

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of April 28

All School

St. Francis Spring Book Fair Is Thursday and Friday

Visit the St. Francis Spring Book Fair in the Main Campus Crum Library this week:

Thursday, May 2—7:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday, May 3—7:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Don't forget to [create a student account](#) for your Lower and Middle School students to use for purchases at the Book Fair. The process is paperless and quick, and you can even donate a book to the library at the same time! **The deadline for creating a student account is this Wednesday, May 1, at noon.**

Check your homeroom teacher's web page for information on scheduled class visits.

Virtue of the Month: Perseverance

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

Table Talk: What is the first image or story that comes to mind when you hear the word “perseverance”?

Summer Camp Notes From a Chaplain

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

St. Francis Annual Fund Goal: EXCEEDED!

You did it! We’re thrilled to announce that our annual St. Francis Fund goal has not only been met, but exceeded! Thanks to the Shipley family for a generous closing gift and to each of you in the St. Francis community for your support. We are grateful to chairs Shelley and Doug Masterson and the entire committee for their leadership.



Bayou Bash Festival This Afternoon ... and Delayed School Start Tomorrow

We’re looking forward to seeing you at Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash today from noon to 4:00 p.m! Visit the [Day-of Details](#) tab on the event website for information about parking and shuttling, additional ticket sales, Big Board items, and more!

And a big **merci beaucoup** to each and every underwriter, booth sponsor, T-shirt purchaser, and volunteer who have helped make this event our community's favorite annual tradition!

Please Note: *School has a delayed start tomorrow and will begin for all divisions at 9:00 a.m.*

Friendly Reminder: Tuition Payments Due Wednesday

Annual tuition payments for the 2019-20 school year are due on or before this Wednesday, May 1.

- Please bring or send your check to Chanda Hutton, accounts receivable, or log in to My BackPack and make an online payment by credit card or e-check (for non-ACH annual tuition payers only). Note: There will be an additional convenience fee for online tuition payments.
- If you chose the Annual by ACH tuition payment plan option on your 2019-20 enrollment contract, the school will draft your bank account this Wednesday, May 1.
- If you chose the Monthly by ACH tuition payment plan option on your 2019-20 enrollment contract, the school will draft your bank account on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, for the first monthly tuition payment for the 2019-20 school year. Moving forward, the monthly ACH tuition drafts will occur on the first business day of each month starting June 2019 through January 2020.

Final Wolf Wear Sale of the School Year Is Thursday

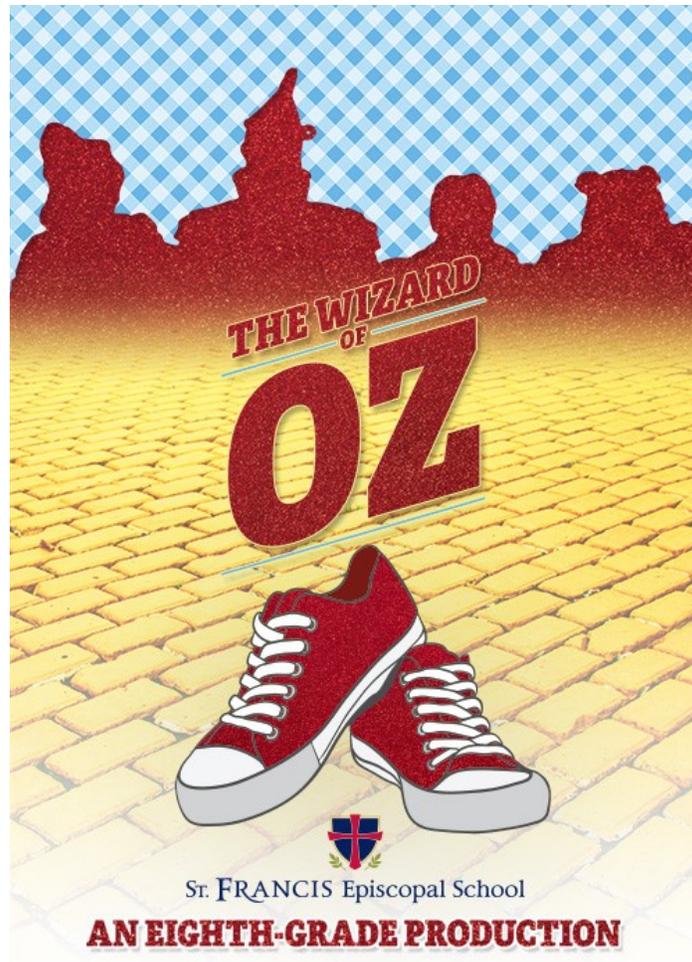
The Athletics Booster Club's final Wolf Wear sale of the school year will be held this **Thursday, May 2**. Visit us in the **People Place** on the Main Campus from **7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please note: This takes the place of the sale previously scheduled for Friday, May 3.

