaplains!

- **All moms are invited to join Reverend Heinemann to study the women of the Bible on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel** (following Lower School Chapel). The first meeting will be **September 17**.
- **All dads are invited to join Father Wismer to study the parables on Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms** at the end of the Middle School hallway. The next meeting will be **September 20**.

Shooting for Success: Support the Sporting Clays Classic on October 26

Calling all sponsors! Take advantage of opportunities that deliver brand visibility through **exclusive signage and print recognition** while supporting our fourth annual Sporting Clays Classic on **Friday, October 26**.

For example, did you know that the event's golf cart sponsor benefits from signage on the approximately 60 golf carts used at the event? Or that an in-kind product can be used as a prize for the winner of the Mixed Target Game?

- If you would like to include your company's promotional item in the event's swag bag, e-mail [Abby Clark](mailto:Abby.Clark@stfrancis.org). Approximately 150 swag bags will be handed out.
- Please note that this event is not just for our school community. It's also a chance to entertain clients, reconnect with former classmates, and introduce new families to our school.
- Check out the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#) to discover the various ways you can participate.
- The Sporting Clays Classic benefits The Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E Fund, which provides cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment (C.A.R.E) for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in our school programs.
- For more information, visit the [Special Events page](#) under the Giving tab on the St. Francis home page. You may also e-mail SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org or contact [J.J. Oshins](#), Sporting Clays Classic chair.

Check Lost and Found for Missing Items By November 1

If your Lower or Middle School child is missing any items—clothing or otherwise—please be sure to check the Lost and Found area, which is **located next to the Crum Library entrance in the closet under the fourth- and fifth-grade stairs**. All items remaining in the Lost and Found on **Thursday, November 1**, will be sent to the uniform resale.

Please also be sure to label all St. Francis fleeces and sweatshirts, non-St. Francis clothing items, water bottles, and miscellaneous items! This makes it much easier to return your child's misplaced items.

Admissions: Calling All Siblings + New Birthday Cutoff Dates

The Admissions Office is accepting [new student applications](#) for the 2019-20 school year. Current families are not required to come on a group tour, however you are more than welcome to do so.

Starting with **new applicants** for the 2019-20 school year, **the birthday cutoff date is moving from June 1 to September 1**. If you have any questions about how this change affects your family, please contact Amy Whitley by phone at 713.458.6115 or [via e-mail](#).

PRE-PRIMARY

- Must be 2 by September 1 of the year entering Pre-Primary (DOB between 9/2/16 and 9/1/17)
- Must not have turned 3 before June 1 of the year entering Pre-Primary

PRIMARY I

- Must be 3 by September 1 of the year entering Primary I (DOB between 9/2/15 and 9/1/16)
- Must not have turned 4 before June 1 of the year entering Primary I

PRIMARY II

- Must be 4 by September 1 of the year entering Primary II (DOB between 9/2/14 and 9/1/15)
- Must not have turned 5 before June 1 of the year entering Primary II

KINDERGARTEN

- Must be 5 by September 1 of the year entering kindergarten (DOB between 9/2/13 and 9/1/14)
- Must not have turned 6 before June 1 of the year entering kindergarten

Primary School

From the Assistant Division Head

One thing that makes St. Francis such a special place is the expectation that students, faculty, and staff will do things the St. Francis Way. Last week, I completed the final Honor Code/St. Francis Way class meeting. I met with a total of 14 classes (57 Pre-Primary, 66 Primary I, and 81 Primary II). Each class was fun in its own unique way, and they were eager to hear more about the St. Francis Way. (Hey, that sort of rhymes I guess it's true that you can take the person out of the Primary School, but you can't take the Primary School out of the person.) I digress. Posted in each classroom is a sign with simple illustrations and words that serves as a reminder of our Honor Code, the St. Francis Way.

Following are our four guidelines/expectations for living and working together as a St. Francis community:

1. Listen carefully to your teachers and friends.
2. Be kind.
3. Be safe.
4. Take care of our school.

In each Pre-Primary, Primary I, and Primary II classroom, the children and I discussed examples of each of the four expectations listed above. We talked about what a promise is and shared our personal experiences with making them. We then made a promise to do things the St. Francis Way. Our promise was made official by stamping our fingerprints in red or blue ink next to our names on a class Honor Code/St. Francis Way page.

