

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 1

All School

September Virtue of the Month: Honor

Each month, the St. Francis community will focus on a different virtue. In Chapel, morning meetings, and advisories, students will explore how to live out the virtue of the month. These conversations will include Scripture and church history, the arts and literature, science and technology, world events and history, and daily experiences. This discipline keeps the call to be “people for others” at the center of the conversation, and invites students to deepen their understanding of these principles and apply them to their lives. Parents are invited to continue the conversations at home using the weekly prompts in *Wolf Watch*.

During the month of September, the St. Francis community is focusing on the virtue of **honor**. The virtue verse is Romans 12:10: “*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*” As a family, you can memorize the verse together.

Table Talk: What is the first image or story that comes to mind when you hear the word *honor*?

Reminder: Please Wear Your Parent Name Tags

Please remember to wear your parent name tag anytime you are on campus. This helps us identify visitors in the building. If you need a replacement name tag, please contact your division office manager.

Explore and Extend Classes Start Tuesday

Explore and Extend enrichment classes begin this Tuesday, September 3. (Although, please note that the Woodworking class has a later start date). We still have room in the following class sections:

PRIMARY SCHOOL

- **Thursday:** Tae Kwon Do
- **Thursday:** Yoga
- **Friday:** Tae Kwon Do

LOWER SCHOOL

- **Monday:** Soccer Shots
- **Monday:** 4:30 p.m. Level I Woodworking (The 3:15 p.m. class is full.)
- **Tuesday:** Ballet and Tap for Grades 2 and 3
- **Tuesday:** Chess
- **Wednesday:** Gymnastics
- **Wednesday:** Archery
- **Thursday:** Tae Kwon Do
- **Friday:** Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

To register, select "Program Registration" in My BackPack. You may also [e-mail the Explore and Extend Office](#). Remember, all student accounts must be current before beginning classes.

School of Music Lessons Start Tuesday

Lessons provided through the St. Francis School of Music will begin this Tuesday, September 3. It's not too late to register for lessons in piano, percussion, voice, viola, violin, cello, clarinet, and guitar. [E-mail Margaret Newsom](#) to request lesson times.

Save the Date for Our First Parents' Night Out!

Explore and Extend is offering the first in a series of Parents' Night Out evenings on **Friday, September 20, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the Main Campus.**

- Students in Primary II through grade 5 are invited to join us for the evening.
- Dinner will be provided, and students will enjoy their choice of a selection of activities, as well as a movie at the end of the evening.
- Keep an eye out in the next *Wolf Watch* for details about September's Parents' Night Out, including information about activities, guest teachers, dinner, and movie choices!
- Registration for this evening is available through "Program Registration" in My BackPack.

DATE CHANGE: Next Wolf Wear Sale Is Now September 13

The Athletics Booster Club will hold its Wolf Wear sale on **Friday, September 13, at 7:45–9:00 a.m. in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym.**

- This sale will take the place of the "First Friday" sale on September 6.
- The cotton T-shirt reorders will be in, so stop by and get yours!

Thank you for your support of the Athletics Booster Club!

A Note About St. Francis Ingatherings

Thanks to the generous spirit of our community, St. Francis students play their part as *people for others* with ingatherings throughout the year. These collections not only benefit worthy local causes, but also awaken a love of service in many of our students. For the 2019–20 school year, each division will focus on one major ingathering.

LOWER SCHOOL: ST. NICHOLAS INGATHERING, DECEMBER 2–6

The St. Nicholas Ingathering arrives just in time for the holidays. As part of this ingathering, Lower School students collect toys to benefit Toys for Tots. The week culminates with a campus visit by Santa and members of the Village Fire Department, who take the toys and share them with children throughout Houston.

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL: PAJAMARAMA, JANUARY 21–24

A beloved St. Francis tradition, Diane Barker's Pajamarama benefits Arms Wide Adoption Services. Primary School students collect pajamas and books, while Upper School students collect and sort toiletries, personal items, and luggage. Additionally, Upper School students deliver the items to the

organization's Angel Room. At the end of the week, students celebrate by wearing pajamas to school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: CANSTRUCTION, FEBRUARY 3-7

An annual favorite that includes engineering, design, and friendly competition, Canstruction benefits Fair Haven Food Bank. Before donating all of the canned goods collected, Middle School advisories use the cans to build structures that are judged on creativity, design, and relevance to a chosen theme.

