

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 22

All School

From the Head of School: A Note Regarding Thursday's Storm

Dear St. Francis Parents,

As parents of two children, Vickie and I have gone through what many of you experienced on Thursday. Any time there is a sudden notification by the school to pick up your child, it can cause stress and anxiety. Couple that with being unable to reach your children because of the circumstances, and it is easy to see why people were anxious. I want to reassure you that whatever the circumstances, our first priority is the safety and well-being of our St. Francis family—you included!

Preceding Thursday, we had been monitoring the situation and working with our local partners and other area Heads of School. Events deteriorated rapidly, and we had a window of time where we could safely dismiss students. The information we were working under was not favorable the more the day progressed. Once again, we will always make our decisions based on the safety of our students, families, and staff, and with the information we have in-hand.

Just as we encourage our students to be reflective, being a part of a learning community gives us this same opportunity—to see how we can grow and improve. Moving forward, I will provide clear and concise communication to best support your need for information. I will work with our team to best support our parents. As I close, please know that no matter the situation, our

staff will ALWAYS stay with our students—for as long as necessary—to ensure their safety and comfort. I look forward to us continuing to learn together.

Warmly,



Steve Lovejoy
Head of School

Shooting for Success: Sporting Clays Classic Invitation Deadline Is Monday!

Attention, all interested sponsors and shooters! Monday, September 23, is the deadline to be included in our Sporting Clays Classic invitation, which will be mailed out in early October. Don't forget to round up your team or take advantage of opportunities that deliver brand visibility through exclusive signage and print recognition while supporting our fifth annual Sporting Clays Classic, presented by Gordy & Sons Outfitters.

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

- \$10,000—Course Sponsor (North)
- \$2,500—Faculty Team Sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- \$1,250—Lunch Sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- \$1,250—Double Down Game (2 sponsors needed)
- \$1,000—Professional Instructor
- \$500—Mulligan Station Sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- \$200—Station Sponsors (7 sponsors needed)

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS!

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Gordy & Sons Outfitters; our major course sponsor, Shipley Do-Nuts; and the following committed sponsors and supporters (listing as of 9/20)!

Teams

- Christina Blackwell '95 / Angela Bookmyer / Ashley Grigsby / Maggie Stacy

- Cadence Bank
- CityStreet Residential Partners
- The Conner Family
- GHI Energy
- Jason Fagan / Stedman Grigsby / Colin Matthews / Steve Thompson
- Gordy & Sons Outfitters
 - H.C. Grimet / Steve Guinn / Murrah Mayberry / Wyatt McCulloch
- Josh Hancock
- Carol Lee and Allen Lyons
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- The Stacy / Ableson Families
- Tex-Trude
- Thompson and Horton
- TMT Holdings
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- Black Sails Juice Co.
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- The Lovejoy Family
- McKenzie Rhody LLP
- Joanie McLeod
- Dr. Mike Mizell
- The Rosser Family
- Salt Investment Partners
- Shipley Do-Nuts
- Universal Plant Services

There is still time, so be sure to check out the [event website](#) or the [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#) to discover the various ways you can participate.

The Sporting Clays Classic benefits the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E Fund, which provides cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment (C.A.R.E) for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in our school programs.

QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit the [Special Events page](#) under the Giving tab on the St. Francis home page.

You may also e-mail SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org or contact [Will Stacy](#), Sporting Clays Classic chair.