We ended the lesson after we had all repeated the promise to do things the St. Francis Way multiple times aloud. When we sat down to take our class St. Francis Way photo, our pointer fingers were blue or red from stamping them in ink. Some of our friends' fingertips had both colors.

Each child in the Primary School made a promise to do things the St. Francis Way. Primary School faculty and staff members made the same promise. This was such a wonderful experience for a number of reasons. First, I got to talk about ways students can proactively navigate what may come their way. Second, I got to spend time with the students in their new classroom. Third, I got to interact with the teachers in the classroom and learn about how best to support them. I hope that you will seize this opportunity to talk with your child about the promise he or she made to do things the St. Francis Way.

Warmly,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Assistant Head of Primary School

Please Share the Word! Upcoming PS Admissions Tours

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Primary School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Friday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m.**

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

Primary School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

- **Wednesday, October 3—10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the Primary School Library
- **Tuesday, November 6—10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the Primary School Library

We hope to see you there!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 18

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
 - *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m. in the Primary School Drama Room
-

Wednesday, September 19

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

Thursday, September 20

- *Uniform Resale:* 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus
 - *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night:* 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Crum Athletics Center
-

Friday, September 21

- *Uniform Resale:* 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus
-

Tuesday, September 25

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

Wednesday, September 26

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

Friday, September 28

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:00 a.m.*
-

Monday, October 1

- *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (M/W/F) and Primary I*
-

Tuesday, October 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary I*
 - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary II*
 - *Primary II Furry Friends Picnic*
-

Wednesday, October 3

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals for Pre-Primary (M/W/F) and Primary I*
 - *Primary School Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Monday, October 8

- *School Holiday*

Tuesday, October 9

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (M/W/F) and Primary II*
-

Wednesday, October 10

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

Thursday, October 11

- *Primary II Field Trip to Main Street Theater*

Lower School

From the Division Head

Thank you for the amazing attendance at Parent Information Night. The teachers love sharing with you the “what, how, and why” of what they do each day. I hope you felt the positive energy and comradery among the faculty. We love coming to school each day and working with your children!

You are a big piece of that puzzle. We are not in the business of producing widgets; we are partnering with you to educate and raise the most precious thing to you. While we strive for everything to be positive and happy, there will be bumps in the road, as children, parents, and teachers are humans with a variety of emotions and ideals. We must communicate with each other regarding the children we share to foster a positive community for all.

With that said, we look forward to **Welcome to the Den Conferences** next Wednesday. This is a time for you to tell the teachers all about your children: What are your hopes and dreams for them? In grades 2-4, the students will also share their hopes and dreams with you, as well as some goals they have set. If you have not completed the parent questionnaire sent last week, please do so.

Last Wednesday at our division meeting, we spent some time processing, reflecting, and sharing our faculty summer reads. Each content-area teacher has specific topics to study and activities to complete to promote understanding and application in the classroom. Please [click here](#) to see all the in-depth curriculum topics we have been studying, as this will help you understand our curricular philosophy and approach. Our hope is that the more you understand what we do and how we do it, the more you will continue to understand why we do what we do so you can be our partners. We don't want anything we do to be a mystery.

I encourage you to get your copy of our faculty/parent read, ***The Self-Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives*** by Dr. William Stixrud and Mr. Ned Johnson. This book is a research-informed, data-packed book about helping our children gain more control over their lives, which prepares them for a path of success. This information fits perfectly with our Responsive Classroom Approach of working with children while promoting independence and self-reliance. This year, we will have parent coffees dedicated to topics in the book, and I look forward to those engaging sessions with our community. Start reading . . . more to come!

Thanks for taking the time to read this week's *Wolf Watch*! Please take a moment to review this week's Primary, Middle, and Upper School letters, as they always feature wonderful topics and summaries of their division's happenings!

