

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of August 19

All School

Playground Update

While we were hoping to swing into the 2018-19 school year with a brand new Lower School playground, we've gotten word from the equipment manufacturer that unforeseen delays have pushed our timeline back a bit. Still, construction is progressing as quickly as safety will allow, and we hope to be able to unveil our awesome new playground very soon. We'll keep you posted!

Construction Continues Near Main Campus

As of August 15, 2018, **travel on Piney Point Road is one-way southbound only from Greenbay Street to Memorial Drive**. We recommend allowing extra time for your commute if you are coming to our Main Campus. While the north and south entrances will not be affected, drivers will need to turn right upon exiting the parking lot. We appreciate your patience and will keep you posted as we receive construction updates from the City of Piney Point Village.

Major Changes to This Year's *School Handbook*

To make it easier to find information in the *School Handbook* and to ensure the details it contains are as accurate for each division as possible, we have broken our former all-school handbook into four smaller books—one for each division, as follows:

- *Primary School Handbook*
- *Lower School Handbook*
- *Middle School Handbook*
- *Upper School Handbook*

We have also updated quite a bit of the information in each handbook, according to each division's needs.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the new *School Handbook* for your child's division. You can **access it under "Back to School General Info" in your division's section of the Parent Portal.** (For example, to review the *Primary School Handbook*, log in to the Parent Portal, scroll down to "Primary School Division Information," and click on "Back to School General Info" to expand that section. Then, click on "Primary School Handbook," and the document will open in your browser, where you may either read or download it.)

With any questions about the *School Handbook* for your child's division, please contact the appropriate division office.

See You at Market Day!

The St. Francis Parents Association welcomes all families back to school at Market Day, which will be held **Monday, August 20**, and **Tuesday, August 21**, according to the following schedule:

MAIN CAMPUS

Monday, August 20, and Tuesday, August 21
4:00-6:00 p.m.

The Anne Chisholm People Place and Gay Foyer

SOUTH CAMPUS

Tuesday, August 21

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Primary School Lobby

In addition to attending school division events, you will have the opportunity to **shop at our Uniform Resale Pop-Up Store** on the Main Campus and the **Athletics Booster Club Wolf Wear Store** on both the Main and South Campuses.

Additionally, volunteers will be available to **help you navigate the MySchoolAnywhere Parents Association app** and answer questions about the many opportunities you have to **support the parent organizations and events that enrich all students** in each of the four divisions!

We look forward to seeing you at Market Day and to a great year!

Support the Fine Arts at St. Francis

Do you love the fine arts? Do you want to help provide the best possible fine arts opportunities for St. Francis students? If so, please consider joining Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA), a volunteer organization that supports fine arts activities across all St. Francis school divisions. You can **learn more about FoFA and become a member at the upcoming Market Day event** (Monday, August 20, and Tuesday, August 21). You'll also have the chance to order your beautiful holiday poinsettias for delivery in December!

If you won't be able to attend Market Day, or just want to get a jump-start, **you can order your holiday poinsettias and/or join FoFA online via the [Wolf Den Campus Store](#).**

As a FoFA member, you'll be at the forefront of enriching the fine arts at St. Francis, and you'll be among the first to hear about FoFA activities and fun fine arts-related volunteer opportunities.

Become a FoFA member and order your holiday poinsettias at Market Day or online today!

Buy Wolf Wear at Market Day

The Athletics Booster Club will be selling Wolf Wear during Market Day:

PRIMARY SCHOOL (SOUTH CAMPUS)

Tuesday, August 21

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Primary School Lobby

LOWER SCHOOL (MAIN CAMPUS)

Monday, August 20

4:00-6:00 p.m.

People Place

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL (MAIN CAMPUS)

Tuesday, August 21

4:00-6:00 p.m.

People Place

Stock up on St. Francis spirit T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, PE uniforms, yard signs, and more! (This is also a great opportunity to purchase an Athletics Booster Club membership.)

Have You Submitted Your Grandparent Information Form?

