

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 30

All School

Save The Date: Fall Theater Performances Are Coming Soon!

The SFES Theater Department's upcoming fall shows are right around the corner! Box office information will be available soon.

UPPER SCHOOL MUSICAL

- ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (PG-13)***
- Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym on the South Campus

EIGHTH-GRADE PLAY

- ***I Never Saw Another Butterfly***
- Friday, November 9, and Saturday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus

Virtue of the Month: Self-Control

This week, students will begin to learn the sign language for self-control. Ask them to explain the two motions to you.

Parents' Bible Studies With the Chaplains

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

- **All moms are invited to join Reverend Heinemann to study the women of the Bible on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel (following Lower School Chapel). The next meeting will be October 1.**

- All dads are invited to join Father Wismer to study the parables on Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway. The next meeting will be October 4.

Register Soon: Sporting Clays Classic Is Friday, October 26

Invitations are being mailed this week! If you can't attend the Sporting Clays Classic presented by Gordy & Sons Outfitters, but would still like to support the event, there are several options available. Take advantage of sponsorships that deliver brand visibility to the almost 200 attendees.

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

- \$2,500—Gun Sleeve
- \$1,250—Double Down Game {One Available}
- \$1,250—Mixed Target Game {One Available}
- \$750—Ladies Clinic Sponsor
- \$500—Professional Instructor Sponsor {One Available}
- \$500—Soda and Water Beverage Cart {One Available}
- \$350—Mulligan Station {One Available}
- \$200—Station {17 Available}

REGISTER TODAY!

Ready to shoot? Register your team soon via the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#).

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.

QUESTIONS?

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.

Parent Education Fall Breakfast Is October 24

The Parents Association welcomes John F. Taylor, PhD, as our featured speaker for the Parent Education Fall Breakfast, which will take place on Wednesday, October 24, at 8:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. Dr. Taylor will be discussing:

“The Parent’s Survival Kit and Nitty-Gritty Answers to the Problems of Daily Family Life: A Special Morning for Parents of Children with ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorders, or Other Related Conditions”

A clinical specialist and a nationally known author and speaker. Dr. Taylor has treated hundreds of children, adolescents, and adults with Sensory Processing Disorder, which occurs in most individuals with ADHD and on the autism spectrum. He is a strong advocate of a multi-dimensional approach to treatment, incorporating principles from behavioral health along with sensory-motor interventions, and addressing brain physiological processes.

The father of four children with these symptoms, Dr. Taylor has produced 30 major works in this field, including landmark publications such as *Learn to Have Fun with Your Senses* (for sensory-avoiding children) and *The Survival Guide for Kids With ADD or ADHD*. Listed in *Who's Who Among Service Professionals*, *Who's Who in the West*, and *The International Who's Who of Professionals*, Dr. Taylor has been a guest on nationally broadcast interview shows, a featured columnist, and a producer of video and audio learning tools to assist these children and teens, including *The School Success Tool Kit* and *The ADD Student at School*.

You don't want to miss this dynamic speaker. Purchase tickets now through [MySchoolAnywhere](#). Breakfast will be provided.

Homecoming Week: Get Ready to Rally for the Wolves

Can't hide our Homecoming pride! This year, we are spreading the spirit for ALL of our home athletics events during Homecoming Week (October 9-12). Come "home" for any or all of the games.

Here's the current schedule of events:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 4:30 p.m.—Volleyball/MS Sixth Blue on the MAIN Campus
- 5:30 p.m.—Volleyball/MS Sixth White on the MAIN Campus

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 4:30 p.m.—Field Hockey/Seventh on the SOUTH Campus
- 5:30 p.m.—Field Hockey/Eighth on the SOUTH Campus
- 5:30 p.m.—Volleyball/MS JV White on the MAIN Campus

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

- Wear your Homecoming shirt/spirit shirt/jersey
- 5:00 p.m.—Football/MS Varsity on the SOUTH Campus

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 5:30 p.m.—Soccer/Primary II on the SOUTH Campus
- 5:00 p.m.—Volleyball/US on the SOUTH Campus

- 7:30 p.m.—MS Dance on the MAIN Campus

HOMECOMING NOTES

- Join the fall frenzy . . . football, food, and fun at our annual Homecoming Party on Thursday as our Varsity football team faces off against Second Baptist School. Bring your lawn chair, your appetite, and a healthy dose of spirit, because it's time to cheer our Wolves on to a win!
- Purchase concessions tickets (cash only) for James Coney Island, Papa John's, Luchi & Joey's, Chick-fil-A, and Kona Ice while DJ tunes and supervised field activities keep our younger students entertained. The Athletics Booster Club will be selling Wolf Wear and candy should you want "Spirit and Sweets." (All children *must* be accompanied by an adult.)
- *Note:* Because parking is limited on Thursday, fans should plan to shuttle from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Details and map coming soon.
- Keep the spirit alive on Friday evening as our youngest and oldest athletes compete. Special concessions (Raising Cane's) and cool treats will be available (cash only).