Have a blessed week!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Upcoming Dates for Eucharist and FAC Chapels

Please make note of the following dates for this school year's Eucharist and Fine Arts Center (FAC) Chapels:

EUCCHARIST DATES

- St. Francis: Thursday, October 4
- All Saints: Wednesday, October 31

- St. Nicholas: Wednesday, December 5
- Epiphany: Wednesday, January 9
- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 6
- Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 18
- Ascension: Wednesday, May 15

FAC CHAPELS

- Wednesday, October 24
- Wednesday, November 28
- Wednesday, February 13
- Wednesday, April 10
- Wednesday, May 8

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

Lower School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

- **Thursday, October 4**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex
- **Wednesday, October 31**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 17

- *Social Contract and Honor Code Signing Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*

Wednesday, September 19

- *Student Holiday:* Students in grades 2-4 will attend the beginning of their conference
- *Welcome to the Den Conferences*

- *Childcare available through Explore and Extend. [E-mail Margaret Newsom](#) to make reservations on a first-come, first-served basis.*
-

Thursday, September 20

- *Uniform Resale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place*
-

Friday, September 21

- *Uniform Resale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place*
-

Monday, September 24

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between September 16-29 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
 - *Grades 2-4 Parent Meeting: How to help your child with homework and reading; 8:30 a.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, September 26

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

Friday, September 28

- *Kindergarten and Grade 1 Parent Meeting: Early literacy; 8:15 a.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Monday, October 1

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between September 30-October 6 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, October 3

- *NO Chapel*
-

Thursday, October 4

- *Dress Uniform Day and Individual/Group Pictures*
 - *St. Francis Eucharist:* 8:05 a.m.
 - *Blessing of the Animals for Grade 4:* 9:00 a.m. in the Courtyard
 - *Lower School Parent Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School:* 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex
-

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day:* Student holiday (no school)
-

Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12

- *Homecoming Week*
-

Wednesday, October 10

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 7-13 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Middle School

From the Division Head

Last week, we gathered in the Fine Arts Center for the first of many events celebrating our eighth graders—the Eighth-Grade Convocation and Tie Ceremony. As the students were given their ties, I looked out to the crowd and saw loving parents, supportive alumni, nurturing faculty, and awe-filled younger students. Events like that take a village, and the village was in attendance. Thanks to all who made the event possible and special.

This week, we continue to support our eighth graders by hosting **High School Information Night on Monday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center**. This event is a comprehensive look at the high school admissions process for eighth-grade students and their parents—but don't let the name fool you. We want all of our beloved students to stay right here with us at SFES for Upper School; however, we also know that the outside admissions process is a daunting reality, so we want to help.

We look forward to seeing families this Wednesday, September 19, for Welcome to the Den Conferences. I know this one day doesn't serve the majority of our families, and many have reached out with thoughtful, constructive feedback about this issue. Just for context, in the six years I've been at SFES, we've conducted this conference day this way for four of them—in 2016-17 and 2017-18, the day was designed differently as social-emotional/goal-setting sessions among parents, students, and advisors. After the feedback from last year's meetings, the school decided to go back to this formatting. Please know that any frustration is not lost on me, and we will find a solution to best serve our families in the future. For now, as we have always encouraged, please reach out to your grade-level team leader when you think it's an appropriate time to connect about your student, and she will find you and the team a convenient time to meet about your student's progress.

I hope that you all have had a chance to begin reading *The Self-Driven Child*. The book challenges assumptions like this one: Pushing our kids more will actually improve their performance. One of the topics discussed in the book is how much kids learn from failing and making mistakes. [This article](#) from Donna Orem, the president of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), discusses how research on failure has enlightened not only her practice, but also her mindset. How can we approach this topic with our kids, in order to foster better learning outcomes and growth mindset for their

success? Those are the kinds of questions we ask here at SFES, and we continue to challenge ourselves to deliver quality educational programming.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Around the World With St. Francis

We are excited to announce our upcoming educational travel opportunities for summer 2019. Informational meetings for parents will be held on **Wednesday, September 19, in the Hogan Board Room** for the following trips:

- **Costa Rica** (current seventh grade only): **9:00 a.m.**
- **Europe**—Spain, France, and Italy (current sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grades): **10:00 a.m.** Click [here](#) for more information about the Europe trip.