Here at St. Francis, we know how important grandparents and grand friends are to our students, and we love connecting with them! Our **monthly *Keepin' Track of the Pack* grandparent newsletter** provides up-to-date information on student events and activities, and our **annual Grandparents and Grand Friends Days** provide a wonderful opportunity for them to spend time with grandchildren here at the school.

If you'd like us to connect with your child's grandparents or grand friends—and help them stay connected with student life at St. Francis—please **submit a completed Grandparent Information Form** to Danielle Richardson, gift records and data analysis manager, at DRichardson@StFrancisHouston.org. (You can download the Grandparent Information Form by [clicking here](#) or by visiting the “All Division Essentials” section of the Parent Portal.)

Time to Team Up: Sporting Clays Classic Is October 26

Shoot for success at the **St. Francis Sporting Clays Classic on Friday, October 26!** Each four-person team will enjoy lunch, 72 sporting clay targets plus ammunition, an exhilarating flurry competition, golf cart transportation, and an awards ceremony. Check out the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#) to discover the various ways you can participate.

(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.

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.

Admissions: Calling All Siblings + New Birthday Cutoff Dates

The Admissions Office is excited to begin receiving applications for the 2019-20 school year. We are in the midst of implementing a new admissions software that will be available beginning September 1, so **please wait until after September 1 to begin your sibling applications.**

Starting with the 2019-20 school year, **the birthday cutoff date is moving from June 1 to September 1**, as follows:

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 Division Head

Dear Primary School Families,

It's almost here! We're getting so close to the first day. I love everything about the start of school. The excitement for children this time of year is palpable: new teachers and classrooms, old friends and new friends, challenges and experiences, and the promise of all that comes with the adventures ahead.

In an orientation last week for new St. Francis faculty, we asked teachers representing each division what they remember wanting to be when they grew up. Most responded that they had always wanted to be a teacher. That is true for me, too. I have always loved the idea of being part of children's lives, especially in these early years. It is such an honor to be part of each child's journey.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to spend time with your children and your family. **We can't wait to see you on Tuesday, August 21, at Meet the Teacher. Please join us anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.**

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary School Faculty and Staff Assignments

We are delighted to announce that the following faculty and staff will be teaching and supporting our Primary School students in 2018-19:

PRE-PRIMARY TEACHERS/TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Maggy Britton/Jacqueline Wilson
Annie Ferguson/Veronica Crummel
Susan Meriwether/Sara Gutierrez
Jane Oteiza/Betty Huff

PRIMARY I TEACHERS/TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Leah Burrow/Susan Magee
Marissa Capasso/Carol Kemper

Genie Porter/Kristen MacDonald
Andrea Scriber/Veni Hardy

PRIMARY II TEACHERS/TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Cindy Blades/Alex Theis
Emily Hughes/Julie Preston/Michelle Ly
Janene Owens/Deanna Williams
Michelle Staller/Ghada Raad
Diane Wiener/Annie Addison

ENRICHMENT AND SUPPORT

Drama: Lyndsay Sweeney
Literacy Specialist: Ashley Stephenson
Motor Development: Leveil Lander and Michael Settle
Music: Nicole Fair
Nurse: Debbie Toler
Office Manager: Jennifer Carson
Spanish: Claudia Schoelman

Used Uniform Sale at Market Day: August 20 and 21

You will have the opportunity to **purchase used uniforms on Monday, August 20, and Tuesday, August 21, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** during the Parents Association's Uniform Resale Pop-Up Store. This sale will be located in the **Fine Arts Center** on the Main Campus.

New Family Chapel: August 21, 3:30-4:00 p.m.

Fr. Wismer and Rev. Wendy Heinemann will guide new families through a chapel service on **Tuesday, August 21, from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.** before Meet the Teacher begins. Chapel will be held in the **multi-purpose room**. All are welcome.

Meet the Teacher: August 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Please **join us for Meet the Teacher anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21.** During your class visit, you'll receive your child's carpool number and additional information regarding the start of school. Rest mats can be brought during this visit to place in your child's cubby.