Please Spread the Word! Upcoming Admissions Tours

The Admissions Office is hosting upcoming tours for all four divisions. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

PRIMARY SCHOOL TOURS

- Friday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m.
- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. (children welcome)
- Thursday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL TOURS

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.
- Most Wednesdays from October through April at 9:00 a.m.

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is October 5

The Athletics Booster Club's next Wolf Wear Sale will be held Friday, October 5. Visit us in the Concessions Stand near the gym on the Main Campus from 7:45-9:00 a.m.

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

Get the Scoop at the PA General Meeting

The Parents Association (PA) General Meeting will take place **Tuesday, October 2, at 8:15 a.m.** Join us in the **Special Events Room** (located in the former Pre-Primary Building) on the Main Campus.

Open to all parents, this meeting is an opportunity to hear reports from PA committee chairs and to participate in a discussion of matters as they pertain to PA business.

A Note About the Care and Compassion Committee

The Parents' Association Care and Compassion Committee was created to provide help to St. Francis families in times of need. If, at any time, you hear of a circumstance in which a family might need assistance through prayer, meals, or just a thoughtful card or phone call, please let the grade representative know:

- M/W/F Pre-Primary: [Anna Gumpel](#)
- T/Th Pre-Primary: [Pamela Sanders](#)
- Primary I: [Sommer Stash](#)
- Primary II: [Lindsey Little](#)
- Kindergarten: [Kate Oshins](#)
- First Grade: [Sara Miller](#)
- Second Grade: [Kelly Horton](#)
- Third Grade: [Julianna Moorad](#)
- Fourth Grade: [Renee Thomason](#)
- Fifth Grade: [Elle Anderson](#)
- Sixth Grade: [Courtney Brynes](#)
- Seventh Grade: [Stacie Chapman](#)
- Eighth Grade: [Sofia Ryan](#)
- Ninth Grade: [Julie Moreton](#) / [Mary Martinez](#)

Last Chance to Order Your FoFA Poinsettias! Don't Miss Out!

Order poinsettias by **Monday, October 1**, to support the St. Francis Fine Arts Department *and* take care of your Christmas shopping at the same time. Poinsettias will come from The Brookwood Community, and you will pick up your order curbside (we will load the poinsettias into your car) at the South Campus on **Thursday, November 29**. Corporate orders are welcome! All orders of 25 or more will be delivered by a FoFA board member.

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

Check Lost and Found for Missing Items By November 1

If your Lower or Middle School child is missing any items—clothing or otherwise—please be sure to check the Lost and Found area, which is **located next to the Crum Library entrance in the closet under**

the fourth- and fifth-grade stairs. All items remaining in the Lost and Found on **Thursday, November 1,** will be sent to the uniform resale.

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

If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ali Williams](#), lost and found coordinator.

Primary School

From the Division Head

Part of the way children build confidence in themselves is by learning how things work—and don't work. This could be trying to add too many blocks to a narrow base of construction materials, riding a trike off the path with a friend on the back and getting stuck, or finding out what happens when you take a chance sharing an idea or answer that others don't agree with. All of that requires taking risks. It's seeing what happens when you try, when you stretch yourself—sometimes changing your plan, and always learning from the process. Sometimes you make mistakes, and sometimes you are successful. But with every risk comes growth. Reflecting on our experiences is how we learn.