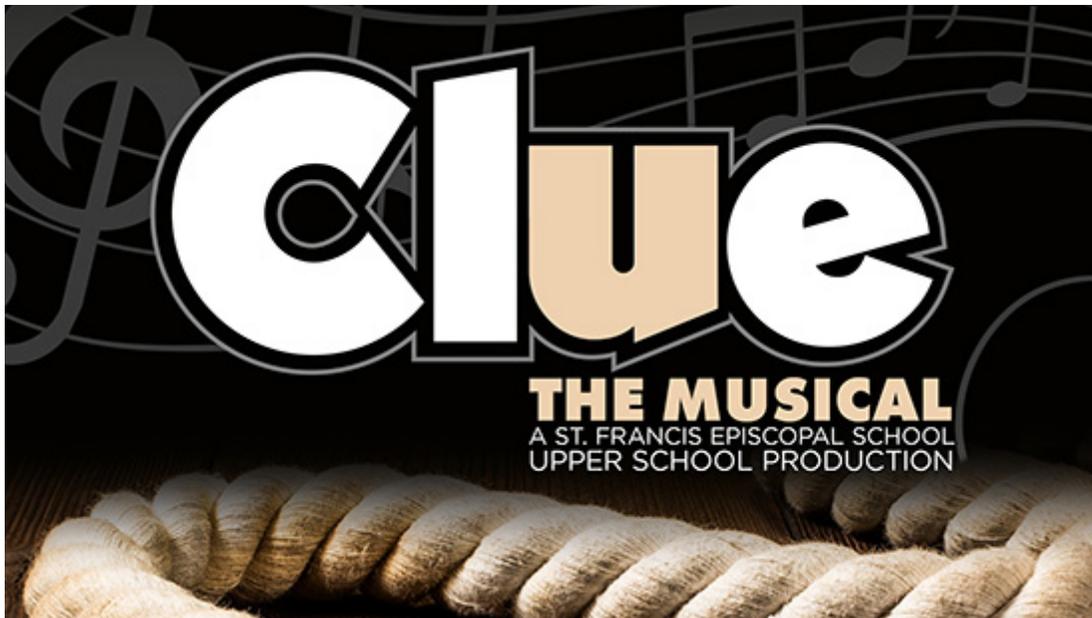
A Note About Parents' Night Out

Since all after-school activities were cancelled on Friday due to inclement weather, the first Parents' Night Out of the school year is now scheduled for **Friday, October 24, at 5:30 p.m. on the Main Campus.**

Those who registered for the September event may transfer their registration to the October event or request a refund by e-mailing [Margaret Newsom](#). Otherwise, registration for the October Parents' Night Out will be available via My BackPack soon.

We're sorry for any inconvenience this situation caused, and appreciate your understanding as we work to keep our students and families safe!

Go Behind the Scenes With *Clue* at the FoFA Open House on October 4



Don't have a "clue" about FoFA? Attend the open house at the Andrews House on the South Campus on **Friday, October 4, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.** for a behind-the-scenes look at the St. Francis Upper School *Clue* production and to learn more about FoFA. All current and prospective FoFA members welcome!

Order Your Holiday Poinsettias by October 7

The holidays will be here before you know it! Please support Friends of Fine Arts by ordering your poinsettias by **Monday, October 7**. Poinsettias make great gifts, are beautiful in your home, and are perfect for your office or as gifts for your coworkers. If you order more than 25 poinsettias, you will receive **FREE DELIVERY!** Purchase your poinsettias [here](#).

Fall Lunch and Learn Is October 16—Buy Your Tickets Today!

The Fall Parents Association Lunch and Learn will be held on **Wednesday, October 16, at 11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall on the Main Campus.**

- The PA is excited to welcome **Julie Hibbs**, founder and president of Squared Away, as our speaker. Julie is a **Certified Professional Organizer** who has spent the last 20 years helping Houstonians reduce stress, increase productivity, and manage time better through proven, dependable, and stylish organization solutions.

- Tickets are \$15 (including lunch) and can be purchased in the [PA Membership Toolkit](#) online store.
- **The deadline to register is Friday, October 11.**

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: Play “pass the story.” One family member starts a story and each family member adds a new part. See how many examples of honor you can add to the story. For an extra challenge, use the following words: “football,” “school,” and “vacation.”

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 admissions 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.

Friday, November 8, 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.

