

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 29

All School

A Message from the St. Francis Board of Trustees

We are pleased to report a very positive start to the 2019–20 school year. The St. Francis Board of Trustees typically welcomes new members each fall as we simultaneously thank outgoing members for their service. This year we would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Maggie Stacy. Maggie currently serves as board president for the Ronald McDonald House and has professional experience as an executive recruiter. We would like to express our appreciation to departing board members Michael Jamieson, a nine-year veteran of the board; Greg Looser, who was instrumental in the Time to Grow capital campaign; and Courtney Robertson, former secretary of the board of trustees and leader in our capital campaign efforts. We are grateful for the time, talent, and treasure they have shared with our school. Our board strives to recruit members from a wide variety of professional backgrounds and experiences, and bylaws require that our board be composed of 60 percent Episcopalians and 30 percent St. Francis parishioners. For a full list of members, [click here](#).

Members of the St. Francis Board of Trustees are often asked about what we do and our role in the community. Simply put, board members serve as stewards of the school's resources. Our work is forward-looking and involves financial and strategic planning for the school, while the Head of School is responsible for the school's day-to-day operations.

In August, the board kicked off the new school year with an all-day retreat focused on the implementation of [St. Francis 2025](#), the strategic plan that was presented to the community in the spring. As you hopefully heard in the September message from Head of School, Steve Lovejoy, we are excited to announce several initiatives that are in the process of being implemented. Curriculum and programming audits are underway, 1:1 technology implementation is rolling out in our Lower School, and several task groups have formed who will help evaluate the various goals to move implementation forward.

The Upper School initiative (goal 3 in the strategic plan, [St. Francis 2025](#)) is also experiencing positive momentum. We have been working to set Upper School tuition rates for the upcoming year. **One of our top priorities is to keep our St. Francis students through high school, so we have set Upper School tuition at a lower rate for current St. Francis families. Additionally, we will be lowering the overall tuition rate for the Upper School program.** We will be sharing more information with you all soon. We are excited about the growth and trajectory of our school and appreciative of the support of our St. Francis community.

In service,

Kate Denham
Chair, Board of Trustees

St. Francis Fund Kicks Off!

We are thrilled to announce that **100%** of the board of trustees and **93%** of faculty and staff have already given to this year's St. Francis Fund!

Giving to the St. Francis Fund is the *most important* way families can financially support our school. Click [here](#) to give now!

We are honored to chair this year's St. Francis Fund and are grateful for the support of a committee of dedicated parents (listed [here](#)). When your grade-level volunteer reaches out to you, we hope you will be inspired to support the school we all love.

Sincerely,

Amy and Rob Pierce (Parents of Kaitlyn, Grade 8, and Kamren, Grade 5)
St. Francis Fund Chairs, 2019-20

Support Wolves Football at the Homecoming Game on October 10!

Come out and support your Middle School Grade 7/8 football team as **the Wolves take on the Southwest Football League Shamrocks on Thursday, October 10, at 5:30 p.m. on the South Campus!** Please bring money to purchase concessions and drinks, including sliders from Tailgate Sliderz Food Truck. The Athletics Booster Club will be selling a limited selection of Wolf Wear, as well.

October Virtue of the Month: Scholarship

During the month of October, the St. Francis community will be focusing on the virtue of scholarship. This is also one of the St. Francis Cornerstones. Our virtue verse is James 1:5: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault."* 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 "scholarship"?

The Upper School Presents *Clue*

The St. Francis Upper School invites you to a fun-filled, interactive musical that brings the world's best-known suspects to life and invites the audience to help solve the mystery: who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room, and with what weapon?

Join us in the Andrews House on the South Campus:

- **Friday, October 25, and Saturday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, October 27, at 3:00 p.m. (Matinee)**
- General admission

Register Soon! Sporting Clays Classic Is Friday, October 25

If you can't attend the Sporting Clays Classic presented by Gordy & Sons Outfitters, but would still like to support the event, there are several options

available. Take advantage of sponsorships that deliver brand visibility to the almost 200 attendees!