For parents of fifth graders, the **Washington, DC**, summer trip informational meeting will be on **Thursday, November 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. More information on Washington, DC, will follow in October.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more but are unable to make the informational meeting, please contact the appropriate trip leader:

- Costa Rica: [Spencer Duran](#)
- Europe: [Sarah Powell](#)
- Washington, DC: [Melanie Wallace](#)

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

Middle School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 17

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Chapel/Honor Code Signing: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
 - *High School Information Night (Grade 8 Students & Parents): 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
-

Tuesday, September 18

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, September 19

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Welcome to the Den Conferences: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in classrooms; students and parents meet with grade-level teachers*
 - *Costa Rica Parent Meeting: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)*
 - *Europe Trip Parent Meeting: 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)*
-

Thursday, September 20

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Uniform Resale:* 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place
 - *Council Officer Elections:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Friday, September 21

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *NJHS Meeting (All Members):* 7:15-7:50 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *Uniform Resale:* 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place
 - *Fifth-Grade WEB Activity:* 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the fifth-grade classrooms
-

Monday, September 24

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *NJHS Meeting (All Members):* 7:15-7:50 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *Individual Student Pictures:* 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *NJHS Induction Ceremony:* 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 - *NJHS Induction Ceremony Reception:* 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Gay Foyer
-

Tuesday, September 25

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Eighth-Grade Video Meeting (Parents Only):* 8:00-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Library
 - *Advisory:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 26

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *“See You at the Pole” Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Thursday, September 27

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m.* in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Friday, September 28

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
 - *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in classrooms
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Monday, October 1

- *ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School ERB Testing: 7:55 a.m.;* students report to assigned classrooms
 - *ERB Extended-Time Testing: 7:55 a.m.* in assigned classrooms
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Chapel
-

Tuesday, October 2

- *ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Middle School ERB Testing: 7:30 a.m.; students report to assigned classrooms*
 - *ERB Extended-Time Testing: 7:30 a.m. in assigned classrooms*
-

Wednesday, October 3

- *ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Eucharist Chapel/Feast of St. Francis: 10:45-11:35 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, October 4

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *ERB Makeup Testing: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in assigned classrooms*
 - *Middle School Councils: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
-

Friday, October 5

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Bible Study for **Grades 5-8**: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
 - *Middle School Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*
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Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12

- NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive
-

Tuesday, October 9

- *Bible Study for **Grades 5-8***: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Howlers Practice (Grade 8 Girls Only)*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Dance Room
-

Wednesday, October 10

- *Bible Study for **Grades 5-8***: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Choice Assembly for Parents*: 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
 - *Parent Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School*: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library
 - *Howlers Practice*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Thursday, October 11

- *Bible Study for **Grades 5-8***: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
- *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 5-6)*: 8:10-9:10 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 7-8)*: 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- *Booster Bash*: 12:15-1:50 p.m. in the Dining Hall

- *Fall Pep Rally (Students Only):* 2:35-3:05 p.m. in the Gym
 - *Homecoming Varsity Football Game vs. Second Baptist:* 5:00 p.m. on the South Campus, for the entire St. Francis community
-

Friday, October 12

- *Bible Study for **Grades 5-8:*** 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
- *NJHS Meeting:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
- *MS Fall Dance for Grades 6-8:* 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the Gym; students only

Upper School

From the Division Head

Thank you for joining us last Tuesday evening for our inaugural Upper School Parent Night. We thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to provide you with a snapshot of your child's school-day experience. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming cross-country, volleyball, strategic planning, Homecoming, and musical performance events.

This Wednesday, we are excited to attend a Theater Under the Stars (TUTS) matinee performance of *Oklahoma!*, preceded by a private tour and introduction to cast members and followed by lunch at Treebeards. Students will meet Jamie Mize and Dan Tidwell, the original restaurant owners, and learn about their experiences as local entrepreneurs. Finally, we will travel to The Menil Collection, where students will participate in small-group scavenger hunts created by Beth Looser, former SFES parent and upcoming visual arts history teacher. Please join me in extending a big thanks to Justin Doran for the planning time and creative thinking involved in the development of this experiential learning adventure.

On Wednesday evening, I encourage you to speak with your children about their impressions of the day's activities. Who was their favorite character from *Oklahoma!* and why? Which vocal performance did they find most impressive and why? What stood out to them about the choreography? Did they like the food at Treebeards? Why or why not? What did they find particularly surprising or intriguing about Dan's and Jamie's stories? Do they

remember the names of any of the artists whose work was on display at The Menil Collection? Was there a particular piece that they enjoyed viewing? And, if so, what do they remember about it?

Spending time in reflection is a skill that requires practice. At St. Francis, we are incorporating reflection time into our school day in classes, advisory, and informal conversations. I encourage you to do the same with your children at home. In my experience, thinking critically with others about values and purpose can both build resilience and strengthen a sense of connection and community.

Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Around the World With St. Francis

We are excited to announce that our upcoming educational travel opportunity for summer 2019 is to Europe (Spain, France, and Italy)!

An informational meeting for parents will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 19, in the Hogan Board Room (Main Campus)** to discuss details and answer questions.

Please note the following:

- This trip is open to current sixth-, seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade St. Francis students.
- For more information, please [click here](#) to review the travel flyer.

If you have any questions, or are interested in learning more but are unable to make the informational meeting, please contact trip leader [Sarah Powell](#).

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

Upper School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your

thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 17

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, September 18

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Honor Code Signing Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Non-Athlete Rehearsal: 3:45-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, September 19

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform (No Sweatpants)*
 - *Field Trip to TUTS Oklahoma!, Treebeards, and The Menil Collection*
 - *Europe Summer Travel Parent Meeting: 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:30 p.m.*
 - *No Fine Arts Rehearsal*
-

Thursday, September 20

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Uniform Resale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:15-7:15 p.m.*
-

Friday, September 21

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Uniform Resale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
-

Saturday, September 22

- *Cross-Country Meet vs. Houston Christian: Time TBD*
-

Sunday, September 23

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-6:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, September 24

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *WoW! Assembly*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:30-4:40 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:45-6:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, September 25

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:30 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m.; home game*
-

Wednesday, September 26

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, September 27

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Non-Athlete Rehearsal: 3:45-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m.; home game*
-

Friday, September 28

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Athletics Practice (Cross-Country Only): 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball Team Attends Rice Game: 5:30 p.m. at Rice University; parents provide transportation*
-

Sunday, September 30

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-6:00 p.m.*

Church

Discover Christian Meditation Starting This Week

New opportunities for silent prayer at the church begin this week:

- **Tuesdays, 5:00-5:30 p.m.**
- **Thursdays, 7:30-8:00 a.m.**

These sessions will be held in the **St. Clare Chapel** and led by Father David Price. We find the roots of Christian meditation in the practice of Jesus recorded in the Gospels and in the content of the Epistles. We see it developed further in the writings of the desert tradition of the early church. Come learn a bit about it, gain a few hints about the practice and, mostly, pray.

Fall First Communion Classes Begin September 16

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

'The Meaning of Marriage' Starts September 23

Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean “until death do us part,” but merely “for as long as my needs are being met”; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

According to the Bible, though, these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about.

In this six-session, video-based Bible study, Timothy and Kathy Keller—who have been married for 40 years—draw **a profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture** that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution, but points us back to the relationship between God and man. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful.

This study is for everyone, whether you are single, considering marriage, a newlywed, or part of a couple that's been married a long time!

Sessions will be held at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** on two Sundays per month from September through November. Topics will include:

- “Service: Marriage Isn't about You” (September 23)
- “Covenant: Created to Make Promises” (September 30)
- “Roles: Loving Through Mutual Submission (October 7)
- “Singleness: Strengthening the Spiritual Family” (October 28)
- “Sex: The Act of Covenant Renewal” (November 11)
- “Hope: Seeing the Great Horizon” (November 18)

Join Us for St. Francis 101

Join Father Bates on **Sunday, September 30, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room** for St. Francis 101. This is a great opportunity for new or prospective members to get to know St. Francis Episcopal Church and Father Bates as he gives an overview of our mission, ministry, and programs.

You can RSVP to [Kathryn Adkins](#), or just stop in, and we'll happily welcome you! The Bride's Room is located in the Narthex of the Church.

Blessing of the Animals Is September 30

Bring your dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles to our Blessing of the Animals service on **Sunday, September 30, at 4:00 p.m.** We will have a short liturgy in the church, followed by individual blessings in the courtyard. In addition to bringing your pets, we encourage you to bring donations of pet food and newspapers, which we will deliver to a local animal shelter.

The Grief Group Starts in October

The Grief Group will meet for four consecutive Sundays in October from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. It is time set aside for those who are grieving to reflect on their lives, their losses, and their strengths going forward. We will use the 23rd Psalm as our guide to remember that God is with us even during painful times.

The Grief Group is a safe place to talk, cry, and laugh about the gifts we have—even when we're facing death, crisis, and trauma in our lives—while beginning to move into our new, renewed lives. Dr. Robbie Sharp, a psychologist who attends St. Francis, will lead the group. Please e-mail [Jerry Ballard](#) to sign up for The Grief Group.