

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 8

All School

Admissions Is on the Hunt for New Wolves!

The Admissions Office is ready to begin receiving new student [applications](#) for the 2020–21 school year. Current families are not required to come on a group tour—however, you are always welcome to do so!

Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers about our upcoming admission events!

SHOWCASE SUNDAY—OCTOBER 20

Primary School Stay and Play: 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

This is a casual and convenient opportunity for Primary School families to explore our state-of-the-art facility, see our South Campus, meet our faculty, and have a great time. **Please Note:** This event is different from our weekday tours. It is designed to give children a chance to enjoy our classroom spaces and will not include a formal presentation.

Lower School Stay and Play: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

This is a casual and convenient opportunity for Lower School families to explore our state-of-the-art facility, see our Main Campus, meet our faculty, and have a great time. **Please Note:** This event is different from our weekday tours. It is designed to give children a chance to enjoy our classroom spaces and will not include a formal presentation.

Middle School Showcase: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

See our campus come alive as our eighth-grade Howlers pep squad

welcomes you, our volleyball and basketball teams show off their skills, and our dance and choir students give you a sneak peek performance in the Fine Arts Center. After this showstopping introduction, our fabulous teachers will welcome you into their classrooms and tell you about all of the amazing things you'll get to experience in Middle School! Students are welcome and encouraged to attend this tour.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS GROUP TOURS

Friday, September 27, at 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 7, at 9:00 a.m.
Friday, December 6, at 9:00 a.m.

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS GROUP TOURS

Tuesday, September 24, at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, October 29, at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 3, at 9:00 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL ADMISSIONS GROUP TOURS

Wednesday, September 25, at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 16, at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 13, at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 11, at 9:00 a.m.

Know a St. Francis Family Going Through Tough Times? Let the Care and Compassion Committee Know

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 appropriate representative know:

- [Marcela Vij](#)—T/Th Pre-Primary
- [Charlotte Hedrick](#)—MWF Pre-Primary
- [Kelli Calderwood](#)—5-Day Pre-Primary
- [Shannon Addison](#)—MWF Primary I
- [Rebecca Elmore](#)—5-Day Primary I
- [Abigail Coleman](#)—Primary II
- [Miranda Tadlock](#)—Kindergarten
- [Kate Oshins](#)—First Grade
- [Alison Meyer](#)—Second Grade

- [Lindsey Little](#)—Third Grade
- [Michelle Martin](#)—Fourth Grade
- [Erin Fowler](#)—Fifth Grade
- [Kim Graeter](#)—Sixth Grade
- [Kelly Cabbage](#)—Seventh Grade
- [Huntley Kubitza](#)—Eighth Grade
- [Jackie Sheahan Miller](#)—Ninth Grade
- [Julie Moreton](#)—Tenth Grade

If you have any questions, please contact Care and Compassion Chairperson [Colleen Dunlap](#).

September Virtue of the Month: Honor

During the month of September, the St. Francis community is focusing on the virtue of honor. Our 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: Virtue sightings—where do you see examples of honor in books, films, and life?

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is This Friday

The Athletics Booster Club will hold its next Wolf Wear sale this **Friday, September 13, from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym.** The cotton T-shirt reorder, girls’ gym short reorder in gray, and the Nike Youth hoodies will be in, so stop by and get yours!

Thank you for your support of the Athletics Booster Club!

LAST CALL! 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](#).

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 on *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.

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 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.

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](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

One of my weekend hobbies is antique shopping. I'm particularly fond of

school memorabilia, and love reflecting on how much has changed over time. Several years ago, I bought a 1936 copy of *The Instructor: Schoolroom Activities for Elementary Teachers*. Still in print today as *Instructor*, the magazine was first published in 1891 as *The Normal Instructor*. (The publication was designed to help teachers in rural areas without access to teachers' colleges, called "normal schools" at that time.)

The advertisement for Ditto Incorporated on the inside cover reads, "Children learn by 'DOING'—Ditto Lessons are 'DOING' Lessons." In the ad, teachers are asked, "Do your children waste valuable learning hours? or Are they profitably employed every hour of the school day?" Students are pictured sitting in desks in rows, working independently on "ditto" sheets. The facing page is an ad for Bristol-Myers toothpaste. The headline states, "Every Day in Modern Schools—Gum Massage is Taught and Practiced!" with the teacher shown demonstrating gum massage to her class. The advertisement emphasizes that "all over America, modern teachers are drilling their pupils in gum massage—to a lifetime of dental health and dental good looks!"