I have very clear memories of my own risk-taking when I was young. This is what I remember:

1. When I was 5 or 6, several friends and I tried to carry a large, heavy block of wood (a loose part). We dropped the block—on my foot. A bad bruise/sprain and a visit to a doctor followed. My dad said, "I was going to use that wood to build. Why didn't you ask before you took it?" He didn't say, "That is too heavy for you. You're too little."
2. That same year, I remember evenings in the summer, outside with my friends after dark, our parents visiting while we played. Every night, the mosquito truck drove down our street. We were thrilled—almost as much as when the ice cream truck came each day. A large, opaque cloud filled the street for several minutes. This is what my mother said as we all ran toward the plume of smoke to play: "Be careful. The cars can't see you in the smoke." Not, "Don't breathe in those chemicals," or, "go inside until the smoke has cleared."
3. When I was in second grade (7 years old), we lived in Hawaii and had a mango tree in our backyard. As I headed out to pick the mangoes, I took a paring knife and, as my mother required, a towel. This is what she always said: "Take a towel with you so the juice doesn't drip on you. It will stain your clothes." Not, "You can't use a knife. You're too young—you could get cut. I'll do it for you."

Here's what I learned from these risk-taking adventures:

1. Dropping something on my foot hurt, and next time, I'd ask more friends to help.
2. I can't say that running behind the mosquito truck is something I would advocate, and the jury is out about long-term health risks for me—but I did learn to make sure I looked both ways before I crossed the street!

3. I was capable of using a knife, finding and preparing my own snack, and staying clean. Maybe the reason I still love mangoes is, in part, because I learned as a child what it was like to be trusted and self-sufficient.

Do you have memories of risk-taking as a young child? Did it help shape you in any way? Do you trust your child to take some risks, even if it makes you a little uneasy sometimes? I hope you will think about opportunities to let your child grow through new experiences that give them time to stretch a little bit and go beyond the comfort zone.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Please Share the Word! Upcoming PS Admissions Tours

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

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. (children welcome)**
- **Thursday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.**

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

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

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

We hope to see you there!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 1

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

Tuesday, October 2

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

Wednesday, October 3

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

Monday, October 8

- *School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, October 9

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary II*
-

Wednesday, October 10

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

Thursday, October 11

- *Primary II Field Trip to Main Street Theater*
-

Sunday, October 14

- *Showcase Sunday: 11:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 16

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Owens, Staller, and Hughes*
-

Wednesday, October 17

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Wiener and Blades*
-

Thursday, October 18

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:00 a.m.*
 - *Spirit Night: Primary and Lower School divisions, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper School Athletics Center (Crum Gym) on the South Campus*
-

Tuesday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 24

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

Friday, October 26

- *Sporting Clays Classic*

Tuesday, October 30

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

Wednesday, October 31

- *PS Student Holiday*
- *PS Parent/Teacher Conferences*

Lower School

From the Division Head

This past week, we had the pleasure of hosting two parent information sessions on helping your children with reading. While our time together was focused on how you can engage your reader at home, we also wanted to share with you the guiding principles of our Lower School reading program.

I have invited our very knowledgeable specialists to write an informative article for your reference.

If at any time you need more information about our curriculum or programs, or about your child, don't hesitate to reach out to any of us in Lower School. We are here to help you be your child's first teacher!

Have a wonderful first week of October!

Cheers,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

From the Lower School Specialists

Learning about the stages of reading development as well as learning more about our reading program will help you understand how we can partner in promoting your child's growth in reading.

STAGES AND BEHAVIORS OF READING DEVELOPMENT

Since reading development is such a complex topic, we thought it would be helpful to share with you the basic stages of reading development and how your reader will change and grow in the Lower School years.

- **Emergent readers** are developing the understanding that text is read from top to bottom and left to right. They love to pretend read and recite memorized stories, songs, and chants.
- **Beginning readers** are using simple patterned text that may be memorized, along with picture clues and early decoding skills, to read. They read at a labored, word-by-word pace and benefit from rereading familiar texts often. Books have simple plots, and characters' feelings are clearly stated or shown in the pictures.
- **Transitional readers** begin to read short chapter books and shift to reading silently. Reading is more fluent, and the demands of comprehending the story increase. These readers must gather clues about the plot and character across chapters, and the pictures may not always directly match the print on the page.
- **Fluent readers** read complex, longer chapter books with fluency and expression. They are able to predict, infer, summarize, and monitor their own comprehension. They are no longer learning to read but are reading to learn. They are grappling with complex literary concepts such as figurative language, character development, and theme. They often demonstrate their comprehension in written responses.