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Francis Athletics Booster Club!

Buy Your Tickets for This Weekend's MS Musical

The St. Francis Theater Department proudly presents:



Friday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Fine Arts Center, Main Campus

Gold Reserved Tickets: \$10

Blue Reserved Tickets: \$8

Everyone loves the story of Dorothy Gale, the farm girl who dreams of escaping her mundane life in Kansas. Come follow the yellow brick road through the land of Oz, where you'll meet the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Lion—and Dorothy's little dog, Toto, too—in our eighth-grade theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*. As we travel over the rainbow, this family classic will delight you and remind you of the magical power of home.

[Purchase your tickets here!](#) (Scroll to the bottom of the ticket sales page to purchase *The Wizard of Oz* tickets.)

From the PA: End-of-School-Year Faculty Gift Donations Due May 5

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

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

You may make your contribution via credit card or PayPal by visiting the Parents Association's online store using either the PA app on your mobile device or the PA website [here](#). If you would prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to the St. Francis Parents Association, write "End-of-Year Gift" in the memo section, and drop it in the Parents Association box in the Main Campus reception area. All contributions must be received by **Sunday, May 5, 2019**.

Primary School

From the Division Head

The third and final session of our parent education series for this year will be held on **Wednesday, May 8, at 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library**. We'll tackle toilet learning!

Guiding children through toileting is a process. And as with all development, learning a new skill takes time. That's why we like to call this process "toilet *learning*." During the Pre-Primary year, most children become interested in working on toileting. They see their peers becoming more independent and want to follow along. It's a positive kind of peer pressure. When children show this interest, teachers take note and work together with families to support children through this journey.

Toileting is a skill that children need to have mastered before entering the Primary I program.

While there's nothing fun about starting or working your way through this process with your child, it is an important developmental milestone. Margaret Yerkovich, assistant head of admissions and Primary School parent, will help facilitate our conversation about guiding children through the necessary steps to independence when it comes to this pivotal self-help skill.

We hope you'll join us to talk about the challenges of toileting and some strategies that other parents have found helpful. All parents with children currently in Pre-Primary, or entering St. Francis in Pre-Primary or Primary I next year, are welcome to join us. Whether this is your first adventure with your first child, or your second or third time around, we're here to help you!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Transitions in Primary School

In keeping you up-to-date on faculty transitions, we wanted to let you know that Andrea Scriber will continue as a lead teacher in Primary I for one of our three-day Primary I classes. Annie Ferguson will move from her Pre-Primary lead teacher position to Primary I and teach a five-day class.

Next week, we will announce the new faculty joining our Primary School team. Stay tuned!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 28

- *Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash: 12:00-4:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, April 29

- *Late Start Due to Festival:* Primary School begins at 9:00 a.m. (no Early Birds)
-

Tuesday, April 30

- *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others:* Ferguson T/Th, Oteiza, and Meriwether
 - *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library Time:* 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, May 1

- *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others:* Ferguson M/W/F and Britton
 - *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
 - *Chapel Dramatization (Wiener)*
-

Thursday, May 2

- *Spring Book Fair*
 - *Final Wolf Wear Sale of the School Year:* 7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus
 - *Primary II Mothers and Others:* 1:30 p.m.
-

Friday, May 3

- *Spring Book Fair*
 - *Primary II Step-up to Kindergarten Field Trip:* 8:30 a.m.
 - *Primary I Mothers and Others:* 1:30 p.m.
-