I can assure you that we will not "waste valuable learning hours," and we will certainly be "profitably employed every hour of the school day," but we won't be "doing" dittos, or practicing gum massage. The new school year will unfold with children engaged in meaningful projects. We will play, discover, create, question, collaborate, listen, run, sing, write, paint, build, draw, read, experiment, count, and stretch to be our personal best. Each of these experiences will be part of the "valuable learning hours" we will spend together.

Schools have changed a lot—thank goodness! Sometimes when discussing curriculum, I will hear someone say, "Grammar is still grammar, and 2+2 is still 4. That hasn't changed." True. But what *has* changed is methodology—the way we teach. We know so much more now about the way children learn, and we use that knowledge to make school a meaningful experience for our students.

Throughout this school year, we will feature *Wolf Watch* articles authored by our faculty on child development, curriculum, and topics of interest in your parenting journey. We are blessed to have teachers with so much expertise in early childhood education. I hope you will enjoy hearing about the incredible work they are doing with your children.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

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*
-

Friday, September 20

- *Dads' Club Breakfast: 7:30–9:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR) on the Main Campus*
-

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)*
-

Tuesday, October 1

- *Parents Association Meeting: 8:00–10:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals (2-Day Pre-Primary and Primary II)*
-

Wednesday, October 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals (3-Day and 5-Day Pre-Primary and Primary I)*
-

Friday, October 4

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

Tuesday, October 8

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Individual and Group Pictures (2-Day Pre-Primary and Primary II)*
-

Wednesday, October 9

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

Thursday, October 10

- *Primary II Field Trip*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope you are having a wonderful weekend with friends and family!

This week, I will continue sharing information with you about our program in Lower School. We discussed differentiation last week, and a major component of that approach is allowing for student **CHOICE** and promoting **INQUIRY** in all we do. Intentional alignment work was conducted between Primary and Lower Schools, and work continues in this area in order to provide consistent learning programs.

The Reggio-inspired approach in Primary School models differentiation by providing children with unique learning environments and tailoring curricula based on individual learning styles. A Reggio-inspired classroom also promotes student **CHOICE** and **INQUIRY** by focusing on building the cognitive, social, language, creative, and physical skills that empower students to be knowledge-bearers and researchers in their own learning experiences. So, it is not an accident that our student-centered, constructivist approaches in both Primary and Lower School align beautifully with one another. Continuing these research-informed practices is what is best for students.

Let's take a look at why student **CHOICE** is critical in the classroom. Offering students choices about their education is one of the most powerful ways teachers can boost student learning. Our students vary in ways other than in their skills and abilities. In every classroom, there are students with a wide range of interests and passions. Some students are interested in sports or fine arts, others in literature or math, and others in nature and the outdoors. Students' working preferences also vary: Some enjoy group work, while others enjoy working alone. Some students prefer utilizing technology, while others may enjoy physically making something to represent their learning. We know that when you unleash students' interests and passions, the result will be students who are more invested, happy, and intrinsically motivated.

What does this look like in the classroom? All of our curricular approaches are infused with opportunities for student choice.

- For example, all students get to “shop” for their just-right books every week; they are much more likely to read when the topic is interesting to them, and when it is on the correct level.

- In writer's workshop, a genre is introduced and explored, but the actual writing topic is selected by the students.
- There is choice in math, as well. Students may choose to work independently, in pairs, or in groups, and choice is offered in *where* they work, too.
- In our humanities studies, choice is a tremendous component of the research/nonfiction reading process. Topics such as Texas history, immigration, communities, westward expansion, and community helpers are examined, and then students choose which aspect of that topic interests them. After conducting extensive research, students choose the manner in which they would like to present their new learning.

By getting to choose in the classroom, students engage in deeper, richer learning and display more on-task behavior; students' social and emotional learning increases; the learning environment becomes more collaborative; and teaching and learning are more fun.

Fostering an environment where students have choice naturally promotes student INQUIRY. Our Primary School teachers create an evolving learning environment that empowers students' curiosity, exploration, and response. Children can pursue topics that interest them, and teachers facilitate that learning. This approach emphasizes the student's role in the learning process and sparks creativity and imagination.

