

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 9

All School

Volunteer Requirement: Safeguarding God's Children Training

If your volunteer role at St. Francis requires you to be in the classroom more than six times per school year and you aren't currently trained in Safeguarding God's Children (SGC), please **plan to attend an upcoming SGC class**. A program of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, SGC trains individuals to be aware of child abuse and potential child-predator situations.

Our next class will be held on **Friday, September 14, from noon to 2:00 p.m.**, and will be taught by Father Wismer. Before attending, please e-mail [Rose Ann Gregory](#) to reserve your spot or to check your training expiration date. (SGC training is valid for five years.)

If you need this class for a church-sponsored group such as the St. Francis Sports Association or Scouts, please register with the church before September 14; then you can attend this class. Plan to meet that Friday by 11:50 a.m. at the front desk on the Main Campus.

2018-19 St. Francis Fund Kicks Off!

As we kick off the St. Francis Fund for the 2018-19 school year, I want to take a moment to thank St. Francis's faculty and staff for their overwhelming generosity. They are once again setting the pace for giving, with over 75 percent of employees having already made a gift or pledge.

We invite you to join us in making a gift to this year's St. Francis Fund by clicking [here](#). With any questions, please e-mail [Faith Cohen](#).

Sincerely,

Kelly Cliburn
Head of Development

Save the Date for Grandparents & Grandfriends Days

On **November 14, 15, and 16**, we will welcome our grandparents and grandfriends on both campuses to enjoy Chapel, classroom visits, and a visit to the book fair!

Following is a brief overview of the event schedule. More detailed information will be available on the invitation that will be mailed out to grandparents in October.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday, November 15

- T/Th Pre-Primary classes
- All Primary II classes

Friday, November 16

- M/W/F Pre-Primary classes
- 5-day Pre-Primary classes
- All Primary I classes

LOWER SCHOOL

Wednesday, November 14

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thursday, November 15

UPPER SCHOOL

Friday, November 16

If you need to update the grandparent information St. Francis has on file for your family or if you have any questions regarding Grandparents &

Grandfriends Days, please contact Anne Chisholm at 713.458.6141 or [via e-mail](#).

Join the Dad's Club for Breakfast on Thursday

The SFES Dad's Club is kicking off the new school year with our first breakfast meeting on **Thursday, September 13, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. Head of School Steve Lovejoy will be speaking.

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.

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.

Virtue of the Month: Honesty

Honesty is the virtue of the month. Ask your child to show you the American Sign Language motion for the word "honesty."

Parents' Bible Studies With the Chaplains

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

- **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 13**.
- **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**.

Shooting for Success: Support the Sporting Clays Classic

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.

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.

Show Your Spirit—Grab Your Homecoming Gear!

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 today!** (Shirts will be sent home with your youngest child no later than Thursday, October 4.)

Admissions: Calling All Siblings + New Birthday Cutoff Dates

The Admissions Office is ready to begin receiving [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

PA Mini-Directory Information Update and Order Reminder

The Parents Association directory chairs have begun working to update the directory for the 2018-19 school year. **Please note that your family information will be published in the directory as it is shown in My BackPack on the St. Francis Parent Portal.** Please confirm and update this information by **Friday, September 14.**

The printed Mini-Directory includes contact details for all faculty and staff; student listings organized by class/homeroom/advisor, including room parent and e-mail; as well as an alphabetical listing of all St. Francis families, with contact information. It is conveniently sized to fit in your purse or car!

Purchase the printed Mini-Directory from the **MySchoolAnywhere [online store](#)** or app. This is the only way to purchase the Mini-Directory. **The deadline to order is Friday, September 14.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please [e-mail the PA directory chairs](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

Big Bambú: This Thing Called Life, created by artists (and twin brothers) Mike and Doug Starn, was on exhibit through the summer at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Looking a bit like a giant game of Pick-Up Sticks, this massive indoor structure was the artists' first indoor installation.

The wait time for those of us willing to stand in line for the opportunity to enter the structure from the second floor was an hour and a half. Waiting my turn, I had plenty of time to make observations and reflect on what I saw that day. It was interesting to watch people's reactions. Their faces said a lot as they approached the entrance.