READING ASSESSMENTS

Each Lower School student is assessed three times during the school year with the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, an assessment tool which allows us to do the following:

- Observe and quantify student reading behaviors
- Engage students in comprehension conversations that go beyond retelling
- Make informed decisions that connect assessment to responsive teaching

In addition to these formal assessments, teachers are monitoring student progress via individual reading conferences, small-group work, and written responses to reading. While this work does allow us to find an instructional and independent reading level for each child, we want to remind you that students read across a variety of levels for a variety of reasons. Just like you read differently if you know you are going to talk with your book club about a text or if you are following directions to file your taxes, your child will read different levels and types of text for different purposes.

READING INSTRUCTION

Reading is so much more than simply decoding the words on the page. Our Reading Workshop model uses authentic literature to teach reading skills and strategies in order to help our readers think critically

about what they are reading. Teachers plan whole- and small-group lessons based on what their students need within the genre they are studying.

For further information regarding the research behind the Reading Workshop model, [click here](#).

And, as always, if you have any specific questions about your child's reading progress, please reach out to his or her teacher. We are happy to help you understand more about this process if you have further questions!

Happy reading!

Ashley Stephenson, MEd, Literacy Specialist
Ali Salinas, EdS, Curriculum & Instruction Specialist

Sign Up for Parent Lunch Visits

We recently sent you an e-mail with details about scheduling lunch dates with your child. Please be sure to review it, as it includes some important details about this process, along with helpful information from our *Lower School Handbook* (located on the Parent Portal). To sign up, [click here](#) or visit the "Quick Links" section of the Parent Portal and select "Schedule Lunch Visit."

Please Share the Word! Upcoming LS Admissions Tours

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

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Upcoming Dates for Eucharist and FAC Chapels

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

EUCHARIST DATES

- St. Francis: Thursday, October 4
- All Saints: Wednesday, October 31
- St. Nicholas: Wednesday, December 5
- Epiphany: Wednesday, January 9
- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 6

- Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 18
- Ascension: Wednesday, May 15

FAC CHAPELS

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

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

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

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

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 1

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

Wednesday, October 3

- *NO Chapel*

Thursday, October 4

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

Monday, October 8

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

Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12

- *Homecoming Week*

Wednesday, October 10

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

Monday, October 15

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between October 14-20 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Monday, October 15-Thursday, October 18

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing*: 8:00-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 17

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

Thursday, October 18

- *Spirit Night*: Primary and Lower School divisions, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper School Athletics Center (Crum Gym) on the South Campus

Monday, October 22

- *Birthdays Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 21-27 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Tuesday, October 23-Thursday, October 25

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing:* 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 24

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School team. We welcome October tomorrow, and I hope September treated everyone well.

Are the Astros really “October Ready”? I believe they are.

Thanks to all faculty and staff members, parents, students, and alumni who participated in meetings with our strategic-planning consultant last week. It’s an exciting time here at St. Francis, as we shape the future of our school and look forward to the meaningful work we have ahead of us.

This week, our students take ERB tests. With standardized testing comes inherent stress and anxiety, so it’s an important week for our kids to get plenty of sleep, hydrate properly, eat right, and maintain a growth mindset. We can’t study for these tests, but we can try our best, and that’s all we expect. Speaking of sleep, [this article](#) from the *New York Times* discusses the dilemma haunting a majority of schools in our country: scheduling the school day around the sleep patterns of adolescents. Kudos to our Upper School faculty and staff for their forward-thinking preparation and planning for important issues like this one, which directly affects students’ learning outcomes—a good reason to consider St. Francis as your investment in high school.

Being people for others, we obviously believe that sharing and displaying altruism are parts of our daily lives. [This interesting article](#) from *Science Daily* talks about how researchers conducted a six-year study of a Tanzanian people to further understand why we share and commit selfless acts. According to the

study, generosity is contagious—which explains why we are surrounded with kind, nurturing, philanthropic people in our wonderful community.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Auditions for Eighth-Grade Spring Musical Start October 9

Attention, eighth graders interested in auditioning for the spring musical!

- **Auditions for *The Wizard of Oz* will be held October 9, 10, 12, and 15** during eighth-grade electives in the FAC and the Middle School music and dance rooms.
- Sign up for an audition spot via the sign-up sheet on Mrs. Traber's office door.

Here are the rest of the details:

REQUIREMENTS

- Students must learn a song and choreography from one of the show's numbers for their audition.
- Students must audition to be cast in ANY of the principal or chorus roles.