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

- \$2,500—Faculty Team [Two Available]
- \$1,250—Double Down Game [Two Available]
- \$200—Station [Six Available]

REGISTER TODAY!

There's still time to build a team! Register yours soon via the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#).

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.

Get the Scoop at the PA General Meeting on Tuesday

The Parents Association (PA) general meeting will take place this **Tuesday, October 1, at 8:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall on the Main Campus**. Open to all parents, this meeting is an opportunity to hear reports from PA committee chairs and to participate in a discussion of matters as they pertain to PA business.

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is Friday

The Athletics Booster Club's next Wolf Wear sale will be held Friday, October 4, from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. in the concessions stand near the Main Campus gym. The following reorders will be available:

- Remaining cotton T-shirt reorders
- Nike 1/4-zip pullovers in navy, red, and gray
- Nike boys PE shorts in navy and gray
- Nike boys Dri-FIT T-shirts
- Girls PE shorts

In addition, please remember to pick up your orders if you have received a text that they are in.

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

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the St. Francis Upper School *Clue* production and learn more about Friends of Fine Arts at the FoFA open house at Andrews House (South Campus) this **Friday, October 4, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.** All current and prospective FoFA members welcome!

Order Your Holiday Poinsettias by October 7

Don't forget to buy poinsettias and support the fine arts department! Orders of 25+ receive **FREE DELIVERY**. Click [here](#) to purchase yours today!

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.
- **Lower School Stay and Play:** 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- **Middle School Showcase:** 1:00–3:00 p.m.

To learn more about our group tours and to register, please [click here](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

Denise Pope is a senior lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Education and co-founded Challenge Success. This Stanford-based organization focuses on a “broad definition of success and research-based strategies that promote student well-being and engagement with learning.” Looking beyond grades and test scores, Pope believes that to raise resilient, ethical, and motivated learners, children need PDF every day: **p**laytime, **d**owntime, and **f**amily time.

Unstructured **playtime** that is initiated by the child and guided by his or her imagination makes it possible for children to build on their strengths and talents, and grow in areas that are still developing. Children need time, space, and the support of trusted adults to reach their potential. “Play and learning are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child’s lab.” (“10 Things Every Parent Should Know About Play.” The National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Downtime isn’t just time spent away from school. Time away from planned extracurricular activities and sports is also necessary for children. Downtime is time spent at home or even in after-school programs or other places that gives children the opportunity for free play, relaxing, or other leisure activities that aren’t planned by adults. Everyone needs downtime. When my children were young, we loved our weekend “nothing days.” These were cherished days of sleeping a little later, playing outside, cooking together, and being spontaneous. We didn’t know what would happen that day, but our goal was to not schedule anything.

Pope believes that **family time** is a priority for healthy development in children. She says that this should start with a tech-free mealtime for children and adults. “We are all glued to our phones way too much, and what we are finding is there is not enough face-to-face conversation happening, particularly at home.”

Even though your children are in Primary School, you may have concerns about the development of their academic skills. When will they learn to read? Will they be ready for kindergarten? According to Pope, “our largely singular focus on academic achievement has resulted in a lack of attention to other components of a successful life—the ability to be independent, adaptable, ethical, and engaged critical thinkers.”

As you consider how you can include **playtime, downtime, and family time** in your child’s day, I hope you will think of the importance of PDF for you, too. As airline flight attendants remind us, “place the oxygen mask on yourself first.” When you’re strong and healthy, so are your children.

Sincerely,

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

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*

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*
- *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 25

- *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 Assistant Division Head

This week, I wanted to continue the theme of building our students' self-advocacy, especially in regards to them reporting incidents or issues to their teachers when they occur. We work with our students regularly in this area, but we need your support at home to solidify these efforts.

We discuss with our students how important it is for them to have a voice in and ownership of their lives. Students need practice communicating with people who are around to support them, whether that support comes from teachers and administrators at school or parents/guardians at home.

It is also important for students to report incidents at school so we can problem-solve and start the conflict-resolution process as soon as possible. We want to support all involved students in a fair and respectful process. It is difficult for children to accurately recall what occurred when this process does not start immediately. Any delay can significantly impact our ability to help the students involved, especially those who may need guidance with behavior choices.