More information will be shared in *Wolf Watch* closer to each ingathering. Please direct any questions to [Rev. Heinemann](#).

Get Involved! Join Our Various Parent Groups

We are so grateful for the many parents who volunteer their time to help enrich the daily experiences of our students. Whether supporting the fine arts at school, serving as an athletics booster, or volunteering in another capacity, parents find various ways to be engaged with our community. Please [click here](#) and select the organization name to learn more and join!

FRIENDS OF FINE ARTS

Do you love the fine arts? Do you want to help provide the best possible fine arts opportunities for St. Francis students? If so, please consider joining Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA), a volunteer organization that supports fine arts activities across all St. Francis school divisions.

- Funds raised through FoFA will be distributed to St. Francis fine arts teachers based on a "wish list" of items they need to help further teach our children all about the fine arts. These items often include art books, costumes, and props used in music, art, and drama classes. Being a member of FoFA is also a great way to volunteer as little or as much as you want and meet other families at St. Francis.
- As a FoFA member, you'll be at the forefront of enriching the fine arts at St. Francis, and you'll be among the first to hear about FoFA activities and fun fine arts-related volunteer opportunities.
- To become a FoFA member, simply visit the online [Wolf Den Campus Store](#), select "FoFA Membership" under "Memberships," and contribute \$25 in support of fine arts.
- Remember to [order your holiday poinsettias online today](#). St. Francis Friends of Fine Arts thanks you for your support.

DADS' CLUB

Created for the fathers of St. Francis students, the Dads' Club meets regularly for breakfast and other activities. The group focuses on community service, relationship-building among dads, education, and school support, and sponsors and organizes guest-speaker visits throughout the year.

The goal of the organization is to provide a forum for St. Francis dads to become a greater part of their children's education. Here are some things you can expect when you join the Dads' Club:

- **Awareness:** Increasing insight into St. Francis activities and direction
- **Input:** Providing feedback and support to the school
- **Friendship:** Fostering relationships with other dads
- **Focus:** Participating in dad-centric events and conversations

To join the Dads' Club, simply visit the online [Wolf Den Campus Store](#), select "Dads' Club Membership" under "Memberships," and contribute \$50 in support of the St. Francis Dads' Club.

ATHLETICS BOOSTER CLUB

The Athletics Booster Club helps support the school's athletics program through Wolf Wear clothing sales, concessions sales during home games, and other activities. The booster club also fosters school spirit at home and away games, assists with pep rallies and spirit days, and helps with hosting tournaments held at St. Francis.

To join the Athletics Booster Club, simply visit the online [Wolf Den Campus Store](#), select "Booster Club Membership" under "Memberships," and contribute \$25 in support of St. Francis athletics.

Register Today for SFSA Sports

Registration is now open for basketball, T-ball, baseball, softball, and volleyball through the St. Francis Sports Association. [Click here](#) to register, and please note:

- We are happy to announce that, this year, we will be offering Primary II basketball.
- For more information or with questions about registration, please [e-mail Ragan Cain](#).

Update Your Directory Info by September 15!

The PA directory chairs have begun updating information for the 2019–20 PA Mini-Directory. Please note that your family information, as shown in the My BackPack system (available via the St. Francis Parent Portal), will be the information that's published in the Mini-Directory. **Please confirm and, if necessary, update this information by Sunday, September 15, 2019.**

To update your contact information online:

1. Log in to the Parent Portal via the school's website with your assigned username and password. If you have misplaced your login information, [contact Technology](#) for assistance.
2. Click on "My BackPack," found in the Quick Links section.
3. In the Settings section, click "My Profile."
4. Select "Edit."
5. Update your information as needed. For contacts that you do not want to appear in the online School Directory or in the printed PA Mini-Directory, place a check in the DNP (Do Not Publish) checkbox.
6. Click "Save" to save your changes.
7. Click "Done" to submit your request for changes. (You may also use the "Send note to school" option if you want to explain any of your changes in more detail.)

NOTE: Parent cell phones, e-mails, and home addresses that are NOT checked as DNP (Do Not Publish) will be printed in the Mini-Directory.

The printed Mini-Directory is available for purchase from the Membership Toolkit online store. If you have any questions or concerns, please [e-mail the PA Mini-Directory chairs](#).