Most adults were probably in the 30-year-old range—almost half the age of the 57-year-old artists themselves. Still, if the visitors were of a prime age to enjoy adventure and risk, the Starn brothers obviously know a bit about those things themselves.

Other observations and reflections:

- Each piece of bamboo and knotted rope was important in the stability of the structure. The strength of small bamboo poles and their flexibility had important purposes in supporting and linking larger sections of bamboo. Every piece was important—none more than another.
- Certainly, the knotted ropes helped secure the poles together; but the colors chosen and even the details of each wrapped section and tie were intentional. This was not just a piece of architectural design. The beauty of *Big Bambú* was obviously considered. This was a piece of art.
- This art was more than just visual. You could feel the swaying of the bridge and the texture of the poles under your feet, hear the creaking movement, and stop along the way to sit on a functional bench and observe the carefully designed details.
- Most (but not all) the adults were tentative and uncertain as they stepped onto the first bridge. They moved slowly through the structure. Children, on the other hand, zoomed up, jumping in with gusto. Older seemed to equal caution.

Were my observations that day representative of what the Starns meant when they titled this exhibit *This Thing Called Life*? I'm not sure. But what I did realize is that being still and taking time to really focus on details gives you a deeper appreciation for the beauty of others' work, and an understanding of how important we are to one another in making our overall structure stronger. And the lesson from children is to be brave, seek out adventure, and live fully. All of these are good lessons for us to live out in our work together as a division and as a community.

For more on the recent *Big Bambú* exhibit at MFAH, please [click here](#).

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

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 11

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

Wednesday, September 12

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

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

- *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night: 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Crum Athletic Center*
-

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.*
 - *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 (T/Th) and Primary II*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I am excited to share with you information about our all-school parent read, ***The Self-Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives***. Please purchase a copy and start reading. Dr. William Stixrud and Mr. Ned Johnson have written 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

coffee dedicated to topics in the book, and I look forward to those engaging sessions with our community. Start reading . . . more to come!

Your children have been busy setting goals in classes and reflecting on a new start. Students in grades 2-4 will attend the first few minutes of their **Welcome to the Den Parent Conference on Wednesday, September 19**, to share their thoughts with you. Our younger students' thoughts will be shared by their homeroom teachers during conference time.

If you have not already received the parent questionnaire, it is coming from your teachers soon. This is a wonderful way for our faculty to gain some insights into your child and family prior to the conference. Please take a few minutes to complete it and send it in. We appreciate your help!

The faculty has also been reflecting and setting goals. As you know, our school goal is to **Challenge What's Possible**. Teachers are each taking one aspect of the curriculum and setting goals and action plans to dig deeper and further their knowledge and craft. They will be choosing other teachers as accountability coaches so that they can help each other grow in various areas. **We view every teacher as a leader and expert in many fields.** Helping each other to grow and strive for new learning is what we ask of your children every day—and it's what we ask of all faculty members, as well!

Our administrative team is also following up on a conference we attended this summer at Teachers College, Columbia University by reading and studying the book on adult learning theory written by the presenter.

Be sure to join us on Tuesday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center to get our Parent Information Night rolling! We will meet all together for a few minutes and then get you on your way to the classrooms. (Note: The classrooms will be locked until our meeting in the FAC concludes.)

I hope to see everyone this week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

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!

Lower School Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale!

Lower School scrapbooks for last school year are now available for purchase at [MySchoolAnywhere](#). These beautiful Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific, so remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 10

- *NO Chapel*
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) and classrooms
-

Wednesday, September 12

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between August 1 and September 15 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, September 14

- *Spirit Dress Friday:* Students may wear a St. Francis shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms
-

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 Parent Conferences*
-

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School families. I hope this finds you well.

Two events make this week particularly special: the **Eighth-Grade Convocation and Tie Ceremony on Monday, September 10**, and **Middle School Parent Information Night on Thursday, September 13**. I am as proud of our students as I am of our faculty and staff, and I look forward to showcasing both this week.