While inquiry looks different as children get older, it is prevalent in our Lower School curricular approaches, as well. In humanities classes, student curiosity is used as a guide for investigations and research. As students learn about various topics and content, they are invited to delve deeper into what interests them most. The STEAM curriculum revolves around an inquiry-based, constructivist approach, and it's common to see students collaborating around engineering and coding challenges, utilizing their wonderings and questions to drive solutions. In math, students are encouraged to use inquiry to try to solve problems in many different ways. Again, this inquiry-driven process promotes creative thought and endless possibilities!

Next week, we will look at how **ownership** and **agency** play a role in student learning, and how differentiation, choice, and inquiry promote these important aspects of the learning process.

Have a wonderful week!

Carol R. Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

PA Teacher Appreciation Fall Breakfast (Main Campus)

As the semester gets rolling, let's show our Main Campus teachers and staff some love! **Please sign up to bring in a food item for the upcoming Fall Breakfast on Friday, September 20.**

[Click here for details and to sign up.](#)

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 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
-

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:* Students in grades 2–4 will attend the beginning of their conference
-

Friday, September 20

- *Dads' Club Breakfast: 7:30–9:00 a.m.* in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

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 Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Monday, September 30

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between September 29–October 5 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, October 4

- *Dress Uniform Day and Individual/Group Pictures*
- *Feast of St. Francis Eucharist:* 8:05 a.m.
- *Grade 4 Blessing of the Animals:* 9:00 a.m. in the Courtyard

Middle School

From the Division Head

Dr. Melissa Deuter is a San Antonio–based psychiatrist who specializes in working with tweens, teens, and young adults. She has a blog that is full of great insights for parents and educators. Her most recent entry was a straightforward and timely reminder about the importance of adolescence and the [biological “second chance” offered by puberty](#). I hope you enjoy it!

On an unrelated note, please e-mail [Leigh Williams](#) in the Middle School Office if you do not have a parent name tag. We will expedite the process of getting you one so that you can have easier access to the facility. Thank you!

Best,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Around the World With St. Francis

We are excited to announce our travel program opportunities for next summer! The Wolf Pack will enjoy adventures to Washington, D.C.; Costa Rica; and Greece/Italy. Please review our [travel flyer](#) and mark your calendar for upcoming parent information meetings. (**Please note:** The popular national parks trip to the Grand Canyon will be offered every other November, with our next one taking place in November 2020.)

PA Teacher Appreciation Fall Breakfast (Main Campus)

As the semester gets rolling, let's show our Main Campus teachers and staff some love! **Please sign up to bring in a food item for the upcoming Fall Breakfast on Friday, September 20.**

[Click here for details and to sign up.](#)

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. Use the e-mailed SignUpGenius link to sign up for 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 9

- *Convocation Special Schedule*
- *Grades 5–7: Dress Uniform (No Blazers)*
- *Grade 8: Full Dress Uniform*
- *Convocation and Tie Ceremony: 9:00–10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
- *Convocation Reception (Grade 8 Only): 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*

Tuesday, September 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: 7:15–7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
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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*
 - *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*
-

Friday, September 13

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Grade 7 OLE Trip: September 11–13*
 - *NJHS Meeting (Grade 8 Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
 - *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 (No Blazers)*
 - *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)*
 - *Greece/Italy Parent Meeting: 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)*
-

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*
-

Friday, September 20

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire:* Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms
 - *Dads' Club Breakfast:* 7:30–9:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

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:* 6:00–6:30 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:* Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *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

“A deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all women, men, and children. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don’t function as we are meant to. We break. We fall apart. We numb. We ache. We hurt others. We get sick.”

“True belonging doesn’t require us to change who we are. It requires us to be who we are.”

“Being ourselves means sometimes finding the courage to stand alone.”

“Connection is the energy that is created between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued—when they can give and receive without judgment.”

—Brené Brown

As many of you know, I am a big Brené Brown fan. If you have the opportunity, I highly recommend that you and your family watch her Netflix special, *The Call to Courage*. The quotes above and the show itself reference the importance of having a sense of belonging and of being able to connect with others.

At the conclusion of our third week of classes, I am hopeful that your children are feeling a sense of belonging at St. Francis. Being our true selves requires courage and vulnerability—two capacities that we have the opportunity to practice each and every day.

We experience connection through relationships with others—our friends, our teachers, and our parents and families. Some of these relationships are just beginning, and others are well established. Again, we have daily opportunities to demonstrate respect and kindness, which lead to the development of a mutual sense of trust.