Time to Team Up: Sporting Clays Classic Is October 25!

Shoot for success at the St. Francis Sporting Clays Classic on Friday, October 25! Come enjoy lunch, 72 sporting clay targets plus ammunition, an exhilarating flurry competition, golf cart transportation, and an awards ceremony.

Check out the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#) to discover the various ways you can participate. Please note that this event is not just for our school community; it's also a chance to entertain

clients, reconnect with former classmates, and introduce new families to our school.

The Sporting Clays Classic benefits The Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund, which provides cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment (C.A.R.E.) for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in our school programs. For more information, visit the [Special Events page](#) under the Giving tab on the St. Francis home page. You may also e-mail SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org or contact [Will Stacy](#), Sporting Clays Classic chair.

Save the Date(s) for Grandparents and Grandfriends Days!

Get ready for a St. Francis favorite! This school year, we will welcome our grandparents and grandfriends to enjoy Chapel, classroom visits, and a visit to the book fair! Detailed information will be available on the invitation that will be mailed out to grandparents in October (LS/MS/US) and January (PS).

- **November 21 and 22—LS, MS, and US**
- **February 12 and 13—PS**

If you need to update the grandparent information St. Francis has on file for your family or if you have any questions regarding Grandparents and Grandfriends Days, please contact Anne Chisholm at 713.458.6141 or [via e-mail](#).

MySchoolAnywhere Is Now Membership Toolkit

Starting with this school year, the St. Francis Parents Association (PA) will be using Membership Toolkit for our PA directory and online sales. MySchoolAnywhere (MSA) has merged with Membership Toolkit, and the MSA website and app are no longer available to our families and faculty. By now, you should have received an invitation from Membership Toolkit, but if you have not, we invite you to visit the [SFE PA Membership Toolkit website](#) to see everything the PA website has to offer. Once you create a Membership Toolkit account, you will have access via the website and mobile app to the PA directory; the listing of SFE PA board members and chairs; and the SFE PA store. Only current families and faculty have access to the website and app. If you encounter any issues, please [e-mail us](#).

Lost and Found Reminder: Label, Label, Label

With the new school year upon us, please take a minute to label all of your student's items.

- Outerwear and water bottles are the items most commonly lost.
- When uniform items are lost and are not labeled, it is almost impossible to know to whom they belong, so please remember to label.
- When labeling outerwear, please attach a name label or write the name clearly on the tag or the neck area of the garment (instead of on the garment care label near the waist), as this makes it much simpler to identify the owner of the item. Click [here](#) for an example.
- The main campus Lost and Found closet is located under the fifth-grade stairwell (next to the entrance to the Crum Library). If you have any questions, please [e-mail Ali Williams](#), lost and found coordinator.

Have You Submitted Your Grandparent Information Form?

Here at St. Francis, we know how important grandparents and grandfriends are to our students, and we love connecting with them! Our monthly [Keepin' Track of the Pack](#) grandparent newsletter provides up-to-date information on student events and activities, and our annual Grandparents and Grandfriends Days provide a wonderful opportunity to spend time with grandchildren here at the school. If you'd like us to connect with your child's grandparents or grandfriends—and help them stay connected with student life at St. Francis—please e-mail a completed Grandparent Information Form to [Danielle Richardson](#), gift records and data analysis manager. (You can download the Grandparent Information Form by clicking [here](#) or by visiting the “All Division Essentials” section of the Parent Portal.)

Primary School

From the Division Head

Happy 2019 School Year!

I am so excited about the new school year, new friendships, and new learning that will be happening this year. After Labor Day, I will start my annual classroom visits to share and discuss the St. Francis Way with all Primary School students. These classroom visits are beneficial on multiple levels.

Classroom discussions about the St. Francis Way introduce students to (or remind them of) the four mutual agreements everyone is expected to follow in our St. Francis community. These agreements are simple to understand and apply both at school and at home. The St. Francis Way is the Primary School equivalent of the SFES Honor Code that is followed by all Lower, Middle, and Upper School students.

Spending time in classrooms focusing on the St. Francis Way provides other benefits, as well. It gives me the opportunity to learn the names of new students and reconnect with returning students. It helps me learn how best to support individual student's social and learning needs. It allows me to interact with students in their classroom, which gives me insight into each child's interests and strengths. And it gives students the opportunity to learn my name and ways that I can help them.