I hope our students are getting into the flow of school life. We are particularly sensitive to our students' needs during this transitory time of settling in. In this research-informed article from [Edutopia](#), you can **learn more about how forming a growth mindset helps students cope with academic—even life—setbacks**. As we begin to assess our students more in the coming weeks, student performance will display itself in all kinds of different ways. We want to emphasize how a positive, constructive mindset will encourage not only effort, but also performance in students' learning environments. **We ask our students, "What can you control?" The answers are their effort, energy, and attitude.**

I look forward to seeing you all around campus soon. 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!

Fifth-Grade Families, Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale!

Was your child in fourth grade last year at St. Francis? If so, purchase your scrapbook at [MySchoolAnywhere](#). These beautiful Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific, so remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 10

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Convocation and Tie Ceremony: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
 - *Convocation Reception (Grade 8 Only): 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *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 12

- *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*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, September 13

- *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
 - *Councils (Student Sign-ups)*: 9:15-10:00 a.m.
 - *MS Parent Information Night*: 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) and Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Friday, September 14

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *NJHS Meeting/Induction Preparations (Grade 8 Members Only)*: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only)*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom
-

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.-4:00 p.m. in classrooms; students and parents meet with grade-level teaching teams

- *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
 - *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
 - *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*

Upper School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday! I hope your weekend is going well and that you have had the opportunity to check in as a family about the transition into high school—what's working well, and what isn't? **We have been checking in with students (both individually and in groups) about the same during school hours, and we are eager to provide support as it is needed.**

On a related note, **please take a few moments to respond to my recent e-mail message** requesting a few possible dates and times for a discussion with Head of Student Support Services Laurie Curtis and me about your ninth grader's learning strengths, needs, and strategies.

We are now three weeks into the school year and about to begin our first five-day school week. **On Monday, we'll have our first-ever Wolves on Wellness (WoW) Day!** Students and faculty may dress in Wolf (spirit) Wear for the occasion. Thank you in advance to Coach McMillian for creating this opportunity.

On Tuesday evening, the Upper School faculty and I are excited to welcome you to St. Francis's inaugural **Upper School Parent Night**. The event will begin at **6:30 p.m. in Crum Loft** (on the second floor of Crum Gym) and features a schedule walk (with seven-minute classroom experiences), the opportunity to learn from other St. Francis parents about ways to get involved in the SFES community, and a few party favors (in the form of carpool dashboard name displays and faculty contact cards).

Here's to a great 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 10

- *Day 5 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

- *Wolves on Wellness (WoW) Day*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:30-8:30 p.m.; includes dinner and a performance at Upper School Parent Information Night*
 - *Parent Information Night: 6:30 p.m. in the Crum Loft*
-

Wednesday, September 12

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
-

Thursday, September 13

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

Friday, September 14

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:30 p.m.*
-

Sunday, September 16

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

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*
 - *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! and Lunch at Treebeards*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:30 p.m.*
 - *No Fine Arts Rehearsal*
-

Thursday, September 20

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *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*
 - *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.*

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.

Episcopal Worship . . . Explained (Begins Today)

What does it mean to be Episcopalian? Discover the nuances of the Episcopal faith and its liturgy and traditions in this three-part program led by Father Bates, which begins today, **September 9, at 10:00 a.m.** Additional dates in the series are **Sunday, October 21**, and **Sunday, December 2**.

If you are an adult desiring to be confirmed by the bishop in February, this series, along with a book assignment by Father Bates, will satisfy the

requirements for Confirmation. Please contact [Amy Homer](#) if you are interested in Confirmation.

The Men of St. Francis Breakfasts Resume Tuesday

The Men of St. Francis monthly breakfasts resume **Tuesday, September 11**, and every gentleman of the parish is invited to come together for a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and faith-related study and discussion led by Father Bates. This year, the men will read and discuss *I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed* by Alister McGrath. The group meets in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall at 8:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. Please e-mail [Amy Homer](#) for more information or to obtain a copy of this year's book.

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.