You may also take your child's "first day of school" photo in the Primary School Library. (He or she may wear the school uniform for this visit, if you'd like.)

In addition, the Athletics Booster Club will be selling St. Francis spirit wear in the Primary School Lobby during this time.

Note About Uniforms

We understand that there have been some challenges this summer ordering and receiving new uniform items. This year will be one of transition, and we expect that it will take time to make the planned uniform changes. That said, here are some options available to you this year:

- Wearing the following uniform items from the 2017-18 school year:
 - **Boys:** Navy shorts/pants; white St. Francis-monogrammed polo shirt
 - **Girls:** Zip-front dress; plaid skort; white shirt
- Wearing new Tommy Hilfiger uniform items:
 - **Boys:** Khaki shorts/pants; navy St. Francis-monogrammed polo shirt
 - **Girls:** Navy dropped-waist monogrammed dress; plaid skort; khaki shorts/pants; navy St. Francis-monogrammed polo shirt
 - If Tommy Hilfiger khaki shorts are not available in your child's size, you may find plain khaki shorts from another source this year.
- **Shoes:** While there are no specific uniform shoes, students should wear athletic shoes that allow them to run, climb, and safely participate in all activities. Velcro is the most appropriate fastener, allowing students to put on their shoes independently.
- **Fridays:** Jeans (or uniform bottoms) and a St. Francis spirit-wear shirt are considered the Friday uniform. The alternate to this choice is the uniform worn Monday-Thursday.

The Primary School Welcomes Sage Dining!

We are very excited that Sage Dining will be providing our lunch service this year. Chef Bryce Smith and his staff will prepare our food on the main campus and transport it to us. We will serve food "family style," encouraging students to try new foods. You will receive the menu each week in *Wolf Watch*.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 20

- *PA Market Day (Main Campus):* 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Tuesday, August 21

- *New Family Chapel:* 3:30-4:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room
 - *Meet the Teacher:* 4:00-6:00 p.m.; You may also take your child's "first day of school" photo in the library
 - *PA Market Day (Main and South Campuses):* 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) on the Main Campus and in the Primary School Lobby on the South Campus
-

Wednesday, August 22

- *First Day of School*
-

Friday, August 24

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

Friday, August 31-Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*

Lower School

From the Division Head

Dear Lower School Families,

As our summer break is quickly coming to a close, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of your children to fill our classrooms again with laughter, stories, and curiosity!

The faculty is rested, rejuvenated, and ready to launch a new year full of learning and growth. Once again, we had several teachers attend workshops related to the two approaches on which our program is built: the weeklong **Reading Workshop training at Teachers College, Columbia University**, and **Responsive Classroom training**. We are reaching 100 percent participation in training in both areas. Our specialists and Mr. Kochel attended the **Advanced Responsive Classroom training**, as well, so they can continue to lead cutting-edge, research-based professional development for our faculty.

Members of the specialist and administration teams also studied current research in **Adult Learning Theories at Teachers College, Columbia University**, in order to provide the optimal environment for teacher growth. Research clearly states that “a direct link exists between supporting adult learning and enhanced student achievement, and opportunities for improving student learning depend on leadership and the quality of teaching.”* We take that research very seriously and are committed to providing a Growth Mindset environment for all faculty.

Now to some new information and faculty updates in the “nuts and bolts” category:

- Mrs. Flores, our religion teacher, will be on maternity leave until October 1. **Kathy Cire, a beloved former second-grade teacher, will start the year as her long-term substitute, and then Mrs. Ross (previously Ms. Henry), our former religion teacher, will teach the month of October.** Our students are in wonderful hands!
- **We have made some long-overdue changes to our birthday procedures!** Every homeroom will have time built in for guest readers; you may sign up for a day/time on or close to your child’s birthday. You are welcome to read, bring a simple snack for the class, and donate a book of your child’s choice to the classroom library. This small time

together will make your child's day even more special! You will learn more about this new procedure on **Back to School Night on September 11.**

- **Afternoon carpool pickup for students in grades 2-4 will begin at 3:20 p.m. this year.** This provides a bit more time for us to get our little friends in kinder and first grade out and on their way home—and, hopefully, will prevent older students' parents from having to circle the carpool line. A good arrival time for second- through fourth-grade pickup would be 3:10 p.m. Kinder and first-grade students with siblings in grades 2-4 will wait in the Dining Hall for the 3:20 p.m. pickup.