Speaking up for oneself is a skill we focus on from an early age. Many times, students are concerned about what others, especially their classmates, will think of them if they report incidents to their teachers. They worry others will think they are tattling on someone, or that their friendships could be affected. We spend a great deal of time coaching our students to seek "help" when needed and help them understand this is not just for them but also for the other student(s) who may have made a mistake or a poor choice.

At home, you can play a big part in your child's self-advocacy development. If your child reports an incident to you that occurred at school, share with them how important it is to get "help" from a teacher as soon as possible. Sharing a story about when you had to speak up for yourself and how the situation turned out is the best way to model appropriate self-advocacy strategies.

Ultimately, our students are going to grow into adults who will be responsible for their own lives. This is why we start the conversations/coaching early—to build their ability to self-advocate and feel empowered to stand up for what they believe is right. Continuing these types of conversations at home will help your child’s growth in this skill and show him or her that we are all on the same team for promoting positive social-emotional development.

Best regards,

Ryan Kochel, MEd
Assistant Head of Lower School for Student Life

Show Your St. Francis Spirit During Homecoming Week

To celebrate Homecoming Week on October 7–11, Lower School will be decorating doors and has scheduled several fun dress days to show community and school pride:

- **MONDAY:** Regular Uniform
- **TUESDAY:** Crazy Sock Day—Show us your craziest socks with regular uniform!
- **WEDNESDAY:** Texas Pride Day—Show your pride in our great state with all things Texas. Wear the following options with blue jeans or uniform bottoms:
 - Western attire (no spurs, please)
 - Something with the Texas flag on it
 - Something honoring your favorite Texas team (college or professional)
- **THURSDAY:** School Spirit Day—Wear your favorite St. Francis gear (sports jerseys, Wolf Wear, event T-shirts, etc.) with uniform bottoms and show your school pride!
- **FRIDAY:** Free Dress—Please note the following guidelines, per the *Lower School Handbook*:
 - Skirts same length as uniform skirts
 - Shorts same length as uniform shorts
 - Solid navy or white socks in any length
 - Athletic shoes in any color
 - No inappropriate logos or advertising
 - No tank tops or spaghetti straps
 - No yoga pants or leggings

LOWER SCHOOL NIGHT IS OCTOBER 10

Join us on Thursday, October 10, in Crum Gym for our second annual Lower School Night!

- 4:45 p.m.—Arrival Time
- 5:00 p.m.—Upper School Volleyball Match

Lower School students will line up for the pregame tunnel, stand with the team for the national anthem, and receive a giveaway.

Volunteers Needed for Campus Birthday Board

Calling all creative and crafty parents! Help celebrate Lower and Middle School birthdays by decorating the campus birthday board in the Dining Hall.

- Parent volunteers are needed to switch out the theme and student names each month, and can sign up for one month or multiple months.
- Click [here](#) and [here](#) for examples of previous birthday board designs.
- Contact [Jen McDonald](#), chair, if you'd like to help.

Sign Up for Parent Lunch Visits

Please be sure to review the recent e-mail containing details about scheduling lunch dates with your child—it includes important details about this process. To sign up, [click here](#) or visit the “Quick Links” section of the Parent Portal and select “Schedule Lunch Visit.”

Buy Your Holiday Poinsettias Today

Don't forget to buy poinsettias and support the fine arts department! Orders of 25+ receive **FREE DELIVERY**. Click [here](#) to purchase yours today!

Lower School Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale

Don't miss your chance to grab a sneak peek of the Lower School scrapbook in the Crum Library!