Primary School

From the Pre-Primary Lead Teachers

When you enter the classrooms at the Primary School, you see children choosing their own materials, using them appropriately and creatively, and then (mostly!) putting them away. You hear children talking to one another, using phrases like “you can have a turn after me,” or “it hurt my feelings when....” You may even see a child sitting by himself, taking deep breaths and calming down.

Though the children may be young, Primary School students are working through and dealing with big things! They are experiencing new emotions, trying to understand how to interact with others, and searching for their place in the classroom community and even in the big world.

The teachers at St. Francis integrate social-emotional learning into everything we do to help the children with these big things—not only for school, but for the rest of their lives. Social-emotional education is teaching students self-help skills such as independence, self-regulation, and how to positively interact with others.

When children begin Pre-Primary at the age of 2, they are often dependent on adults. As educators, we know how important it is that children learn to be independent. We explicitly teach things, such as organizing materials, cleaning up after snack time, and putting on rain boots. This social-emotional teaching is done through teacher modeling, encouragement, and by allowing the time to practice these skills independently. As children begin to do tasks more independently, they begin to see themselves as capable and competent. It can benefit your child to use these same techniques at home!

Children may experience many emotions when they enter a new school, or even when beginning a new school year. They need guidance to understand and learn ways to appropriately express their feelings. In the Primary School, we take the time to identify emotions, validate them, and then learn together how to manage them. The teachers intentionally plan games and activities that teach mindfulness and deep-breathing techniques, and the students can then use these skills to practice self-regulation. Many classes even practice yoga! We also utilize any opportunity to teach empathy and encourage children to care for the feelings of others.

Another component of social-emotional education is deliberately teaching appropriate ways to interact with others and providing opportunities to practice. We learn about being good listeners, both to adults and to our peers. We learn how to use our words, whether it's to ask for assistance or to say good morning. Teachers help children problem-solve by facilitating their discussions. We guide the children to talk about their feelings, what is making them feel that way, and what can be done to make it better. Over time, the children will have the tools to be able to problem-solve on their own.

The next time you are in the Primary School, be on the lookout for these signs of social-emotional learning. These lessons will stick with your child throughout school and their lives, and will help them to be happy and successful learners!

Sincerely,

Madison Breceovich, Maggy Britton, Susan Meriwether, and Jane Oteiza
Pre-Primary Lead Teachers

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

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

- *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals (2-Day Pre-Primary and Primary II)*
- *Primary II Furry Friends Picnic*
- *Parents Association Meeting: 8:00–10:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall on the Main Campus*
- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*

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*
-

Monday, October 7–Friday, October 11

- *Homecoming Week: See the detailed schedule in the coming weeks for games and spirit day.*
-

Tuesday, October 8

- *Individual and Group Pictures (2-Day and 5-Day Pre-Primary and Primary II)*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 9

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

Thursday, October 10

- *Primary II Field Trip*

Monday, October 14

- *Columbus Day Holiday: No School*
-

Tuesday, October 15

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

Wednesday, October 16

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel (Dominick, Wiener)*
 - *Parents Association Lunch and Learn: 11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall on the Main Campus*
-

Thursday, October 17

- *Dad's Club Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus*
-

Sunday, October 20

- *Showcase Sunday Admissions Event: 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; Primary School Stay and Play for prospective families*
-

Tuesday, October 22

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

Wednesday, October 23

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

Friday, October 24

- *Sporting Clays Classic*
 - *Explore and Extend Parents' Night Out (Primary II through Grade 5): 5:30 p.m. on the Main Campus*
-

Tuesday, October 30

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

Wednesday, October 31

- *Parent/Teacher Conferences: Primary School Student Holiday*

Lower School

From the Division Head

What an amazing day we all had on Wednesday discussing your precious children and learning more about how we can provide the best learning environment for them! We appreciate everyone making this a priority!

Mark your calendars for a meeting on **Thursday, October 3, at noon** with an Apple account executive who will be here to discuss the one-to-one iPad implementation. I hope to see you there!