During the upcoming weeks, there are three school activities intended to further foster a sense of belonging and connection: (1) **Upper School Parent Night on Tuesday, September 10**; (2) the **Upper School Retreat from Thursday, September 12, through Saturday, September 14**; and (3) our first **student-led conferences** of the new school year on **Wednesday, September 18**. We've included additional information about these important events below this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathleen Flaniken [via e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6130.

We look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson, EdD
Head of Upper School

P.S. To watch the one-minute trailer for Brené Brown's *The Call to Courage*, please [click here](#). You may also want to use the following discussion questions after watching the Netflix special:

Brené Brown: *The Call to Courage* Discussion Questions

1. How do you numb the pain and noise when something overwhelms you?
2. Brené's mantra in the morning is, "Today, I will choose courage over comfort." What's a message that you might need to repeat to yourself?
3. Brené mentions that belonging isn't the same as fitting in. Do you strive to fit in? What steps can you take to help yourself move in the right direction and help others feel like they belong?

4. Do you tend to lean into joy or cling to foreboding joy?
5. What's your work/school culture like? What steps can you take this week to foster vulnerability and creativity?
6. Since courage and gratitude physiologically impact our bodies, what are some positive steps you can take today to lower your stress level and increase your gratitude level?

Finally, I wanted to share Brené's excellent closing words in *The Call to Courage*: "Vulnerability seems hard, scary, and dangerous. But it's not as hard, scary, or dangerous as getting to the end of our lives and having to ask ourselves, 'What if I would have shown up?' Show up, be seen, answer the call to courage. Because you're worth it. You're worth being brave."

Parent Information Night Is Tuesday

This Tuesday evening, **September 10**, Upper School faculty members are excited to welcome you to Parent Information Night. The event will begin at **6:00 p.m. in Crum Loft**. Come early (beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Crum Lobby) to enjoy some light bites and to learn about different parent volunteer opportunities.

Upper School Retreat: Release Forms Due Tomorrow + Medication Drop-off Tuesday

Please be sure to read through the important information about our upcoming Upper School Retreat that Steven Scales sent via e-mail last Thursday. **Signed camp release forms are due no later than tomorrow—Monday, September 9**. In addition, please note that Nurse Toler will be available in the Crum Lobby from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Parent Information Night (this Tuesday, September 10) for drop-off of student medications.

Sign Up for Welcome to the Den Conferences

There is **no class on Wednesday, September 18**, so that advisors can conduct **Welcome to the Den conferences**. With the assistance of their advisor, students will lead the conversation on academic and social/emotional strengths, and set goals for this year. Please click the name of your child's advisor below to sign up.

- [Mrs. Matzen](#)
- [Mrs. Allub](#)

- [Dr. Jones](#)
- [Mr. Madden](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 9

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–5:30 p.m.*
 - *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*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 5:30 p.m.*
 - *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*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–5:30 p.m.*
-

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*

Sunday, September 15

- *Clue Rehearsal: 1:00–5:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, September 16

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 6:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, September 17

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in Andrews House*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. School of the Woods: 5:00 p.m. at School of the Woods*
-

Wednesday, September 18

- *Student Holiday/Welcome to the Den Conferences*
-

Thursday, September 19

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 5:45 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. The Emery/Weiner School: 4:00 p.m. at The Emery/Weiner School*
-

Friday, September 20

- *Day 5 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

- *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–5:30 p.m.*
-

Saturday, September 21

- *Second Baptist Annual Soaring Eagles Cross-Country Meet: All day at Second Baptist Church's West Campus*
-

Sunday, September 22

- *Clue Rehearsal: 1:00–5:00 p.m.*

Church

Order Your Holiday Poinsettias—and Support the Fine Arts at SFES!

Love fine arts? Want to support the fine arts department at St. Francis Episcopal School? Don't forget to become a member of Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA)!

FoFA is also selling **beautiful 16" poinsettias** for the holiday season! **The deadline to order is Friday, October 4.** All proceeds go directly to support the fine arts teachers' "wish lists," which include an array of items that further support our children's arts learning.

Click [here](#) to become a member of FoFA and to order your poinsettias.

Bible Studies for Moms Kick Off Tuesday

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](#).

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.
- **God Lights Our Way (GLOW):** Students in **grades 5 to 8**, join us at **10:00 a.m. in CE 212** for "The 24/7 Experience," and learn what it means to follow Christ every day in the real world.
- **Adult Education:** What does it look like to serve God the other six days of the week? Find out during the *Faith and Work* series based on the

book *Every Good Endeavor* by Timothy Keller. This four-week class begins **Sunday, September 15**, and will meet at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)**.

- **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.