

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of August 26

All School

A Note From Our Uniform Provider

Dear St. Francis Episcopal School Community,

All of us here at School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger would like to apologize to parents, students, and administrators for the frustrations you have experienced as a result of back-ordered products for your school uniform program. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you my personal assurance that our team is addressing the situation and that we are committed to taking care of each and every St. Francis family.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

This back-to-school season has proven to be unique. As many of you are aware, Parker School Uniforms went out of business earlier this year, leaving nearly 2,000 schools without a uniform provider and, in many cases, with outstanding orders unfulfilled. The resulting impact of their closure has been substantial for the uniform providers who elected to assist and serve these schools. We had committed to our inventory for the season a few months before this occurred, and as we brought these new schools on board, we placed rush orders for additional inventory to ensure we would have what we needed for all of our schools. However, with multiple providers all placing rush inventory orders to accommodate the greater need, a bottleneck occurred along the chain of production that has resulted in industry-wide delays.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO OVERCOME THIS?

We have escalated our communication all along the chain of production. We are doing all we can to expedite the production and delivery of these back-

ordered items. Product is now beginning to flow into our warehouse and will continue to come in over the upcoming weeks. We anticipate that by mid-October, we will be largely back on track and in stock on the majority of items we are out of today. However, between now and then, St. Francis families will be receiving delivery of items as our inventory fills in.

FOR FAMILIES WITH QUESTIONS

We have established a special e-mail address for St. Francis families that are having difficulties or need assistance with their orders. Please reach out with any questions or concerns to STFR05@shop.globalschoolwear.com, and our team will work with you to find resolution. We have also shared with your school's administration that we will run a special "20% Off" promotion for all St. Francis families once our inventory is replenished.

Again, my entire team and I apologize for this inconvenience. This is a unique and unforeseen set of circumstances that we are working through as quickly as possible. Rest assured that we will provide each and every family with the items you ordered, and that we are doing all in our power to expedite this process.

Sincerely,

Adam Weil
Senior Vice President, School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger

Tellepsen Challenge Update

Welcome back, Wolves! \$125,000 has been raised for our Main Campus playground renovation. We are so close—only \$25,000 away—to our \$150,000 Tellepsen Challenge goal! Please consider making a gift to help us finish the challenge and the playground. Our final priority is adding sun shades to protect our children.

Thank you to the following families who have so generously supported already:

- Shannon and John Addison
- Kathryn and Leigh Adkins
- Hiba Mouslimany and Saud Alawadhi
- Maggie and Mark Baker
- Mia and Augie Bering

- Jennifer and Dan Blum
- Angela and Mark Bookmyer
- Sandra and Carlos Carrasco
- Stephanie and Kris Cheney
- Laurie Curtis
- Karen and Ric Davis
- Joelle and Mitch Derrick
- Colleen and Mike Dunlap
- Carolyn and Greg Givens
- Shana and Shaun Gordy
- Ashley and Stedman Grigsby
- Sandy and Gus Haddad
- George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
- Annie and Jonathan Hartigan
- Alice and Randy Helms
- Christy and Webb Jennings
- Brenda and Brad Jones
- Joanie and John Kirksey
- Allison and Tucker Knight
- Megan and John Lovoi
- Carol Lee and Allen Lyons
- Aly and Tim McCaffrey
- Ashley and Michael McTaggart
- Kaylen and Nick Meserve
- Sara and Adam Miller
- Leslie and Cody Moerer
- Jennifer and Joel Moore
- Alette and Paul Morch
- Lisa and Greg Nelson
- Leslie and Randy Newcomer
- Courtney and Christian O'Neil
- Elena and Jeff Peden
- Amy and Rob Pierce
- Alison and Jonathan Plumhoff
- Jenny and Brad Porter
- Sarah and Murray Powell
- Lacy and Brian Rieke
- Michelle and Josh Smith
- Maggie and Will Stacy
- Barbara and Jeff Steen
- Lindsay and Trent Stout

- Erin and Ty Sturdivant
- Rungnapa and Jim Teague
- The Tellepsen Family
- Beth and James Woldert
- Lauren and Nicholas Wuertz

We know we can get there! To make our playground dreams a reality, please contact Kelly Cliburn, head of development, at 713.458.6172 or [via e-mail](#). Or, if you prefer, you may [pay by credit card using this link](#). Please specify “Forward in Faith Capital Campaign” in the drop-down menu and, under additional information, enter “Playground.”