From time to time, questions or concerns may arise, and I wanted to share a bit about **how you can communicate with us**. We do not have a person or an organization that fields questions from parents and then reports those

concerns to the administration or anyone else. We strongly believe that the person who has the concern or question needs to be the one to communicate directly with the correct person or people in order to get the concerns resolved. Almost always, your first order of contact is your child's teacher(s). If you need to consult with someone after that, know that you have a voice and that we are open to discussing anything with you. We often hear, "We didn't want to be complainers or be 'one of those parents.'" However, if we do not know about concerns or issues, we can't work on a solution. Many times, there is information that parents simply do not have that we can share that easily solves a problem.

To conclude my series about **crucial components** to our Lower School program, I asked Ashley Stephenson, our literacy specialist for Primary II through second grade, to write a few words on how we weave PLAY, MOVEMENT, and SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING into our everyday program. Please find her article below.

I hope you have a wonderful week!

Carol R. Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

From the Literacy Specialist

PLAY is a critical component of our students' daily existence, which reminds me of a famous quote from Fred Rogers: "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play *is* serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." Although we know that a 5-year-old's play looks much different than a 10-year-old's play, having opportunities throughout the school day to engage in meaningful play is beneficial for all of our students.

In gathering information for this article, I looked to the Harvard Graduate School of Education's website. Their recent blog series on play in school shares core beliefs about playful learning in schools. These beliefs are right in line with our approaches in Lower School:

- **Play is a core resource for learning.** Through play, children try out ideas, test theories, experiment with symbol systems, explore social relations, take risks, and reimagine the world. They develop agency, empathy, and their imaginations. They learn to deal with uncertainty.

While not all learning has to be playful, a close look at play and playfulness reveals numerous emotional, social, and cognitive features that can powerfully abet learning.

- **Learning through play in schools involves play with a purpose.** A pedagogy of play in schools involves play with a purpose, bringing together educators' learning goals and students' natural ways of learning through play. Playful learning situates curricular goals, content, and activities within a larger purpose of helping learners understand, explore, and shape their world.
- **Learning through play is a mindset, with playfulness as the active ingredient.** Embracing a pedagogy of play means activating mindsets where learners and teachers frame and reframe experiences as occasions to be curious, creative, and imaginative, and to find joy in exploring the "what if..." space of learning and play.

Play provides a host of SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL learning benefits, as it can help to strengthen social relationships, develop empathy through perspective-taking, foster self-regulation skills, teach how to navigate difficult feelings (think frustration or disappointment), and help children learn to negotiate and/or compromise.

Our teachers are highly aware of the positive impacts that play can have on student learning, and they intentionally build in opportunities for play throughout the school day. Below are just a few of the ways that you might see play unfold at school:

- The kindergarten classes have a block of time set aside each day for creative play, where students have the chance to engage in building, creating, dramatizing, and more.
- During morning meeting, classes play different types of games that work to build community or reinforce skills being taught in class.
- Math "workplaces" are play-based, as they provide students with opportunities to practice skills while navigating the rules of game-play with a partner or small group.
- During daily quiet time, students often have the choice to engage in independent play (LEGOs, playdough, etc.).
- Every grade level participates in daily outdoor play. This time of the day is a favorite of many because it provides myriad opportunities for engaging in fun and exciting social play situations.

You might be wondering how MOVEMENT fits with play and social-emotional learning. In order for learning to occur, a certain level of alertness is needed

for information to be moved into long-term memory. In his book *Learning Begins: The Science of Working Memory and Attention for the Classroom Teacher*, Andrew Watson shares, “No matter their age, students forbidden from moving may struggle to find the alertness level essential for attention.” One of a teacher’s greatest tools is having the ability to notice if his/her students’ alertness levels are declining. Often, the cure is a brief brain break, which involves some type of movement. Movement also occurs throughout the school day by walking from class to class (one of the many blessings of having a large campus), transitioning between classroom activities, participating in PE classes four times a week, and engaging in outdoor play.