Tuesday, May 7

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

Wednesday, May 8

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

Thursday, May 9

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

Friday, May 10

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

Tuesday, May 14

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

Wednesday, May 15

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

Thursday, May 16

- *Splash Day (Ferguson T/Th Pre-Primary, 5-Day Pre-Primary, and Primary II)*

Friday, May 17

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

Monday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 21

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

Wednesday, May 22

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

Thursday, May 23

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

Friday, May 24

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

Lower School

From the Assistant Division Head

Raising children is not easy. Everyone has heard the saying, “It takes a village.” Each child has different biology, experiences, and personalities, so each child is unique. As parents and educators, we work hard to prepare each unique child to be successful, happy adults.

Adults bring in their own experiences and beliefs when raising children. Because adults have always worried about a child’s self-esteem, they involve themselves in their child’s life to secure that self-esteem. Because we want to prevent a child from having a “damaged” self-esteem, some parents have created shields to protect them. These shields come in various forms: awarding trophies for participation, requesting teachers or coaches that will buffer them from hard work, raising a child’s accomplishments to superstar status, providing false praise, providing them with excuses for their own choices, intervening to rescue against rejection or negative experiences, doing homework for them, and jumping in to solve problems for them. Parents have good intentions. They want the best for their children, and it’s hard to watch kids struggle. What should be a child’s burden becomes a parent’s burden.

While adults have provided these shields over the years, what has been discovered is that these shields actually harm a child’s self-esteem, not protect it. These adult behaviors diminish a child’s sense of dignity and competence and reduce his or her ability to be self-reliant. They communicate the messages to children that:

- they are not capable of handling challenges on their own;
- we don’t believe they can succeed without help;
- they are entitled to what they want regardless of whether it was deserved or worked for; and
- they come first and others don’t matter.

We have talked a lot about building resilience and grit in children. Self-esteem is one component of resilience. Resilience is the capacity to optimistically bounce back and cope after adversity in life. Being resilient is not avoiding mistakes and setbacks. Instead, resilient people display a positive mindset when confronted with mistakes and setbacks, and learn to manage and grow from them. These experiences provide opportunities to learn problem-solving, coping, and self-advocacy skills, which will serve children well throughout their lives.

Dr. Roberts Brooks, an expert in topics pertaining to motivation, resilience, and family relationships, explains resilience like this: “We would not want to throw our children into 10 feet of water if they can’t swim, but we should provide experiences in which they learn to swim. The constant rescuing of children from dealing with challenges and setbacks is a prescription for raising children who will be ill-equipped to handle the many expected demands and mistakes that await them in the future.” You can learn more about resilience in [this video](#).

Learning to manage disappointments and setbacks is an essential ingredient in our children’s life journey. Adults can nurture a healthy attitude about mistakes and failures in both themselves and their children. Children learn a lot by observing the adults in their lives. As parents, we should have an encouraging, “can-do” attitude when life gets challenging. Children learn how to respond to their own setbacks by watching their parents. Giving children opportunities to struggle, fail, and experience setbacks—and talking openly about those challenges—helps us show children how to be resilient.

Many noteworthy books have been written about raising resilient children. Some of these include Jessica Lahey’s *The Gift of Failure*, Julie Lythcott-Haims’ *How to Raise an Adult*, Wendy Mogel’s *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, Paul Tough’s *How Children Succeed*, and Robert Brooks’ and Sam Goldstein’s *Raising Resilient Children* and *The Power of Resilience: Achieving Balance, Confidence, and Personal Strength in Your Life*.

At St. Francis, we are here to partner with parents to help children grow and develop into self-sufficient, resilient adults. After all, that’s what is best for our children.

Best Regards,

Debbie McColloch, MEd
Assistant Head of Lower School, Academics

Lower School Faculty Transitions for 2019-20

It is so exciting for teachers to make shifts in content and grade levels. This benefits our alignment process and keeps everyone fresh and invigorated!