In the next few weeks, we—the students, teachers, staff, and administration—will be making a promise to follow the St. Francis Way. Pictures of this classroom event will be in your child's Tadpoles communication soon. You will recognize this classroom experience by the photos of children with blue or red fingers showing their promise to follow the St. Francis Way at school and home. I encourage you to discuss the four St. Francis Way agreements with your child—and to hold your child accountable for continuing these agreements when he or she is away from school, as well. Consistency is best for children when they're learning new skills.

THE ST. FRANCIS WAY

Be kind.

Listen to your friends and teachers.

Be safe.

Take care of your school.

Kind regards,

Clifton Walker
Assistant Head of Primary School

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday: No school*
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Tuesday, September 3

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Explore and Extend Enrichment Classes Begin*
-

Wednesday, September 4

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

Tuesday, September 10

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

Wednesday, September 11

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

Friday, September 13

- *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45–9:00 a.m. in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym*
-

Tuesday, September 17

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night: 6:30–8:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, September 18

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

Thursday, September 19

- *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night: 6:30–8:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Tuesday, September 24

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

Wednesday, September 25

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

Friday, September 27

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:00–11:00 a.m.*
-

Monday, September 30

- *Individual and Group Pictures (3-Day Pre-Primary and Primary I)*

Lower School

From the Division Head

As I mentioned in last week's *Wolf Watch*, at the beginning of each year, I think it's important to review the WHY (neurological/psychological educational research) behind WHAT (curriculum) we do and HOW (instructional practices) we do it. Over the next few weeks, I will break down this information for you. This will be a review for some and new to others, but I always say more information is better than not enough! Transparency and parent partnership are very important to us. As you read the information in the upcoming weeks, I hope you see that our program is based on sound, current, and research-informed data. We constantly reflect upon and examine our practices as new developments are made.

We base all of our instructional approaches and curriculum on basic tenets supported by decades of neurological/psychological research. These studies tell us that students learn best when the following are in place:

- **Differentiated instruction**
- **Choice/inquiry**
- **Agency/ownership**
- **Purposeful and engaging instruction**
- **Interdisciplinary/integrated instruction**
- **Movement/play**
- **Social-emotional learning**

We built our program and curricular approaches on these cognitive understandings. You most likely know the names of our curriculum or programs—for example, guided reading, workshops, Bridges, Words Their Way, and responsive classroom. Know that these are just approaches or curriculum—vehicles to reach an end goal. My goal is for you to understand why these were chosen and how they foster optimal learning environments. Remember, we tailor everything to fit our students' needs, which vary from grade to grade and class to class.

This week, let's take a look at **differentiated instruction**. This approach simply means children are pre-assessed to determine their "zone of proximal development" (ZPD), and we tailor instruction based on that data. The ZPD is the area between what a learner can do independently and what can be achieved with support. Decades of research inform us that when students are not practicing skills on their level, no new learning will take place. This is due to how the brain learns: Information is selected, and then it is held in short-

term memory until it is reorganized and combined into new learning. If material is too challenging or too easy, these sequential steps cannot happen—and the opportunity for new learning to go into long-term memory will be lost.

These pre-assessments are never multiple choice or completed 100% independently, as we know those practices do not produce valid data. Rather, they are one-on-one interviews, along with the opportunity for students to demonstrate some type of knowledge with time to think, write, and show work. We then use that data to structure effective learning for each student. For example:

- In Bridges math, groups are formed for each unit.
- In word study, groups are formed based on where the child is on the continuum of phonics acquisition. (It doesn't make sense for a child to be practicing long-vowel patterns if the short-vowel patterns are not solidified.)
- In guided reading and writing workshops, strategy or comprehension groups are created, and partnerships are formed in which students practice newly acquired reading strategies on their "just right" level.

We do not utilize whole-group instruction, as this defeats the purpose of meeting students where they are learning. We might conduct a brief "mini-lesson" on a reading or writing strategy or skill that everyone needs to learn, but that is followed by the students practicing the strategy or skill in "just right" books or in their own writing piece. Teacher conferences and small-group instruction is used during this practice time to guide students forward in their learning.