As you can see, PLAY, MOVEMENT, and SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING not only are interconnected, but also are critical components in helping to support the growth of each of our Lower School students. In the weeks ahead, I challenge you to set aside time each day to play as a family—not only is this a great way to spend quality time together, but also it’s a wonderful way to support your child’s social and emotional development.

My best,

Ashley Stephenson, MEd
Literacy Specialist

Lower School Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale

On the fence about purchasing last year’s scrapbook? Go take a sneak peek in the Crum Library, where the scrapbook samples are on reserve this month! Make your purchase in the [PA Membership Toolkit](#) store, online or via the app. 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](#).

Mark Your Calendar

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*
-

Monday, October 7–Friday, October 11

- *Homecoming Week:* See the detailed schedule in the coming weeks for games and spirit days
-

Monday, October 7

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 6–12 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Monday, October 14

- *Columbus Day Holiday:* No School
-

Wednesday, October 16

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 13–19 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
- *Parents Association Lunch and Learn:* 11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall

Middle School

From the Division Head

The love and energy you invest in your children and our school was on full display this week with the myriad events hosted (and foisted) on our campus. We began the week with a large crowd at Parent Information Night, had a full day of conferences on Wednesday, and were forced to close the week with an early dismissal. We needed your help and partnership with each of these events, and you were there. We asked for a great deal of your time this week, and I want you to know that we appreciate you.

I also want to offer a special thank-you for your flexibility Thursday. Student and community safety is our highest priority, and we are thankful that all students were able to make it home or to a friend's house safely. We have heard that some homes have been affected by the weather. Please reach out to us if there is anything we can do for you and your family in the wake of last week's storm.

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Monday Afternoon: Volunteers Needed to Help With School Photos

Individual school photos for Middle School will be taken tomorrow, **Monday, September 23**. We are looking for volunteers to help students prepare themselves for photos tomorrow afternoon and to help the photographers with organizing. If you are interested in helping out, please [click here](#) to sign up for a one-hour shift.

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

On the fence about purchasing last year's fourth-grade scrapbook? Go take a sneak peek in the Crum Library, where the scrapbook samples are on reserve this month! Make your purchase in the [PA Membership Toolkit](#) store, online or via the app. 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](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 23

- *Monday Schedule/Full Dress Uniform (Blazers for Photos Only)*
- *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*
- **No Morning Tutorials**
- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

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

- *Grades 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*
-

Monday, September 30

- *Grades 5 and 6: Monday Schedule/**Regular Uniform***
 - *Grades 7 and 8: ERB Special Block Schedule/**Regular Uniform***
 - *ERB Testing for Grades 7 and 8: 7:50 a.m.; students report to assigned classrooms*
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Tuesday, October 1

- *Grades 5 and 6: Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grades 7 and 8: ERB Special Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- **No Eighth-Grade Bible Study**
 - *ERB Testing for Grades 7 and 8: 7:50 a.m.*; students report to assigned classrooms
-

Wednesday, October 2

- *Grades 5 and 6: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grades 7 and 8: ERB Special Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Trimester 1 Progress Reports Posted Online to Parents*
 - **No Seventh-Grade Bible Study**
 - **No Chapel Today**
 - *ERB Testing for Grades 7 and 8: 7:30 a.m.*; students report to assigned classrooms
-

Thursday, October 3

- *Grade 5: Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Thursday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *ERB Makeup Testing: 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.*
 - *MS Councils (Review Council Officer Election Procedures): 9:15–10:00 a.m.* in classrooms
-

Friday, October 4

- ***Eucharist Schedule/Dress Uniform***
 - *MS/US Eucharist (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi): 11:20 a.m.–12:10 p.m.* in the Chapel
 - *ERB Makeup Testing: 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.*
-

Monday, October 7–Friday, October 11

- *Homecoming Week:* See the detailed schedule in the coming weeks for games and spirit days
 - *Sign-up for Council Office Elections*
-

Monday, October 7

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

Tuesday, October 8

- *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
 - *Pathways Assembly for Parents:* 1:30–2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Wednesday, October 9