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is September 7

The next Wolf Wear Sale will be held Friday, September 7. Visit us in the Concessions Stand on the Main Campus from 7:45-9:30 a.m.

Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Kara Montgomery](#).

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](#).

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**. 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

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.)

FoFA Membership and Holiday Poinsettias Available Online

Didn't have time to stop by the Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) booth at Market

Day? It's not too late to become a FoFA member and order your holiday poinsettias! Simply visit the online [Wolf Den Campus Store](#) and contribute \$25 in support of fine arts to become a member.

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 online today. St. Francis Friends of Fine Arts thanks you for your support!

Primary School

From the Division Head

Dear Primary School Families,

There is ten years' difference in my children's ages. They are very close, but grew up almost like only children. When my daughter, Jill, left for college, my son, Ben, was barely 8 years old. The comings and goings of a teenager in the house (with friends, school, sporting events, and other activities) meant that we had a busy household that was always buzzing with energy.

Soon after my daughter left for college, my son reflected on the change in the level of activity. He said it was too quiet. But he also said he liked the sound of the dryer, the vacuum cleaner, our loud dishwasher, and lawn mowers and yard work happening outside. He liked it all. He called all this "the sounds of the house." It sounded like home.

In the Primary School, "the sounds of the house" are children saying good morning, laughing, singing "This Little Light of Mine," building with blocks and squealing when their collapsing towers crash to the floor, playing instruments, storytelling, asking questions, and so much more.

We have missed the sounds of the house. We have missed you!

We're back and ready for a new adventure. Every year is different, as it should be. Every child brings his or her own personal interests, experiences, and gifts. No two years look the same—nor should they. Even younger siblings who have the same teacher that their older brother or sister had will

have different experiences. They are different people. And it's the differences in each child that make our work so interesting.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. And thank you for working in partnership with us. We are so eager to share this year with you and your child.

Please know that I am available to you. Don't spend time worrying about something you may be challenged by as a parent. I am happy to be a resource for you in your parenting journey. It's the most important work you will ever do!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Note About Approved Uniform Items

Thank you for helping us during this year of uniform transitions. School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger has promised that the back-ordered pieces will be available soon.

Please note that uniform items must be from last year's list of approved Primary School items or from this year's approved Primary School selections:

- **For girls**, this includes last year's white St. Francis-monogrammed shirt and plaid skort or zip-front dress, and this year's navy drop-waist dress, plaid skort, khaki shorts or pants, and navy monogrammed shirt. Khaki skorts are part of the Lower School uniform and can be worn in kindergarten, but are not part of the Primary School uniform. If you received these items from Tommy Hilfiger in error, you can return them.
- **For boys**, this includes last year's white St. Francis-monogrammed shirt and navy shorts or pants, and this year's navy monogrammed shirt and khaki shorts or pants.

Please check with us if you have any questions about approved uniforms for Primary School.

Primary School Watercolor Project

If you did not pick up a watercolor palette and paper strip for your child at Meet the Teacher, please let your child's teacher know and we will send one home in your child's blue bag. Directions for participating in the project are attached to the paints. We would like to have these returned to us following the Labor Day holiday, on **Tuesday, September 4**.