REHEARSALS

- The spring musical begins rehearsals during electives starting in the second trimester.
- There are several mandatory weekend rehearsals.
- Expect an evening technical rehearsal and after-school tech week rehearsals.

ELECTIVE CHOICE

- Once students are cast in the show, they will be enrolled in Theatre Production, Music, or Dance for the second and third trimesters.

Please Share the Word! Upcoming MS Admissions Tours

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

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.**

- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

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

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

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 1

- *ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School ERB Testing: 7:55 a.m.*; students report to assigned classrooms
 - *Middle School ERB Extended-Time Testing: 7:55 a.m.* in assigned classrooms (sixth grade in CE Room #212; seventh and eighth grades in the HBR)
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Chapel
-

Tuesday, October 2

- *ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Middle School ERB Testing: 7:55 a.m.*; students report to assigned classrooms
 - *Middle School ERB Extended-Time Testing: 7:55 a.m.* in assigned classrooms (sixth grade in CE Room #212; seventh and eighth grades in the HBR)
-

Wednesday, October 3

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

Thursday, October 4

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

Friday, October 5

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *ERB Makeup Testing: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Middle School Office*
- *Middle School Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.; grades 6-8 review dance guidelines*
- *Howlers Practice (Grade 8 Girls Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Dance Room*

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*

Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12

- *Homecoming Week*
- *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*

Tuesday, October 9

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Homecoming Door-Decorating Contest*
- *Trimester 1 Progress Reports Go Live to MS Parents*
- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Howlers Practice (Grade 8 Girls Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Dance Room*
- *Volleyball Game/MS Sixth Blue: 4:30 p.m. on the Main Campus*
- *Volleyball Game/MS Sixth White: 5:30 p.m. on the Main Campus*

Wednesday, October 10

- *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
- *Pathways Assembly (formerly Choices) for Parents: 1:30-2:30 p.m.* in the HBR
- *Parent Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 2:30-3:30 p.m.* in the Crum Library
- *Howlers Practice: 11:20-11:55 a.m.* in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
- *Field Hockey Game/Seventh: 4:30 p.m.* on the South Campus
- *Field Hockey Game/Eighth: 5:30 p.m.* on the South Campus
- *Volleyball Game/MS JV White: 5:30 p.m.* on the Main Campus

Thursday, October 11

- *Pathways Special Schedule/Homecoming Shirt With Jeans or Uniform Bottoms*
- *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
- *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 5-6): 8:10-9:10 a.m.* in the FAC
- *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 7-8): 9:30-10:30 a.m.* in the FAC
- *Booster Bash Lunch: 12:15-1:50 p.m.* in the Dining Hall
- *Fall Pep Rally (Students Only): 2:35-3:05 p.m.* in the Gym
- *Homecoming MS Varsity Football Game vs. Second Baptist: 5:00 p.m.* on the South Campus, for the entire St. Francis community

Friday, October 12

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
- *Soccer Game/Primary II: 5:30 p.m.* on the South Campus
- *Volleyball Game/US: 5:00 p.m.* on the South Campus
- *MS Fall Dance for Grades 6-8: 7:30-10:00 p.m.* in the Main Campus Gym; students only; "90's Neon" theme; students must be in attendance at school to attend the dance

Monday, October 15

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*

- *Grade-Level Group Pictures (Grades 5-7):* 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Courtyard, during electives classes
 - *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Tuesday, October 16

- *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
 - *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Musical Chairs Activity:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *Grade 8 Field Trip to Port of Houston:* 8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
-

Wednesday, October 17-Friday, October 19

- *Seventh-Grade OLE Trip*
-

Wednesday, October 17

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform for Grades 5 & 8*
 - *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform for Grade 6*
 - *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Thursday, October 18-Friday, October 19

- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip*
-

Thursday, October 18

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth Graders:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Advisory for Grades 5 and 8:* 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms
-

Friday, October 19

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Fifth-Grade Movie Night: 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, October 22

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

Tuesday, October 23

- *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*
 - *Medieval Feast Meeting: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Crum Library*
 - *Class Meetings: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Wednesday, October 24

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Students Sign Up for Second-Trimester Electives*
-

Thursday, October 25

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Thursday Schedule for Grades 5-7*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 8: Step-Up to SFE Upper School*
 - *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*
 - *Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *MS Student Step-Up Day: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
 - *Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School: 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the HBR*
-