- *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
 - *Chapel:* 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
-

Thursday, October 10

- *Pathways Special 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
- *Pathways Assembly for Grades 5 and 6:* 8:10–9:10 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- *Pathways Assembly for Grades 7 and 8:* 9:30–10:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)

- *Booster Bash*: 12:00–1:50 p.m. in the Dining Hall
 - *Fall Pep Rally (Students and Faculty Only)*: 2:35–3:05 p.m. in the Main Campus Gym
 - *Varsity Homecoming Football Game*: 5:30 p.m. on the South Campus
-

Friday, October 11

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire*: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms

Upper School

From the Upper School Mathematics Chair

“Welcome to the Den!” This is what we call the parent-teacher conferences held early in the school year. Indeed, we as faculty want very much to welcome our young Wolves and their families to what is already proving to be a fantastic year at St. Francis.

So **why do we have students lead this conversation?** The philosophy behind a student-led conference is twofold: to encourage students to take ownership of their education, and to give them practice communicating their progress.

One of our guiding principles in the Upper School is to involve our students so immersively in their own education that they have no choice but to grow from the experience. These conferences provide one such opportunity. No longer will students sit passively and listen to reports from their teachers. It is now the students’ responsibility to maintain an awareness of their own standing in each of their courses, seek out their teachers to gather feedback on ways to improve, and set their own goals with the help of their advisors. Students are given control of the dialogue, they chart the course of the conference, and they share their learning experience with those who have a stake in their education.

The conference itself is about student communication of reflection and future goals. During the 20-minute session, each student gets a chance to sit down with his or her advisor and parents to reflect on the year so far, noting how each class is going, and showcasing highlights and opportunities for growth.

In preparing for the conference, students are asked to think about their non-academic experience as well, identifying what makes them shine and how the faculty at St. Francis can best support them. In addition to a reflection on their time here so far, students look forward by setting S.M.A.R.T. goals for the trimester and for the year, which are **s**pecific, **m**easurable, **a**chievable, **r**esults-focused, and **t**ime-bound. Organizing all of this and articulating it to adults is a skill to build, and it necessitates ongoing open and honest dialogue between students and their teachers. As we continue to do these student-led conferences, we anticipate watching students develop their own voice both in creating and in telling the story of their high school experience.

Welcome to the Den!

Cara Matzen
Upper School Mathematics Chair

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, September 22

- *Clue Rehearsal*: 1:00–5:00 p.m.
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Monday, September 23

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class)*: 6:00 p.m.
 - *Volleyball vs. Houston Christian Academy*: 5:00 p.m. at Houston Christian Academy
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Tuesday, September 24

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel*: 10:20 a.m. in the Andrews House
 - *Clue Rehearsal*: 4:00–5:45 p.m.
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Wednesday, September 25

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 5:15 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. St. John's School: 5:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
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Thursday, September 26

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*
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Friday, September 27

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 5:45 p.m.*
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Saturday, September 28

- *Clue Rehearsal: 10:00–4:00 p.m.*
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Sunday, September 29

- *Clue Rehearsal: 1:00–5:00 p.m.*
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Monday, September 30

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–5:15 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. Houston Christian Academy: 5:00 p.m. at Crum Gym*
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Tuesday, October 1

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 6:00 p.m.*
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Wednesday, October 2

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. Second Baptist: 5:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
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Thursday, October 3

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 6:30 p.m.*
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Friday, October 4

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45–9:00 a.m. in the Concessions area near the Main Campus gym*
 - *Eucharist: 11:20 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*
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Saturday, October 5

- *Race for the Cure Cross-Country Event: All day; away*
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Monday, October 7–Friday, October 11

- *Homecoming Week*: See the detailed schedule in the coming weeks for games and spirit days

Church

Bible Studies for Moms on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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**
- **Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus**

Come whenever you can—in workout or work wear! We are studying 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 began **Sunday, September 15**, and meets 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.