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 28

- *New Parent Meeting (Pre-Primary): 8:15 a.m.*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *New Parent Meeting (Primary I & Primary II): 10:00 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, August 29

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

Friday, August 31–Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*
-

Tuesday, September 4

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *PS Parent Coffee With Head of School: 10:00 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, September 5

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
- *Homeroom Parent Meeting: 10:00 a.m.*

Lower School

From the Division Head

Dear Lower School Families,

My favorite quote from the first day: “**Kindergarten is awesome! I cannot wait to go tomorrow!**” I think everyone felt the very same way as this sweet kinder student did. Our first three days of school were seamless and full of positive energy. **Your children jumped right in and are already making new friends, learning routines, and embracing learning!**

Morning carpool has been running so well—thank you for getting your children to school on time (or, even better, before 7:40 a.m.). Giving your child those extra few minutes to unwind and get settled in the classroom is invaluable.

We have set a school record for afternoon carpool for the beginning of the year! All students were loaded and off by 3:45 p.m. on the first day, and it will continue to get better and better.

Following the appropriate afternoon arrival times helps us tremendously, too. **Afternoon carpool arrival time for those picking up students in kinder and first grade is 2:50 p.m. at the earliest; for students in grades 2–4, this time is 3:15 p.m. at the earliest.** This later arrival time for those picking up our older LS students enables us to get our smallest friends out before we start our 3:20 p.m. carpool. There is no longer a place to pull up and wait, so please drive around if you pull up before 3:20 p.m. If you are asked to drive around, know that the teachers are following procedure. Thank you for your cooperation!

Another challenge can occur in the People Place during dismissal. **If you are picking your child up from there, PLEASE wait until the teachers get the classes into the Dining Hall safely; then, come to the double doors closest to the carpool line to get your child.** Tell a teacher on duty your child’s name, and we will get them for you. Keeping the Dining Hall free of extra folks enables us to find and load children easier. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

I wanted to share our Lower School goals with you so that you can be a part of our efforts to “**Challenge What’s Possible,**” which is our school theme for the year. Inspired by this theme, we are digging even deeper into our

curriculum and instruction knowledge, and continuing to make positive growth in these areas—which results in improved student achievement. Additionally, we are focusing on a book I read this summer, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain. It addresses the research on the differences between introverted and extroverted temperaments, and has significant implications for educational settings.

We have studied how learning styles, interests, and differentiated instruction impacts student learning, and now we are looking at how temperament affects our learning. It is fascinating, and I hope you, too, invest some time reading the book and understanding how this important research can impact our children.

Our team is also continuing to find meaningful ways to communicate with the community and to showcase the amazing work we are doing in Lower School. I will continue to update you on our Lower School goals and on our faculty's areas of study.

I hope to see everyone at either the New Parent Meeting or Returning Parent Meeting, both on Monday.

Have a great week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

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. 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, 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*

Wednesday, September 5

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *Opening Eucharist (Pentecost):* 8:05 a.m.
- *Parent Coffee and Fellowship With Head of School:* 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex

Friday, September 7

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

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*
- *Welcome to the Den Parent Conferences*

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

I cannot express how exciting and restorative it is to have our students and families back on campus. You all have breathed life and energy back into our school, and we are so happy to be teaching, learning, and playing again.

This week, we welcome our new families to campus on Wednesday, August 29, for our MS New Parent Meeting in the Library from 2:00-3:00 p.m. At our first MS Chapel this past Wednesday, I asked everyone who is new to SFES and who has ever been new to a school to stand up, and every

single person—student, faculty, and staff—stood in unison. We are all new students each and every day, as we are students of life, learning new things about the world each morning our eyes open. Daily, we will live out this mindset in the spirit of inclusivity here at SFES. I look forward to seeing our new Wolf Pack parents on campus soon.

This past week at MS Class Meeting, I reviewed our daily life and routine with every MS student, and I encouraged our students to read through our *Middle School Handbook* with their parents. **Please read and review the handbook to answer any questions you might have about school life, and know that I will highlight the major points—as well as any new items—at MS Parent Information Night on Thursday, September 13.**

If you aren't up to speed on our all-school parent read, *The Self-Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives*, please buy a copy and start reading. Dr. William Stixrud and Mr. Ned Johnson have written a research-informed, data-packed book about helping our kids gain more control over their lives, which prepares them for a path of success. This year, we will have parent coffees dedicated to topics in the book, and I look forward to those engaging sessions with our community.