Our report cards, based on national standards and using indicators, are certainly differentiated, as each child's progress is unique and special. At the end of the trimester, you will see the portfolio your child has amassed to show you how he or she is progressing along a personal continuum of learning. Reading children's self-written reflections also provides amazing insight into their perception of their own progress and growth.

Everything we do is responsive to the needs of our students—and nothing is rote or lockstep. It takes teachers who are very well educated and specialists who are highly trained to accomplish this lofty goal. We are so blessed to have dedicated teachers who are constantly evaluating how to be better. We embody a growth mindset and welcome you to join us in our journey.

Last year, we had four different teams from other independent schools across Texas come to St. Francis to observe and learn various aspects of differentiated instruction; they were observing reading and writing workshops, guided reading, and teachers and students working in the Bridges math program. Our teachers and specialists graciously gave their time to help other educators grow in what we know are best practices for learners of all ages. Your children are at the heart of all we do, and we take the charge of educating a well-rounded child very seriously.

Thank you for taking time to partner with us. I invite you to take five minutes to view [this short video](#) that fully encapsulates differentiated instruction. It's fantastic!

Next week, we will examine how CHOICE and INQUIRY play significant roles in our curriculum and instructional practices.

As always, reach out to anyone on our team if you have questions or simply wish to have a discussion!

Have a blessed week,

Carol R. Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Lower School Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale

Lower School scrapbooks for last school year are now available to purchase [online here](#). These beautiful Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific. Remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, please [e-mail the Parents Association Scrapbook Committee](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday*: No school
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Wednesday, September 4

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Opening Eucharist (Pentecost): 8:05 a.m.*
-

Friday, September 6

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

Monday, September 9

- *No Chapel*
-

Tuesday, September 10

- *Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Wednesday, September 11

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between September 1–14 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, September 13

- *Wolf Wear Sale:* 7:45–9:00 a.m. in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym
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Monday, September 16

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Honor Code and Social Contract Signing Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, September 18

- *LS, MS, and US Student Holiday*
 - *Welcome to the Den Conferences:* Please sign up for a time via the e-mail that will be sent at the beginning of September
-

Monday, September 23

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between September 15–28 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, September 25

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

Thursday, September 26

- *Parent Meeting for Grades 2–4:* “How to Help Your Child With Home Practice and Reading,” 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Friday, September 27

- *Parent Meeting for Kindergarten and Grade 1:* “Early Literacy,” 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)

Middle School

From the Division Head

I hope you are having a great week. I have been feeling really good about the opening week of the year, but it was the students and faculty I really wanted to hear from. This week, I hit the halls and asked the kids to tell me about their first week in one word. Here are the results:



It bears mentioning that I conducted one of my surveys around lunchtime, which might explain the prevalence of food-related thoughts! Overall, it seems like the students and faculty are feeling pretty good, as well. I appreciated the students who were not afraid to tell me that Week One was “annoying” or “meh.” While hearing that didn’t make me happy, it did offer me an opportunity to follow up and learn more about the student experience.

I hope you are settling back into your school year routines, and I wish you a fantastic Labor Day holiday!

Best,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Attention, Fifth-Grade Families: Purchase Last Year’s Scrapbook

Was your child in fourth grade last year at St. Francis? Purchase your scrapbook [online here](#). These beautiful Shutterfly books capture memories from your child's last year in Lower School. Remember to order for your child’s grade last year (fourth grade). With questions about how to purchase,

please [e-mail the Parents Association Scrapbook Committee](#).

Please Read: Signing Students Out or In

Please take note of our procedures for student sign-out and sign-in.

SIGN-OUT PROCEDURES

- When a student needs to be dismissed early from school, advance notice and direct communication from the parent/guardian to the division office is required. This helps our teachers and students to be prepared when the parent/guardian arrives.
- Authorized adults sign out students through the Middle School Office between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Once the student has been signed out, he or she will be directed as to where to meet the parent/guardian.
- After 2:30 p.m., students in grades 6–8 sign out through the director of athletics' office. Students in grade 5 will continue to be signed out in the Middle School Office.
- Middle School students may not sign themselves out and may not wait for parents/guardians anywhere other than the Middle School Office or the director of athletics' office.

SIGN-IN PROCEDURES

- Students are to be at school and in class on time. Arrival after 8:00 a.m. is considered tardy.
- Middle School students tardy to school/returning from appointments will check in at the front desk and **report directly to the division office to receive a pass before returning to classes.**
- All students late to school for medical appointments must bring a note signed by the doctor for the tardy to be excused.

