

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of April 12

All School

Save the Date! Online Speaker Series Kicks Off April 23

St. Francis Connections

ONLINE SPEAKER SERIES



STEPHEN LOVEJOY

Head of School

and

CRYSTAL COLLIER, PhD

Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor

Coping Mechanisms During Quarantine

Save the date! Please plan to join us (*virtually*) for the first session of our new online speaker series, St. Francis Connections, on **Thursday, April 23, at 5:00 p.m.** Head of School Steve Lovejoy and Crystal Collier, PhD, LPC-S, will be discussing "**Coping Mechanisms During Quarantine.**" Many of you are already familiar with [Dr. Collier's work](#), and we look forward to hearing her strategies on navigating our current situation. We'll be e-mailing you an invitation with details—including instructions for tuning in—soon.

A Quick Festival Sale Announcement

If you have already supported the St. Francis Festival, you may donate your contribution to the One Community Fund (which supports St. Francis Episcopal Church and School), or you may receive a refund. Please [click here](#) to submit your preference by **Thursday, May 21**.

If you have any questions, please [e-mail Martha Chavez](#).

We value your generous support of this beloved St. Francis tradition and look forward to celebrating with you next year! Thank you!

At Home With Chef Bryce: Whipped Cream

Chef Bryce and helpers show us how to make whipped cream! [Click here for the video](#).

A Note About Digital Chapels

Have you seen our digital Chapels? They include all of your favorite traditions: chimes, music, an encouraging message, prayers, and even birthday celebrations. All students are invited to share prayer requests, plus their art and videos. Fr. Wismer and Rev. Heinemann will use what you share in Chapels. All things Chapel can be found [here](#).

Virtue of the Month: Servanthood

During the month of April, the St. Francis community is focusing on servanthood. Our virtue verse is Matthew 20:26b: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." Try to memorize it as a family. You can watch [this short video](#) to learn the ASL for "servanthood."

Table Talk: *Virtue sightings—where do you see examples of servanthood in books, films, and life?*

Share With Us on Social

We miss seeing our students, so we invite you to help us make this learning as engaging as possible for all! Send us your photos, and connect through social media as one community united. Use the hashtag #SFEStrong and tag us, or [send us your photos via e-mail](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

In our first Chapel service of the Lenten season, Rev. Heinemann and Fr. Wismer helped our students understand how they could choose to observe this season in the church year. Our children were challenged to be a GUS or a TOM—*Giving Up Something* or *Taking On More*. They learned that some people give up soft drinks, television, sweets, or other favorites, and some people take on something that will help someone else, such as writing letters to friends and family, helping with chores, or saying special prayers. People do this in order to deepen their spiritual life, stretch themselves as they do things that are hard, and challenge themselves to walk different paths that may not be comfortable.

Little did we know that this year's Lenten season would find each of our community members being a GUS *and* a TOM. The need to stay at home means that you have been *Giving Up Something*. You've actually given up a lot: access to friends and extended family, the freedom to come and go as you like, and the ability for your children to attend school on campus. And yes, you've been *Taking On More*—a lot more, all at once. You've been preparing meals and snacks throughout the day, finding optimal learning and working spaces for your child and yourself, learning new technology platforms, and navigating your calendar to find time to support your child's learning experiences.

Like the voluntary sacrifices some make during Lent, what you are doing now is hard, and it requires that you find new ways to accomplish things. Because you were not given a choice about the adjustments you are making, the uncertainty of the path forward may feel scary. These changes, though unsettling, make us stretch and help us grow. Your children are growing through this process, too. They are becoming more resilient, confident, and independent. We are stretching and learning, too, through this new method of connecting with you.

Continuity of learning and maintaining our connections to students and families remain priorities while our campus is closed. Our Pre-Primary, Primary I, and Primary II programs scaffold so that we support students' developmental needs at each level. We have outlined this approach to learning, and continue to plan and prepare each day for our students. To learn more about our distance learning plan for the Primary School, click [here](#).

Thank you for *Giving Up Something*, and *Taking on More*. We are grateful for all you are doing.

Happy Easter, and blessings to you and your family!

Take good care,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

April and May Calendar Updates

While we are away from campus, some of our planned events will be restructured. Unfortunately, others will have to be canceled. Please note the following changes to upcoming calendar events:

- **Primary II Step-up to Lower School and field trip** are canceled.
- **Fathers and Friends picnics and Mothers and Others classroom visits** are canceled.
- **Primary II plays** will be restructured and scheduled through the drama program and classroom teachers.
- **Parent-teacher conferences** will be held through Zoom on Wednesday, April 22, as scheduled. Teachers will arrange times in advance. This will not be an instructional day for students.
- **Primary II Bible Presentations Chapel** is canceled; however, Bibles will be given to students at a later date.
- **Primary II Parent Coffee** (for incoming kindergarten parents) will be held on Friday, May 8, on the Main Campus. Hosted by Lower School staff, this meeting is a chance to discuss fun and engaging ways to keep your children plugged in over the summer (hopefully without devices)!
- **Splash Days** will take place May 14–15, as scheduled.
- **End-of-year parties** will take place May 18–20, as scheduled.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 13–Thursday, April 30

- *Distance Learning: Campus closed*
-

Friday, May 1

- *Teachers Return to Campus: Campus closed*
-

Monday, May 4

- *Students Return to School on Campus*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you well and that you are having an enjoyable Easter Sunday, although I am sure it may look different than it did in years prior! As I mentioned last week, we can't thank you enough for partnering with us as we have navigated the first three weeks of remote instruction at St. Francis. Your helpful and validating feedback has allowed us to problem-solve on our end to improve and refine this digital experience. As a community, we remain fully committed to our goals of **personal connection and instructional continuity**.