On Monday, August 20, Lower School families may come between the hours of 4:00-6:00 p.m. to meet their teachers and pick up carpool tags. I'm bursting at the seams to see everyone back in the halls and classrooms!

This year will be another year of exploration, inquiry, and growth in every way. Do not expect any significant changes in our program, but be watching for ways we have improved in the areas of reflection, feedback, and new learning based on research. The day we sit back and say, "We've got this!" is the day we don't!

We take the charge of educating your precious children very seriously; thank you for partnering with us in this endeavor!

Cheers,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

* DuFour, 2007; Gustsky, 1999; Wagner, 2007; Firestone & Riehl, 2005; Levin, 2006; Marzano, Waters, & McNulty, 2005.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 20

- *PA Market Day:* 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Tuesday, August 21

- *PA Market Day:* 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Wednesday, August 22

- *First Day of School*
-

Friday, August 24

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

Monday, August 27

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
 - *Returning Parent Meeting:* 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
 - *NEW Parent Meeting:* 2:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Wednesday, August 29

- *Fourth-Grade Leadership Induction Chapel:* 8:05 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Friday, August 31-Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*

Middle School

From the Division Head

Dear Middle School Families,

I hope this finds you well and that this past summer has brought you and yours joy and rest. Our faculty and staff are gearing up for the 2018-19 school year, and we are so excited to welcome our students and parents—our entire Middle School team—back to campus. **I emphasize the word “team” as we move forward together in partnership—parents, faculty, and staff—to help our students learn and thrive.**

In addition to pursuing excellence in the classroom and various other learning environments, the Middle School faculty and staff will continue to expand on three programmatic goals from the 2017-18 school year: **Social, Emotional, Academic Learning (SEAL)**; **Mind, Brain, and Education science (MBE science)**; and **Project-Based Learning (PBL)**. Every day, we take time to reflect on our practice to ensure that we are challenging and inspiring our students in a creative, collaborative, critically thinking, and communicative learning environment. Our students will experience not only our teachers’ expertise in content and instruction, but also their knowledge and care for each person’s social, emotional, academic, and spiritual needs. At St. Francis, we pride ourselves on providing a safe learning environment where our students and families are known by name and cared for with heart, and we are perpetually mindful of keeping this practice at the forefront of our daily lives.

To ensure a great beginning to the new school year, please be sure to log in to the Parent Portal and carefully review the back-to-school information—both all-school and division-specific.

In addition, please note the following:

- **On Tuesday, August 21, Middle School families may visit between the hours of 4:00-6:00 p.m. to pick up their schedules, set up lockers, and meet their teachers.** Students must be accompanied by an adult while on campus during this time. Details on where to pick up your schedule can be found in the back-to-school information on the Parent Portal.

- **Complete uniform guidelines may be found in the *Middle School Handbook* and in the back-to-school information, both of which are available on the Parent Portal.** Please note the following in particular:
 - Students should wear their daily uniform the first week of school.
 - Every Monday is dress uniform day. Any additions and/or exceptions related to special events, such as Eucharist, will be communicated as needed. Students must wear brown or black dress shoes with their dress uniform. White or navy dress crew socks are required with the school dress uniform for girls. Brown, black, or navy dress crew socks are required with the dress uniform for boys.
 - Daily uniform (Tuesday–Thursday) footwear may include athletic shoes. Athletic shoes and socks may be of any color. Shorter socks may be worn with the daily uniform, although socks must be visible.
 - St. Francis spirit wear/Wolf Wear/SFES wear is required on Fridays, either with uniform bottoms or jeans. Daily uniform footwear and sock guidelines apply.
- We look forward to welcoming you all to **Middle School Parent Information Night on Thursday, September 13.**
- There is no class on **Wednesday, September 19**, so that advisors can conduct “**Welcome to the Den**” conferences. This is an opportunity for parents and grade-level teachers to meet to ensure students are prepared for success in the new school year.