- Make your purchase in the [PA Membership Toolkit](#) store, online, or via the app.
- Order for your child's grade last year.
- With questions, please [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 30

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

Tuesday, October 1

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

Thursday, October 3

- *iPad Parent Meeting:* 12:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

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*
-

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*
-

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: 1:00–3:00 p.m.; Lower School Stay and Play for prospective families*
-

Monday, October 21–Thursday, October 24

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

Monday, October 21

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between October 20–26 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*

- *Hearing & Vision Screenings:* October 21–23 for kindergarten, first grade, third grade, and new students
-

Wednesday, October 23

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

Friday, October 25

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

This was an exciting week for the Middle School. Our fifth- and sixth-grade students traveled to OLEs on Thursday and Friday, and our seventh- and eighth-grade students had their run of the facility while their colleagues were away. I had the chance to attend the sixth-grade OLE, where I saw some pretty cool stuff. I saw your children find the edge of their comfort zones and then push beyond them; I saw them relaxing together and enjoying one another's company; and I saw them grow closer as a result of their shared experience.

Our OLE trips offer great opportunities for your child to grow their confidence and agency. Some kids take to these experiences like a fish to water, but others work hard to make their experience a positive one. Some miss their family and their bed, and others may not be the type to opt in to group activities. Either way, I believe these trips help students learn a great deal about themselves and the world around them. If the trip was a blast, awesome. If the trip had highs and lows, I believe it was an opportunity to learn and persevere through challenges.

Thank you for allowing your children to travel with us on these trips. We love seeing them in a different setting, and we appreciate your trust and partnership!

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MEd
Head of Middle School

Homecoming Spirit Week: October 7-11

To celebrate Homecoming Week on October 7–11, Middle School will be decorating doors and has scheduled several fun dress days to show community and school pride:

- **MONDAY:** Dress Uniform
- **TUESDAY:** Crazy Sock Day—Show us your craziest socks!
- **WEDNESDAY:** Texas Pride Day—Show your pride in our great state with all things Texas. Wear the following options with blue jeans or uniform bottoms:
 - Western attire (no spurs, please)
 - Something with the Texas flag on it
 - Something honoring your favorite Texas team (college or professional)
- **THURSDAY:** School Spirit Day—Wear your favorite St. Francis gear (sports jerseys, Wolf Wear, event T-shirts, etc.) with uniform bottoms and show your school pride!
- **FRIDAY:** Casual Dress—Please note the following guidelines:
 - **Girls Casual Dress**
 - Jeans, slacks, or shorts the same length as uniform shorts (2 inches above knee)
 - Yoga pants/leggings may be worn with a shirt long enough to cover the front and back for modesty
 - No short skirts, lululemon shorts, or Nike shorts
 - No tank tops or spaghetti straps
 - No inappropriate logos or advertising
 - **Boys Casual Dress**
 - Jeans, slacks, or shorts the same length as uniform shorts
 - No inappropriate logos or advertising
 - No tank tops

Dressing up is optional. If you do not plan to dress up, please wear your regular uniform to school—you will still be a part of the celebration. If you have any questions, please contact [Marion Tolon](#), assistant head of Middle School.

Volunteers Needed for Campus Birthday Board

Calling all creative and crafty parents! Help celebrate Lower and Middle School birthdays by decorating the campus birthday board in the Dining Hall.

- Parent volunteers are needed to switch out the theme and student names each month, and can sign up for one month or multiple months.
- Click [here](#) and [here](#) for examples of previous birthday board designs.
- Contact [Jen McDonald](#), chair, if you'd like to help.

Mark Your Calendar

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

Wednesday, October 2

- *Grades 5 and 6:* Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform

- *Grades 7 and 8: ERB Special Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - ***No Seventh-Grade Bible Study***
 - ***No Chapel Today***
 - *ERB Testing for Grades 7 and 8: 7:50 a.m.*
-

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*
 - *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 With Crazy Socks*
 - *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/Texas Pride Wear (see details above)*
 - *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Wednesday Block Schedule/Texas Pride Wear (see details above)*
 - *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/School Spirit Wear (see details above)*
 - *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: 8:10–9:00 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*
 - *Homecoming Football Game (Grades 7/8 Wolves vs. Southwest Football League Shamrocks): Come support your Wolves as they take on the Shamrocks at 5:30 p.m. on the South Campus. Bring money to purchase sliders from Tailgate Sliderz Food Truck, plus concessions and drinks. The Athletics Booster Club will also be selling a limited selection of Wolf Wear.*
-