Friday, October 26

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Seventh-Grade Field Trip (Optional): Twelfth Night* at Alley Theater
- *NJHS Geo Challenge: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
- *Sporting Clays Classic: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.* at the Greater Houston Gun Club
- *Faculty vs. Eighth-Grade Volleyball Team: 3:00 p.m.* in the Main Campus Gym

Upper School

From the Division Head

We have an exciting week ahead! **We look forward to greeting you tomorrow morning in time to board the bus for a prompt 8:00 a.m. departure for Camp Allen.** Once there, we'll enjoy a variety of camp-sponsored activities, including the Giant Swing, the Team Wall, and a night hike. Our Upper School faculty will also facilitate activities ranging from pep rally planning and a talent showcase to writing a letter to our future selves. The next few days will undoubtedly provide us with time to reflect, to get to know one another better, and to play—what a treat!

In anticipation of this week's ninth-grade retreat, I have been thinking about the word "retreat." Google defines retreat as "an act of moving back or withdrawing." And, while it's true that we will be taking a step away from our regular school-day routine, I think that the word "advance" might be more apropos. After all, our trip objectives are to move forward with learning about ourselves and one another, strengthening our relationships and making plans for our collective future at St. Francis.

In closing, whether we refer to it as a retreat or an advance, I hope that we will all strive to be fully present during this shared experience. Being present (for ourselves and one another) is a skill that requires practice. Rather than dwelling on the past or worrying about the future, we can choose to embrace the present—listening actively and appreciating the gifts of one another. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to sharing takeaways in next week's *Wolf Watch*. Stay tuned!

Warm regards,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Please Share the Word! Upcoming US Admissions Tours

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

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.**

- **Most Wednesdays from October 10 to April 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

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

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

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 1-Wednesday, October 3

- *Freshman Retreat at Camp Allen*
-

Monday, October 1

- *No Athletics*
 - *No Fine Arts Rehearsal*
-

Tuesday, October 2

- *No Athletics*
 - *No Fine Arts Rehearsal*
-

Wednesday, October 3

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 1:00-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, October 4

- *Day 1 Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Eucharist Chapel: 9:50 a.m. at the Chapel on the Main Campus*
 - *Fine Arts Non-Athlete Rehearsal: 3:45-4:45 p.m.*
 - *Cross-Country Practice: 3:45-5:15 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m.; home game*
-

Friday, October 5

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

Saturday, October 6

- *Cross-Country Meet vs. Faith Christian Academy: Time TBD*
-

Sunday, October 7

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

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 9

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:15 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:30-6:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 10

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

Thursday, October 11

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 3:30-7:15 p.m.*
-

Friday, October 12

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Homecoming Pep Rally: 1:35 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Cross-Country Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Homecoming Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m. on the South Campus*
-

Saturday, October 13

- *Cross-Country Meet: Time TBD at T.C. Jester Park*
-

Sunday, October 14

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

Church

‘The Meaning of Marriage’ Continues Today

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

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

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

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

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

- “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)

Holy Baptism Is November 4

On Sunday, November 4, we observe All Saints' Day, celebrating the saints and membership of the church. It is especially appropriate to offer the sacrament of baptism on this principle feast day. To schedule a baptism, please contact Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 713.782.1270.

Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for November 10

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room. This will be a time to consider whom you need to forgive, and to work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” —C.S. Lewis

Please RSVP to Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 713.782.1270 if you plan to attend.

St. Francis Sports Association: Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

- **For more information** about our league, [click here](#).
- If you would like **to register**, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

We look forward to another great season and have added clinics for every sport!

Blessing of the Animals Is This Afternoon

Bring your dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles to our Blessing of the Animals service on **Sunday, September 30, at 4:00 p.m.** We will have a short liturgy in the church, followed by individual blessings in the courtyard. Your pet will also receive a special token after the blessing!

Citizens for Animal Protection will be joining us, so please bring the following always-needed items in support of CAP:

- Canned kitten and puppy food
- Paper towels
- Clay litter
- Copy paper
- Clorox
- H-E-B gift cards

You may also bring donations of paper towels, Dawn dish soap, newspapers, or cat food (specifically H-E-B Texas Pets 4 Flavor Morsels dry cat food or Iams adult cat food) to be donated to Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition.

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](mailto:JerryBallard@stfrancis.org) to sign up for The Grief Group.

Episcopal Worship . . . Explained

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