- **Mary Armintor** (fourth-grade math) will be returning to kindergarten, where she has many years of experience.
- **Christine Nguyen** (teaching fellow and currently long-term sub for third-grade math) will be teaching fourth-grade math. Her seven years of teaching experience was with third- and fourth-grade students, so she's a perfect fit!
- **Cassandra Cowen** (second-grade ELA/SS) will be moving to third-grade ELA/SS. She has many years of experience in all Lower School grades.
- **Stephen McCormick** (first grade) will be moving to second-grade ELA/SS. He taught second grade for many years prior to joining SFES.

Reading Help for Summer Vacation

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

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

Hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 28

- *Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash*: 12:00-4:00 p.m.
-

Monday, April 29

- *Late Start Due to Festival:* School begins at 9:00 a.m.
 - *NO Chapel*
 - *Incoming First-Grade Preview:* 12:00 p.m. in the first-grade pod
 - *Kindergarten Declamation:* 12:40 p.m. in classrooms
-

Tuesday, April 30

- *Incoming Fifth-Grade Preview:* 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in fifth-grade classrooms
- *Fourth-Grade Declamation:* In the Wheatcroft Parish Hall

9:45 a.m.—Springmann/Tamlyn

2:00 p.m.— Lockhart/Armintor

Wednesday, May 1

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between April 21-May 4 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
- *First-Grade Declamation:* 10:00 a.m.

DuByne in the HBR

Masini in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall

McCormick in the Crum Library

Shindler in the first-grade pod

- *Incoming Second-Grade Preview:* 10:55 a.m. in the second-grade pod
-

Thursday, May 2

- *Final Wolf Wear Sale of the School Year:* 7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus
- *Meet and Greet:* Welcome our new Middle School administrative team to campus from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library

Friday, May 3

- *Fourth-Grade OLE Trip to Stoney Creek Ranch: 7:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.; more details to come*

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

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

Wednesday, May 8

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

Friday, May 10

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

Monday, May 13

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

Wednesday, May 15

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

Friday, May 17

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

Monday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 23

- *End-of-Year Class Parties*
-

Friday, May 24

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

Last week was a short one, but we managed to pack in plenty of fun activities. Thanks to all who attended the Upper School's production of William

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The cast and crew put in a ton of work to make the experience a great one, and I believe they succeeded.

This week, we've got Book Fair, Student Council elections, new family events, and much more! Please read the MS Mark Your Calendar section (below) carefully, as we don't want anyone to miss any of these events.

Here are some recent, relevant education articles of interest:

- ["The Science Behind 'I'm Sorry': Why to Say It, and How"](#)
- ["5 Rituals for More Productive, Creative, and Resilient Teams"](#)
- ["The Pursuit of Happiness Is a Noble Goal for 21st Century Education"](#)

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Student Ambassador Forms Due May 10

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

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

South Campus Sip & See (US/MS Mixer) Is Tuesday

This **Tuesday, April 30**, we will be hosting our first Middle and Upper School Mixer on the **South Campus** from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade students and parents are invited to meet faculty, tour the Upper School facilities, and learn more about our newest division. **For seventh-grade families, this will immediately follow High School Information Night, which begins at 5:45 p.m.**

Meet and Greet: Welcome Our New Middle School Administrative Team

We hope you can join us on **Thursday, May 2, in the Crum Library** as we welcome our new Middle School administrative team to campus. Chris Bertha will be leading our Middle School division next year, and this is your chance to connect with him before the school year begins.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 28

- *Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash: 12:00-4:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, April 29

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *No Chapel*
 - *MS Student Council Election Posters Go Up in MS Hallways*
 - *Late Start Due to Festival: School begins at 9:00 a.m.*
 - *MS Spring Musical Tech Rehearsal #2: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *End of Spring Season Honor the Wolves: 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the gym, the FAC, and classrooms*
-

Tuesday, April 30

- *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*
 - *LS/MS Spring Fine Art Gallery Reception: 7:15-8:00 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *MS Spring Musical Dress Rehearsal #1 and Photo Call: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *High School Information Night (Grade 7): 5:45 p.m. in the Crum Gym on the South Campus*
 - *South Campus Sip & See (MS/US Mixer): 6:00-8:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, May 1