As our hallways fill with the laughter and cheer of our wonderful students, our faculty and staff look forward to serving our entire community in the coming school year. Welcome back, Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 20

- *PA Market Day*: 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)

Tuesday, August 21

- *New Family Chapel*: 1:30-2:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- *New Student Orientation*: 2:00-3:30 p.m. for new students in grades 6-8 only in the Middle School Office
- *WEB Orientation*: 2:00-4:30 p.m. in the Gym and classrooms
- *PA Market Day*: 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- *Grades 6-8 Locker Setup, Schedule Pickup, and Meet the Teacher*: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - Grade 6: Meet in Ms. McKeel's classroom (MS 223)
 - Grade 7: Meet in Dr. Bedard's classroom (MS 225)
 - Grade 8: Meet in Ms. Hendrix's classroom (MS 235)
- *Grade 5 Locker Setup, Schedule Pickup, and Meet the Teacher*: 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 - Meet in Mrs. Edington's classroom (MS 201)
- *Meet the Wolves*: 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the Gym

Wednesday, August 22

- *First Trimester Begins*: Monday schedule
- *First Day of School*: Regular uniform dress for students
- *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel

Thursday, August 23

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Class Meeting/Handbook Review*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center

Friday, August 24

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Dress*: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with jeans or uniform bottoms

- *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Monday, August 27

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Tuesday, August 28

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *New Parent Meeting: 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, August 29

- *Wednesday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, August 30

- *Thursday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Class Meeting/Handbook Review: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
-

Friday, August 31-Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*
-

Tuesday, September 4

- *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
- *Practice for Tie Ceremony (Grade 8 Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Chapel and Fine Arts Center (FAC)

Upper School

From the Division Head

Dear Upper School Students,

Greetings! I hope that this message finds you and your family doing well and enjoying a summer break filled with just the right combination of rest, recreation, and reflection. The excitement is building for us on South Piney Point as we prepare to welcome you to your new school home in just a couple of days. Whether you are an experienced Wolf or (like me) a newcomer to the St. Francis community, we all have a special opportunity to learn from and alongside one another as we share our stories and co-create a brand new and refreshingly unique high school experience.

Before getting into back-to-school logistics, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the trust you and your families are placing in St. Francis and, specifically, in the Upper School faculty and staff. My colleagues and I are honored and humbled that you are entrusting us with the facilitation and nurturing of your growth and learning. We accept this responsibility and we commit to honoring your trust by caring for you as you continue your intellectual, social, physical, spiritual, and emotional development.

In hopes of making your transition from “summer” to “school” mode as smooth and comfortable as possible, please review the following back-to school information carefully. (Also, please remember that you and your parents can always find the most up-to-date information on the St. Francis [Parent Portal](#).)

- **On Tuesday, August 21, please join us for an orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This will be your opportunity to learn about the Upper School’s rotating block schedule, to meet your advisors, to receive and practice walking through your schedules, to set up your computers, and to start getting to know one another a bit better.
 - **Plan to arrive at Crum Gym by 9:00 a.m., and please bring your computers.** Parents, please feel free to drop off as early as 8:30 a.m. if necessary.