For more information, please consult the attendance policy on page 33 of the [Middle School Handbook](#). (Note: You must be logged in to the Parent Portal for this link to work.)

Welcome to the Den Conferences Are September 18

Mark your calendar! **Welcome to the Den conferences will be held Wednesday, September 18, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** These 20-minute meetings between parents, students, and advisors will focus on student life and goals for the year. You will receive an e-mail soon with a

SignUpGenius link to available meeting times.

Middle School Bible Studies

Would you like to dig a little deeper into the Bible? Come out and join other MS students as we study the Bible together—and eat some donuts in the process!

For the first couple of months, we will be looking at an interesting set of studies related to **sports in the Bible**. We're leading off the lineup with "Baseball and Softball in the Bible." Come and check it out!

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE

- **All of the studies are from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., and we meet at the north end of the Middle School hallway in the Christian Education rooms (CE205–CE208).** There will be signs!
- MS Bible studies are completely voluntary.
- Everyone is welcome. No question is silly. You will be glad you came.
- Students share the responsibility of bringing donuts for their group.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Tuesdays

- Eighth-grade girls, led by Rev. Heinemann
- Eighth-grade boys, led by Fr. Wismer and Mr. Lakoski

Wednesdays

- Seventh-grade girls, led by Mrs. Chapman
- Seventh-grade boys, led by Mr. Lakoski and Fr. Wismer

Thursdays

- Sixth-grade girls, led by Mrs. Flores
- Sixth-grade boys, led by Mr. Morris
- Fifth-grade girls, led by Rev. Heinemann
- Fifth-grade boys, led by Fr. Wismer

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday: No school*
-

Tuesday, September 3

- *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*
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Wednesday, September 4

- *Eucharist Schedule/Dress Uniform (No Blazers)*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *MS/US Opening Eucharist (Pentecost): 11:05–11:55 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, September 5

- *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Thursday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 5: 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*
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Friday, September 6

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Uniform bottoms with Wolf Wear or SFES spirit wear*
 - *NJHS Meeting: 7:15–7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
-

Monday, September 9

- *Convocation Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *NJHS New Member Applications Due*
 - *Convocation and Tie Ceremony: 9:00–10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
 - *Convocation Reception (Grade 8 Only): 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
-

Tuesday, September 10

- *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 Meeting With Faculty Council: 7:15–7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
-

Wednesday, September 11

- *Grade 5: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grades 6 and 8: Wednesday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 7 OLE Trip: September 11–13*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, September 12

- *Grade 5: Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grades 6 and 8: Thursday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 7 OLE Trip: September 11–13*
 - *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 Council Sign-up: 9:15–10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
-

Friday, September 13

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire:* Uniform bottoms with Wolf Wear or SFES spirit wear
 - *Grade 7 OLE Trip:* September 11–13
 - *Wolf Wear Sale:* 7:45–9:00 a.m. in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym
-

Monday, September 16

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Chapel/Honor Code Signing:* 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *MS Parent Information Night:* 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Tuesday, September 17

- *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
 - *High School Information Night (Grade 8 Parents Only):* 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Wednesday, September 18

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Welcome to the Den Conferences (Students and Parents Meet With Advisors):* 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in classrooms
 - *Costa Rica Parent Meeting:* 9:00–10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
 - *Europe Parent Meeting:* 10:00–10:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
 - *MS Fall Play Rehearsal:* 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Thursday, September 19

- *Tuesday 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*
 - *MS Councils/Council Officer Elections: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the classrooms*
-

Friday, September 20

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Uniform bottoms with Wolf Wear or SFES spirit wear*
-

Monday, September 23

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Individual Pictures During History Classes: 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
 - *NJHS Induction Ceremony: 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Chapel*
 - *NJHS Induction Ceremony Reception: 6:30–7:15 p.m. in the Gay Foyer*
-

Tuesday, September 24

- *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*
 - *Eighth-Grade Video Meeting (Parents Only): 8:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, September 25

- *Grade 5: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Wednesday Block 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
 - “*See You at the Pole*” Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Thursday, September 26

- *Grade 5*: Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform
 - *Grades 6, 7, and 8*: Thursday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform
 - *OLE Trip for Grades 5 and 6*: September 26–27
-

Friday, September 27

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire*: Uniform bottoms with Wolf Wear or SFES spirit wear
- *OLE Trip for Grades 5 and 6*: September 26–27
- *NJHS Meeting*: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard’s classroom

Upper School

From the Division Head

Welcome to September in Houston! I hope that you and your family are enjoying a leisurely holiday weekend.

