

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of August 23

### All School

#### **Join Us September 3 for our First Connections Series of 2020-21**

We will kick off the Connections Series with a town hall hosted by Head of School Steve Lovejoy. If you have specific questions for us to address, please send those to [Info@StFrancisHouston.org](mailto:Info@StFrancisHouston.org).

#### **A Note From the Chaplains: The Chapel Plan**

Chapel is a fundamental part of the St. Francis experience.

- Our worship services have always prioritized **gathering the community** and **student involvement**. Reimagining Chapel within the COVID-19 environment challenged us to remain true to these two priorities. Fr. Wismer and Rev. Heinemann are pleased to say that [The Chapel Plan](#) accomplishes both aims, regardless of where our students are learning. Please take some time to read the plan.
- All Chapel information is available through [this link](#) to the "Chapel - Digital" Google folder. You can view previous Chapels and share prayer requests, images, and videos.
- If you have any questions, please contact [Rev. Heinemann](#) or [Fr. Wismer](#).

#### **We Want Your Pictures and Videos for Chapel!**

Share your *summer adventures* as we thank God for vacations, stay-cations, and everything in between. Share them via the [Contribute to Chapel Form](#).

#### **School of Music Registration Is Now Open**

Registration is now open for School of Music lessons.

- All music lessons will begin the year virtually, and we will transition to on-campus lessons when data indicates that face-to-face instruction is safer.
- Details and the registration link are available via the Explore and Extend web page, [here](#).

## Changes to Lost and Found Procedures

Please note the following changes to our Lost and Found procedures:

- Parents will not be allowed on campus to look through Lost and Found items, nor will students have access to the Lost and Found Closet.
- All items must be **clearly labeled** with the child's first and last name. This includes clothing, backpacks, water bottles, lunch bags, athletic gear, books, etc.
- Labeled items will go to the division offices to be returned to the student.
- **Unlabeled items will be brought to the Lost and Found Closet and donated at the end of every month.**
- Items left from last school year have been sorted by [Ali Williams](#), who will contact you if she has an identified item for pickup.

## Friends of Fine Arts Membership Drive

Do you love St. Francis fine arts? Do you want to help support fine arts faculty in ALL divisions? Join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA)!

- Purchase your \$25 membership at the [Wolf Den Campus Store](#), and select "FoFA Membership" under "Memberships." [This video](#) walks you through the steps.
- For more information, please [e-mail us](#).

Friends of Fine Arts thanks you for your support!

## Primary School

### From the Division Head

I hope that you all are well and enjoying your weekend. Although the first three days of school were not on campus, teachers have begun forming connections with students that will support learning in the months ahead. Our Primary School teachers have expressed their excitement about meeting your children and you during our Welcome to the Den meetings. Teachers value the one-on-one time with parents to learn more about the children they will be nurturing and working with this school year.

We recognize that distance learning is not easy, and we have worked to enrich this experience for parents and students. Taking into consideration the attention span of our

students, we have made improvements to our distance-learning instruction. Live class meetings have increased to 15- or 20-minute lengths. Students will be given asynchronous (independent) activities to complete that connect to live instruction. Our updated distance learning includes more live enrichment classes, small groups, and one-on-one experiences for students.

Communication with parents has also been enhanced. Teachers will use Seesaw and Veracross to share learning that is happening by 5:00 p.m. each day. Teachers will also post information and needed materials for the upcoming week by 5:00 p.m. on Fridays.

I look forward to meeting with new Primary School parents this week during our New Parent Meetings on Thursday, August 27. We are eager to begin our full-day distance-learning schedule tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Clifton Walker, MEd  
Head of Primary School

## **Face Masks in Primary School**

Earlier this month, the CDC updated its recommendation for who should wear a face mask in public. These guidelines ([COVID-19: Considerations for Wearing Masks](#)) now include everyone, beginning with 2-year-old children. Therefore, upon our return to on-campus learning, all students and adults must wear a face mask unless they are eating or sleeping. Please note that masks with exhalation valves are not permitted for children or adults.

## **Upcoming Primary School Events**

We've got several important events scheduled over the next few weeks. Please make note of the following:

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 27: NEW PARENT MEETINGS**

New parents are invited to a New Parent Meeting, where we will answer questions and share information to help you become acclimated to Primary School. This year, the session will be virtual to minimize the number of visitors on campus. The session times and links are below. All sessions will be recorded.