I'm sorry to report that **we will not have school this coming Friday, August 31, and next Monday, September 3.** We are requiring our families to have a long, wonderful weekend of rest and recovery. Thank you, Mr. Lovejoy!

Below, you'll see the radar dates for the upcoming weeks ahead.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Mark Your Calendar

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)*
-

Wednesday, September 5

- *Eucharist Schedule/Dress 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
 - *Opening Eucharist (Pentecost): 11:05-11:55 a.m.* in the Chapel
 - *All-School Meeting: 4:00-5:30 p.m.* in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Thursday, September 6

- *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/Council Explanation: 9:15-10:00 a.m.* in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
 - *Practice for Tie Ceremony (Grade 8 Only): 1:55-2:30 p.m.* in the Chapel and Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Friday, September 7

- *NJHS Officers' Meeting: 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *Practice for Tie Ceremony (Grade 8 Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Chapel and Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

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

- *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

- *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

- *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
 - *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *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

- *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

- *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 Crum Gym on the South Campus

Tuesday, September 18

- *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: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.* in classrooms; students and parents meet with advisors
 - *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*
 - *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

- *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in the Chapel
-

Monday, September 24

- *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in the Chapel
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Chapel

- *Individual 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

- *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

- *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

- *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

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

Upper School

From the Division Head

Dear Founding Freshmen Families,

And we're off! What a wonderful week we've had, complete with student and parent orientations, music rehearsals, athletics practices, a volleyball game, three days of classes, advisory, chapel, club-brainstorming sessions, and more. I hope the experience has been as exciting and engaging for students as it has been for faculty.

Please remember that we are messaging the importance of patience as we navigate the transition into high school. Change, while invigorating, can also be stressful and scary. Let's practice giving ourselves a couple of weeks to settle into our new routines.

In addition to building relationships with classmates and teachers, I am encouraging our students to spend time reflecting on their sense of self and the values that matter most to them. Understanding and accepting ourselves is an important first step toward developing the capacity to listen to and appreciate the perspectives of others. Over the course of the year, students will have several opportunities to share parts of their unique stories both within and beyond our Upper School community. I look forward to hearing their voices and learning from their stories.

Please consider watching and discussing Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk, "[The Danger of a Single Story.](#)" I assure you that it is well worth your time.

It was great to see everyone at Tuesday's Parent Orientation. For your convenience, you can [find the presentation here.](#)

We have created a Founding Freshmen Parent Directory for those who wish to share their contact information. The directory is a Google document that can be accessed by all Upper School families. Please [click here](#) to enter your information.

Finally, please know that we are appreciative of your ongoing patience as we work to repair the air conditioning on the second floor of Crum Gym and to think through adjustments to our carpool routes.

Please check the “Mark Your Calendar” section below for a look at the next two weeks.

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 27

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, August 28

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

Wednesday, August 29

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, August 30

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

Friday, August 31-Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*
-

Tuesday, September 4

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, September 5

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, September 6

- *Day 3 Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Eucharist: 9:50 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
-

Friday, September 7

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

Church

Cub Scout Rally Is Wednesday

Calling all boys and girls! **Join us on Wednesday, August 29, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Scout Hut to learn more about scouting.** There will be fun activities for the kids along with the presentation.

Scouting events this year include camping trips (fall, winter, and spring); the Pinewood Derby; a rocketry event where each Scout builds and launches his or her own rockets; and other Den-specific trips and activities (e.g., EMS/firehouses, NASA, museums, etc.). Scouting is family oriented (parents, boys, and girls) with a purpose aimed at developing character, leadership, honesty, communication skills, and good citizenship.

Please contact [Carlos Carrasco](#) (Cubmaster; Pack 1703) or [David Kandolha](#) with any questions.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks Is Today

St. Francis Episcopal Church will be blessing backpacks at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services today. 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.

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)