We are almost two weeks into the school year, and we have finished one complete six-day rotation. We’ve also celebrated wins in cross-country and volleyball, and supported one another in classes and during *Clue* rehearsals.

This week during Chapel, Fr. Bob Wismer spoke of the importance of lifting one another up rather than putting each other down. Connecting to this important theme, I recently watched a short video from Barbara Coloroso (author of *Kids Are Worth It: Giving Your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline* and other well-regarded parenting books), who explained what she refers to as six critical life messages that children need to receive at school and home.

According to Coloroso, our children need to hear and understand the following messages:

- I believe in you.
- I trust in you.
- I know you can handle this.
- You're listened to.
- You're cared for.
- You're very important to me.

This isn't always easy. Sometimes we interrupt, judge, or try to press our own solution. When we do, let's try to catch ourselves. Let's encourage one another to communicate the six critical life messages. Our kids are worth it.

Here's to a great week!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson, EdD
Head of Upper School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday*: School closed
-

Tuesday, September 3

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel*: 10:20 a.m. in Andrews House
-

Wednesday, September 4

- *Day 2—Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Eucharist*: 11:00 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel
- *Volleyball vs. Second Baptist*: 5:00 p.m. in Crum Gym

Thursday, September 5

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, September 6

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Volleyball vs. St. Constantine School: 5:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Saturday, September 7

- *Cross-Country Rosehill Christian Meet: All day in Burroughs Park*
-

Monday, September 9

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Volleyball vs. Incarnate Word Academy: 5:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Tuesday, September 10

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in Andrews House*
 - *Parent Information Night: 6:00–8:00 p.m. in Crum Loft*
-

Wednesday, September 11

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in Andrews House*
-

Thursday, September 12–Saturday, September 14

- *Upper School Retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh*
-

Friday, September 13

- *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45–9:00 a.m.* in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym

Church

Fall First Communion Classes Start September 8

First communion classes begin Sunday, September 8. This eight-week course is designed to prepare second-grade students to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Contact [Allison Devlin](#) for information or to sign up.

Bible Studies for Moms Kick Off September 10

Moms, give yourself the gift of studying God's Word with other St. Francis moms! Seeking God first puts everything in perspective.

Join us at either (or both!) of these times:

- **Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. in CE 212 on the Main Campus, beginning September 10**
- **Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m. in Andrew's House on the South Campus, beginning September 11**

Come whenever you can—in workout or work wear! We will study the book of **Ephesians**.

Register Today for SFSA Sports

Registration is now open for basketball, T-ball, baseball, softball, and volleyball through the St. Francis Sports Association. [Click here](#) to register, and please note:

- We are happy to announce that, this year, we will be offering Primary II basketball.
- For more information or with questions about registration, please [e-mail Ragan Cain](mailto:Ragan.Cain).

Sundays at St. Francis Episcopal Church

- **Service Times:**
 - **8:00 a.m:** Holy Eucharist, Rite I (casual and contemplative service)
 - **9:00 a.m:** Family worship with Holy Eucharist (kid-friendly; updated music; all ages welcome)
 - **11:00 a.m:** Holy Eucharist with organ and choir (traditional worship with beautiful music)
 - **5:00 p.m:** Holy Eucharist, Rite I (casual and reflective service)
- **Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout:** After the children's message during the 9:00 a.m. service, all children in pre-K through middle school are invited to follow the cross to participate in the Let it Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. Children will learn lessons from the Bible, act out Bible stories, memorize key verses from Scripture, and pray together. They will return to the service during the announcements.
- **LightHouse Expressions in Art:** During the 10 o'clock hour, children in pre-K to middle school are invited to meet in the Guild Room to create an art project reinforcing the Bible lesson and key verse discussed during Let it Shine! High school youth are invited to serve as leaders and helpers during this time.
- **Breakfast Bites and Fellowship:** Please join us in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and light bites after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.