- *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.*
 - *Grade 8 High School T-Shirt Day Reception: 1:55-2:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
 - *MS Parent Coffee With the Head of School: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library*
 - *MS Spring Musical Dress Rehearsal #1: 9:30-10:40 a.m.*
 - *MS Spring Musical Dress Rehearsal #2 and Photo Call: 2:30-6:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, May 2

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *National Day of Prayer*
 - *Spring Book Fair: Through May 3 in Crum Library*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Final Wolf Wear Sale of the School Year: 7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus*
 - *St. Francis 101 (New Parent Welcome): 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *MS Councils/Student Council Officer Elections: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in Chapel and classrooms*
 - *Howlers Practice (Grade 7): 11:20-11:50 a.m.*
 - *MS Spring Musical Final Dress Rehearsal: 2:30-6:30 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Meet and Greet: Welcome our new Middle School administrative team to campus from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Friday, May 3

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Honors Contracts and Appeal Letters Due*
- *NJHS Officer Induction: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in the HBR*
- *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

- *WEB Farewell Activity (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only):* 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom
 - *Eighth-Grade Musical (The Wizard of Oz):* 7:00 p.m. in the FAC
-

Saturday, May 4

- *New Student Honors Testing:* 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Crum Library
 - *Eighth-Grade Musical (The Wizard of Oz):* 7:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
-

Sunday, May 5

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

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grade 8 Trip to Boston:* Through May 10; students wear eighth-grade T-shirts to airport
- *Grade 7 People for Others Service Day (Generation One)*
- *Advisory:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.

- *MS/LS Art Show*: Through May 11 on Main Street and in the People Place
-

Wednesday, May 8

- *Grades 5 and 6*: Special Schedule for MS Physicals/Regular Uniform
 - *Grade 7*: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *Grades 5-7 Physicals*: 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the gym; **bring completed Physical Forms (from Magnus Health) to school**
 - *Grade 7 Carpool Times*: Girls at 4:00 p.m.; boys at 4:30 p.m.
-

Thursday, May 9

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

Friday, May 10

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Choir Competition at Splashtown Choral Festival (Grade 7 Choir)*
 - *MS/US Dance Show and VA Gallery*: 7:00-8:00 p.m.; location TBD
-

Saturday, May 11

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

Monday, May 13

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *No Chapel*

- *Recognition and Awards Ceremony*: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the FAC
 - *Yearbook Staff Distribution Party*: 3:00-6:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, May 14

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Yearbooks Distributed in Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms
-

Wednesday, May 15

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

Thursday, May 16

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

Friday, May 17

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Year in Review Celebration*: 7:15-7:50 a.m.

- *Grade 8:*
 - *Early Dismissal:* 12:00 p.m.
 - *Graduation Dinner:* 6:30 p.m. in the FAC
 - *Parents Champagne Toast:* 6:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *Class Video Presentation (Eighth Graders and Parents Only):* 7:15 p.m.
- *Graduation Dance for Grades 6-8:* 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the Gym

Upper School

From the Division Head

What a week! Thanks again to the cast and crew for a fabulous production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Friday and Saturday nights. Bravo! Additionally, thank *you* for coming to the productions, for your time and assistance throughout the rehearsal and set-preparation process, and for your ongoing support of our students and faculty.

It's hard to believe that April is almost over! May begins on Wednesday, so I wanted to give you a few updates related to the last few weeks of the school year.

- Wednesday, May 15, is the last day for any new material to be covered in classes.
- Final assessments (tests, papers, and projects) will be spread across the last two weeks of the school year and will not necessitate a special schedule.
- Teachers will be checking in with students again during the week of May 6 to be sure they are aware of their average in each class and how best to prepare for assessments.
- If you have a question for a specific teacher, I encourage you to contact that teacher directly either by phone or e-mail. Direct communication is important to us, and we welcome all opportunities to team with you in supporting our students' growth and learning.

In closing, please enjoy the message below from T. Riley, our director of athletics.

Gratefully,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

From the Director of Athletics

Congratulations to our Founding Freshmen class members on their spring sports season. Our students helped establish the inaugural tennis team and track and field team, which make the sixth and seventh overall programs this pioneering group of students have helped create. We are proud of the students and coaches for their efforts, and we are thankful to the parents for their support all season.