- **Parents are invited to join me for a mini-orientation beginning at noon at Andrews House.** Lunch will be provided for both students and parents.
 - Parents, please plan to **bring any medications**—prescription and/or over-the-counter—that your child may need during the school year. You will have the opportunity to meet Debbie Toler, our Upper School nurse, at 1:00 p.m.
- **Complete uniform guidelines may be found in the *Upper School Handbook* and in our division’s back-to-school information, both of which are available on the Parent Portal under “Upper School Division Information.”** In particular, please note the following:
 - Students should wear their daily uniform the first week of school. Please feel free to wear whatever you’d like for orientation on Tuesday, August 21.
 - Every Tuesday is dress uniform day. Any additions and/or exceptions related to special events, such as Eucharist, will be communicated as needed. On dress uniform days, students should wear brown or black dress shoes. White or navy dress crew socks are required with the school dress uniform for girls. Brown, black, or navy dress crew socks are required with the dress uniform for boys.
 - Daily uniform (Monday and Wednesday-Friday) footwear may include athletic shoes. Athletic shoes and socks may be of any color. Shorter socks may be worn with the daily school uniform, although they must be visible. Wolf Wear may be worn on Fridays, either with uniform bottoms or jeans.
- **Our first official day of high school is on Wednesday, August 22.** (We’ll be following a special schedule so that you can learn about all of your classes in one day. You’ll receive more information about the special schedule during orientation.)
- **Our New Family Chapel will be held on Thursday, August 23, from 9:50-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym.** Parents are welcome to join us for the first Upper School Chapel of the year.
- You’ll find **information about carpool drop-off and pickup procedures** (which will be explained in further detail at orientation) **on the Parent Portal** home page. Simply scroll down to “Upper School Division Information” and click on “Back to School General Info.”
- The **Upper School year-at-a-glance calendar is also available on the Parent Portal.**

In closing, we are eager to get to know you better as both students and unique individuals with a diversity of backgrounds, interests, talents, and experiences. We hope that you and your families enjoy the last couple of days of summer break, and we look forward to greeting you for ninth-grade orientation on Tuesday, August 21.

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 20

- *PA Market Day*: 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Tuesday, August 21

- *Free Dress Day*
 - *Student Orientation*: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; lunch is provided; please bring your laptops
 - *Parent Orientation*: 12:00-1:00 p.m.; lunch is provided; please bring your child's (prescription and/or over-the-counter) medications for drop-off with the school nurse
 - *PA Market Day*: 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Wednesday, August 22

- *Daily Uniform*
 - *First Day of High School*: We will be following a special schedule this day; students will receive a copy of this schedule during orientation on Tuesday
-

Thursday, August 23

- *Daily Uniform*
 - *Day 1 Schedule:* Students will receive a copy of their 6-day rotating schedule during orientation on Tuesday
 - *New Family Chapel:* 9:50-10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym; parents are welcome to attend
-

Friday, August 24

- *Spirit Dress or Daily Uniform*
 - *Day 2 Schedule:* Students will receive a copy of their 6-day rotating schedule during orientation on Tuesday
 - *Spirit Dress Friday:* Students may wear a St. Francis shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms
-

Monday, August 27

- *Daily Uniform*
 - *Day 3 Schedule:* Students will receive a copy of their 6-day rotating schedule during orientation on Tuesday
-

Tuesday, August 28

- *Daily Uniform*
 - *Day 4 Schedule:* Students will receive a copy of their 6-day rotating schedule during orientation on Tuesday
-

Wednesday, August 29

- *Daily Uniform*
- *Day 5 Schedule:* Students will receive a copy of their 6-day rotating schedule during orientation on Tuesday

Thursday, August 30

- *Daily Uniform*
- *Day 6 Schedule:* Students will receive a copy of their 6-day rotating schedule during orientation on Tuesday

Friday, August 31-Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*

Church

Blessing of the Backpacks: Today and Next Sunday

St. Francis Episcopal Church will be blessing backpacks at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services today and next Sunday, August 26. All students are invited to participate in this St. Francis tradition by bringing their backpacks to one of these services to receive a blessing for the new school year. Students will also receive a special token to affix to their backpacks, reminding them that God is always with them.

Episcopal Worship Explained

What does it mean to be Episcopalian? Discover the nuances of the Episcopal faith and its liturgy and traditions in this program led by Father Bates, which will begin on **Sunday, 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 September 11

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.

Primary School Moms' Bible Study Starts September 12

Primary School moms, you're invited to join us for an eight-week study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. Our study will be held on **Wednesdays from 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the Andrews House** on the South Campus, and will begin on **September 12**.

Please contact [Allison Devlin](#) for more information.

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 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)