This week, I want to make sure I communicate our road map through this distance-learning adventure. Our teachers, specialists, and administrators have worked collaboratively to identify the essential skills and concepts to be covered through the remainder of the school year. While, in some cases, we have had to make slight adjustments in the scope and sequences, you will see that important concepts, strategies, and skills are still being taught and practiced. For details, please see grade-level scope and sequence documents (road maps) linked below. **They are also available in the Parent Portal if you wish to review them at a later time.**

Third Trimester Amended Scope and Sequences:

- [Kindergarten](#)
- [First Grade](#)
- [Second Grade](#)
- [Third Grade](#)
- [Fourth Grade](#)

Assessment

- Teachers continue to assign work for your children to complete in order to practice skills and concepts, and they continue to provide feedback as usual.
- Feedback and communication continue. If there appears to be a disconnect in understanding or a student's work is not meeting expectations, teachers will communicate with both that student and/or their parents to offer help. Teachers will also provide feedback on what students are doing well.
- When instructing younger children, the *process* of "working and learning" is just as important as the *product* when determining mastery of skills and concepts. Not being able to see in real time how each child is processing and what they are able to do independently limits the ability to truly assess each child. We cannot determine *Areas of Strength, Meeting Standards, Progressing With Support, or Not Meeting Standards* without having the children in the classroom. This is the most fair and effective way to report third-trimester progress.

- Virtual teaching and learning limit our teachers' ability to continuously observe children and instruct along the way. Therefore, on the last trimester report card, you will see "NA" for each of the academic standard indicators, but you will find a very detailed narrative outlining your child's progress in this digital learning format.
- Know that we will continue to craft our educational experience for your children based on where they are performing academically. That will be no different in the fall when your child enters into the next grade. As always, we will pre-assess each child and use that data to guide our instructional plans. As you know, we are not alone in this dilemma, and all schools will have to be flexible and deliberate when determining learning objectives for the new school year.

Calendar Updates

- The first- through fourth-grade level **Declamations** were scheduled prior to May 5, and Kindergarten Declamation was scheduled for May 5. All Declamations have been canceled.
- We had to cancel the **fourth-grade musicals**, as they are the first week of May, and there will be no time to rehearse. We share in the students' disappointment, as these performances are always so entertaining and are a celebration of their hard work and talent. We sincerely regret that we will have to forego this event.
- All remaining field trips have been canceled, as we wish to have our students in classes with their teachers as much as possible before starting summer break.
- We will still have **Field Day, end-of-year parties**, and the **Fourth-Grade Completion Ceremony**.
- We are planning to hold our **parent coffees** on Friday, May 8 (for parents of incoming kindergarteners and first graders), and Tuesday, May 12 (for parents of incoming first graders through fourth graders). Please join us to discuss fun and engaging ways to keep your children plugged in over the summer (hopefully without devices)!

We are proud of the work we have seen from our students and teachers, and we want to continue communicating openly about our academic plans for the remainder of this school year. Again, thank you for your cooperation and support, and for doing the best you can; **don't forget to take time for you**. Click [here](#) to read a great article about balancing screen time, sleep, and family during this trying time. We will get through this together.

Gratefully,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Please review the letter above for calendar updates related to May events.

Monday, April 13–Thursday, April 30

- *Distance Learning: Campus closed*
-

Friday, May 1

- *Teachers Return to Campus: Campus closed*
-

Monday, May 4

- *Students Return to School on Campus*

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Easter! I hope this week's edition of *Wolf Watch* finds you well, and I hope that you are all finding safe ways to stay busy and get outside when the weather allows it. I appreciate Mr. Lakoski's and Coach T's efforts to produce our weekly *Wolf Weekly News* videos (editing credit: Mr. Johnson) and hope that you take the opportunity to enjoy [this week's edition!](#)

My message this week centers on grading and assessment in our third trimester and also includes an update to our Friday distance learning schedule.

While our institutional priorities of staying connected and continuing instruction remain at the fore, we want to share our plans for students to continue their academic development. As you will see in the documents below (which can also be found on the Parent Portal for later viewing), our faculty and staff have reviewed our curriculum and made adjustments based on current circumstances. The policies and practices we are enacting for the remainder of the year are designed to support the learning outcomes in each academic department.

Details regarding our grading and assessment practices can be found in [this document](#). Scrolling past the policy language will take you to specific accounts of the content knowledge and skills your child(ren) will be gaining in their classes this trimester.