Alex H., Amal, Sadie, Laura B., and Madison made up our tennis roster. The team practiced on campus and competed in two matches, both against St. John's School. Congratulations to Alex H., who achieved the first match win in school history on April 4! Coach Paul Abiodun enjoyed working with the team this year and was impressed with the players' attitudes and flexibility as we worked through the logistics of a first-year program.



Laura B., Katelyn, Bailey, Maya, Bryce, Grace, Chandler, and Drew competed on the track and field team this spring. The team practiced on the South Campus and at The Kinkaid School, and competed in three JV meets. It was great to see the individual progress made by each athlete, and to watch as all of those initial school records were set. Be on the lookout for the record board, which is coming soon to Crum Gym.

When asked to reflect back upon the season, head track and field coach Nkoli Nweke shared the following: "This season brought about numerous areas of growth for everyone involved, both on and off the track and field. Having the opportunity to coach the first team at St. Francis is something I will never forget. What the team was able to accomplish in such a short window of time seems almost impossible! But, it was done, and THAT is something to be proud of alongside all the records that our school now possesses. It's only up from here. GO WOLVES!"

We look forward to building and growing our programs in 2019-20. Please be on the lookout for a sports sign-up communication for next year, which will be sent out in the near future.

Thanks, and go Wolves!

T. Riley
Director of Athletics

South Campus Sip & See (US/MS Mixer) Is Tuesday

This **Tuesday, April 30**, we will be hosting our first Middle and Upper School Mixer on the **South Campus** from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade students and parents are invited to meet faculty, tour the Upper School facilities, and learn more about our newest division. **For seventh-grade families, this will immediately follow High School Information Night, which begins at 5:45 p.m.**

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 28

- *Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash*: 12:00-4:00 p.m.
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Monday, April 29

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Late Start Due to Festival*: School begins at 9:00 a.m.
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Tuesday, April 30

- *Science Service Day*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *South Campus Sip & See (MS/US Mixer)*: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
-

Wednesday, May 1

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

Thursday, May 2

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Final Wolf Wear Sale of the School Year: 7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
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Friday, May 3

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Middle School Musical (The Wizard of Oz): 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus*
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Saturday, May 4

- *Middle School Musical (The Wizard of Oz): 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus*
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Monday, May 6

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, May 7

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Spring Preview Open House: 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the South Campus*
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Wednesday, May 8

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
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Thursday, May 9

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
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Friday, May 10

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*

Church

Join Us for New Member Orientation on May 5

If you started attending St. Francis Episcopal Church within the last two years and have not made your membership official yet, we invite you to become a member of our family by attending our New Member Orientation class on **Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Guild Room of the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.** (Lunch will be served.) Join Father Bates to learn about our church, our mission, and how membership in Christ's Body at St. Francis can help you deepen your relationship with God.

Please RSVP to Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2983.

Week of Wonder VBS Is July 29-August 2

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

Date: July 29–August 2

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Theme: Salt Water Gospel

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

Registration Fee: \$50 per child

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

Fall First Communion Classes Start September 8

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

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

St. Francis in the Woods Is October 25-27

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

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

Sunday Programs at St. Francis Episcopal Church

- **Breakfast Bites and Fellowship:** Meet in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and light bites after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.
- **Lighthouse Expressions in Art:** Children in pre-K through middle school meet in the Guild Room to create an art project reinforcing the Bible lesson and key verse discussed during Let it Shine!
- **Adult Bible Study:** Meet in the People Place to develop a closer relationship with God through reading and reflecting on Scripture.

- **Adult Series:** Father Bates is currently leading the series *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Meet in the Hogan Board Room.
- **God Lights Our Way (GLOW):** Middle and high school students meet upstairs in CE 212 for lessons and activities.

Sunday Worship Services

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

8:00 A.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

This is a contemplative service that includes a traditional sermon, communion, and time for prayer and reflection. Held in the St. Clare Chapel (accessed through the main church entrance), this service is ideal for those who like to get an early start to their Sunday.

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

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

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

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

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

5:00 P.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

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

CHILDCARE

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