Friday, October 11

- *Friday Schedule/Casual Dress* (see details above)
-

Monday, October 14

- *Columbus Day Holiday*: School closed
-

Tuesday, October 15–Friday, October 18

- *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
 - *Grades 6–8 Sign Up for Trimester 2 Electives*: During elective classes
-

Tuesday, October 15

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Musical Chairs Activity*: 10:45–11:15 a.m. (during advisory)
 - *Council Officer Speeches and Pledges Due to Ms. Crummell*
 - *Council Officer Posters Go Up*
-

Wednesday, October 16

- *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
 - *Parents Association Lunch and Learn*: 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Thursday, October 17

- *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*
 - *Dad's Club Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
 - *MS Councils (Council Elections): 9:15–10:00 a.m.*
-

Friday, October 18

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Fifth-Grade Movie Night: 5:00–7:30 p.m.*
 - *MS Fall Dance for Grades 6–8: 7:30–10:00 pm. in the Main Campus gym*
-

Sunday, October 20

- *Showcase Sunday Admissions Event: 1:00–3:00 p.m.; Middle School Showcase for prospective families*
-

Friday, October 25

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

Upper School

From the Division Head

Thank you again for your participation in last week's student-led conferences. These conferences are a good opportunity for a student to reflect on her or his learning process and to share growth-minded goals with both the advisor and

parent(s) who, in turn, can provide ongoing support and encouragement toward the accomplishment of those goals.

Student-led conferences occur twice per academic year. **Our next conferences will occur on Wednesday, January 15, 2020.**

Prior to the January conferences, **you will receive teachers' written narrative comments (in mid-October) and Trimester 1 grades (in mid-November).**

Additionally, **mid-trimester check-in conversations (between teachers and students) are happening now.** Each student will have a conversation with all her or his teachers to learn about grades, performance strengths and challenges, and tools for improvement during the second half of the first trimester. If a student has an average of C- or below at the mid-trimester checkpoint, that student will receive an e-mail from the teacher. The parent(s), advisor, coach (if applicable), and I will be copied on the teacher's e-mail notification to the student. Please reach out to a teacher directly if you have any follow-up questions related to your child's performance in a particular class.

In closing, I wanted to share with you that I spent the second half of last week attending the Mastery Transcript Consortium's Member School Conference. I learned about some of the different ways our peer schools from across the country are redesigning the high school experience to develop and practice the core competencies students need for success in college and life. If you haven't yet heard about the Mastery Transcript Consortium or if you are interested in learning more, I encourage you to take a look at the website and to watch the four-minute video on [this page](#). Let me know what you think!

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson, EdD
Head of Upper School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 30

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–5:15 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. Houston Christian High School: 5:00 p.m. at Crum Gym*
-

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.*
-

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*
-

Thursday, October 3

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

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.*
-

Saturday, October 5

- *Race for the Cure Cross-Country Event: All day; away*

Sunday, October 6

- *Clue Rehearsal: 1:00–5:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, October 7–Friday, October 11

- *Homecoming Week*
-

Monday, October 7

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

Tuesday, October 8

- *Day 5 Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Individual and Group Pictures for US Students: 8:30–10:00 a.m.*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Clue Rehearsal: 4:00–6:30 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 9

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Clue Rehearsal (Production Class): 6:30 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball vs. St. Constantine: 6:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, October 10

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Clue Rehearsal*: 4:00–6:30 p.m.
 - *Volleyball vs. School of the Woods*: 5:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym
-

Friday, October 11

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
-

Saturday, October 12

- *St. John's Maverick Ramble Cross-Country Meet*: All day at Spring Creek Park
 - *Clue Rehearsal*: TBD
-

Sunday, October 13

- *Clue Rehearsal*: 4:00–6:30 p.m.

Church

Blessing of the Animals Is October 6

Join us on **Sunday, October 6, at 4:00 p.m.** to honor St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals, by bringing your dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, etc., as we give thanks to God for His spectacular creation. We will have a short liturgy in the church followed by individual blessings in the courtyard. Your pets will also receive a special token after their blessing!

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.