On a related note, third-trimester progress reports will be posted on Thursday, April 16. The grades shown in these progress reports only include work that was assigned and completed by spring break.

Finally, we are updating our schedule on Fridays to better meet our academic goals for the year. The schedule change will be communicated to your child by their teachers, and you can see it by [clicking here](#).

Special thanks to all of you for the enhanced roles you have taken on in these unprecedented circumstances. On behalf of the Middle School faculty and staff, we appreciate you!

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 13–Thursday, April 30

- *Distance Learning: Campus closed*
-

Friday, May 1

- *Teachers Return to Campus: Campus closed*
-

Monday, May 4

- *Students Return to School on Campus*

Upper School

From the Division Head

Let me first start by saying Happy Easter!

This week, I wanted to share the adjustments we've made as a result of our distance learning program. While we recognize that COVID-19 presents a range of challenges to

our students and families, please know that our campus closure will not have a negative impact on students' grades.

Our current circumstances have allowed us to re-examine our curriculum while continuing to be intentional and specific about the capacities our students should develop by the close of the school year. These knowledge and skill objectives will serve as the foundation for all graded work this spring, and your children's teachers are creating assignments and learning experiences directly tied to these objectives. More specific information about St. Francis's Spring 2020 Distance Learning Grading Policy can be found [here](#), as well as on the Parent Portal if you wish to review it at a later time.

We hope this information helps you understand both what your children are working on and why it is important. We are confident that your children's efforts and growth in the coming weeks will prepare them for success in 2020–21. The charts linked [here](#) (and on the Parent Portal) are organized by subject area.

Looking to the upcoming week, we are making a couple of adjustments to our remote learning schedule in an effort to simplify things for all. Your children can continue to consult their St. Francis planners to reference the day (of our six-day rotating block schedule); however, **we will now follow either an odd- or an even-day schedule.** The schedule for the upcoming week is below:

	Time	April 13	April 14 (EVEN)	April 15 (ODD)	April 16 (EVEN)	April 17 (ODD)
Block times = synchronous online sessions Tutorial times = practice & teacher consults (by appointment, students join online call as needed and/or requested by teacher)	8:30- 9:00	See Special Schedule Details (below)	Block 2	Block 1	Block 2	Block 1
	9:15-9:45		Block 4	Block 3	Block 4	Block 3
	10:00-10:30		Block 6	Block 5	Block 6	Block 5
	10:45-11:15		Block 8	Block 7	Block 8	Block 7
	11:30-12:00		Arts Electives	Councils	Arts Electives	Clubs
	12:00-1:00 (LUNCH)		US Faculty Mtg. (12:15- 12:45)	12-1pm LUNCH (students)	US Faculty Mtg. (12:15- 12:45)	12-1pm LUNCH (students)
	1:00- 4:00		EVEN Block Tutorials (by appointment)	ODD Block Tutorials (by appointment)	EVEN Block Tutorials (by appointment)	ODD Block Tutorials (by appointment)
	4:00- 4:30		PE		PE	

Time	April 13- Special Student-Led Schedule	
8:30- 9:00	COVID-19 Discussion (John Kilsdonk & Alex Haug)	
9:15-9:45	Positivity, Gratitude, Support (#SFES Strong) (Janelli Morones)	Positivity, Gratitude, Support (Cards for Essential Employees) (Maxwell Harrison)
10:00- 10:30	Live Kahoot (Payton Bowick & Rebecca Jackson)	
10:45- 11:15	Scavenger Hunt (Ms. Flaniken & Dr. Henderson)	
11:30- 1:00	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00- 3:00	OPTIONAL: Netflix Movie Gathering (Aziz Almizyed)	
3:15- 4:30	OPTIONAL: Online Pictionary Gathering (Madison Brungardt)	

In closing, I want to share a link to an interview that was conducted by one of my friends and former classmates, Tamala Edwards from ABC News. Tamala spoke with Julie Lythcott-Haims (author of *How to Raise an Adult* and former dean of freshmen at Stanford University) and DeLise Bernard (founder of Surviving Homeschool). The conversation (linked [here](#)) lasts about 20 minutes and includes some advice to parents who are navigating remote learning with their children right now. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson, EdD
Head of Upper School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 13–Thursday, April 30

- *Distance Learning*: Campus closed
-

Friday, May 1

- *Teachers Return to Campus*: Campus closed
-

Monday, May 4

- *Students Return to School on Campus*

Church

Join Us Online for Holy Week and Easter Services

Visit the [church website](#) for more information on our streaming services. Fr. Wismer will give a children's homily, and Mrs. Devlin is recording the Let It Shine lesson. Please join us!

Register for the GLOW/Youth Summer Mission Trip—Save the Date!

All middle and high school students are invited to attend the **GLOW mission trip to Galveston, TX, on June 4–7**. [Register online here](#).

- Additional information will be provided after registration is completed.
- This is a great way to earn service hours since we will not be having Week of Wonder (VBS) this summer due to construction!
- With questions, please [e-mail Allison Devlin](#) or [Joanie Kirksey](#).