- 8:15–9:00 a.m. for Pre-Primary
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84903902316?pwd=dVdUSVppQXIVWXhYQ1JzaDhSTjB4UT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 849 0390 2316
  - **Passcode:** 479643

- 10:00–10:45 a.m. for Primary I and Primary II
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82623795471?pwd=Mkd2Q3FzVHMyR2xjQ25kRDUzVkJOQT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 826 2379 5471
  - **Passcode:** 014997

## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS**

This year, Primary School Parent Information Nights will be hosted virtually on Zoom to minimize the number of visitors on campus. Sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Pre-Primary: Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m.
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86141068864?pwd=ZWR0V3o0MTda bDRUUG1SOEc2T1lgZz09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 861 4106 8864
  - **Passcode:** 298855
- Primary I and Primary II: Thursday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m.
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87630115517?pwd=Qlg5UGgwR0ND b0UraUFSRFVPSExiQT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 876 3011 5517
  - **Passcode:** 856282

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Wednesday, August 26**

- *School Building Closed for Cleaning*
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### **Thursday, August 27**

- *New Parent Meetings via Zoom*
    - **Pre-Primary:** 8:15 a.m.
    - **Primary I and Primary II:** 10:00 a.m.
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### **Monday, September 7**

- *Labor Day Holiday:* School closed

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## Wednesday, September 16

- *All Students Follow Distance-Learning Schedule*
- *School Building Closed for Cleaning*

## **Lower School**

### **From the Division Head**

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your Sunday!

While we desperately wanted to have your kiddos back with us, the first few days of distance learning have been fantastic. We appreciate everyone's efforts to prepare your home for our distance-learning scenario. The teachers have loved getting to know your children and are ready to hit the ground running again tomorrow.

I really encourage you to read [this informative article](#) about distance learning. It provides helpful information for parents and students navigating a distance-learning scenario. I know the reality of distance learning can create some anxiety, but hang in there, and let's work together to make it the best it can be.

If you *are* experiencing any issues, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. Working together will only benefit our students during this different way of learning. I also want to thank you for your helpful feedback from our spring adventure; this helped us make positive changes to our current distance-learning plan.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone else on the Lower School team if you have questions or need help.

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Wednesday, August 26**

- *First Wellness Wednesday:* Students follow Distance Learning Wellness Wednesday schedules; School building closed for cleaning
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## Thursday, August 27

- *New Parent Meeting:* 9:00 a.m. via Zoom; Please find the link and additional details in the LS Back to School Information document in the Parent Portal
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## Monday, August 31–Thursday, September 3

- *Parent Information Week:* Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for a live-streamed version of LS Parent Information Night.
    - **Kinder/First Grade:** Monday, August 31
    - **Second Grade:** Tuesday, September 1
    - **Third Grade:** Wednesday, September 2
    - **Fourth Grade:** Thursday, September 3
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## Monday, September 7

- *Labor Day Holiday:* School closed
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## Wednesday, September 16

- *Welcome to the Den Conferences:* Via Zoom; SignUpGenius links will be sent at the beginning of September

## Middle School

### **From the Division Head**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership this week. We officially began the 2020–21 school year on Wednesday morning with a welcome meeting for all Middle School students. After that, we were off and running!

Starting a school year remotely was a unique challenge, but seeing your children in their opening sessions and seeing the energy from our faculty helped me to put the challenges in context. All in all, this has been a great start. We did have a few technical issues to work through in our opening days, and I applaud your children and our teachers for working together to find solutions and make sure everyone has the information and access needed to navigate remote learning.

As you have likely seen (or heard from your child), we have made several significant adjustments to our remote-learning approach since last spring. These adjustments were made based on feedback from you, our faculty, and the student body. Our class sizes are small, faculty are recording grades, and student e-mail accounts through Google allow them to have much more control and ownership of their experience. Of special note is our ability to communicate directly with students when we encounter technical issues. I am hopeful that your child(ren) will benefit from these adjustments, and we welcome your feedback on the experience as we begin to find a rhythm for our current context.

In the coming days, I will be creating and sharing a few video tutorials that will help you navigate our new system and see what your child's view looks like. Following the videos, I will host a Zoom session to clarify your questions about our platforms and your child's experience.

As a reminder, if and when you or your child needs tech-related help, please reach out to your advisor first. Middle School advisors have their advisees' computer, e-mail, and Veracross login information and can provide the most immediate assistance. If you need additional assistance, please reach out to the Middle School Office and our technology team.

Warm regards,

Chris Bertha, MA  
Head of Middle School

## **Virtual MS Athletics and PE Experiences Start This Week**

### **ATHLETICS**

Our virtual athletics experience will begin tomorrow, August 24. Coaches will meet with their teams three to four days per week for team meetings, fitness sessions, skills training, game strategy instruction, and more while we are in our comprehensive distance-learning mode. Coaches will be in touch via e-mail with more details about their program.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

We will offer asynchronous physical education classes for students in grades 5–8 while in our comprehensive distance-learning mode. Coach James Collard will prepare recorded fitness lessons for students to perform while at home. These lessons will begin the week of August 24. More details will be shared on how to access the fitness videos.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Monday, August 24**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Tuesday, August 25**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Wednesday, August 26**

- *Wellness Wednesday Schedule*
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### **Thursday, August 27**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Friday, August 28**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Monday, August 31**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Tuesday, September 1**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Wednesday, September 2**

- *Wellness Wednesday Schedule*
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### **Thursday, September 3**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Friday, September 4**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule*
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### **Monday, September 7**

- *Labor Day Holiday: School closed*

## **Upper School**

### **From the Division Head**

Congratulations on completing the first week of the 2020–21 school year! Last Tuesday, we hosted a [New Student Orientation](#) and a [New Parent Orientation](#). If you missed either orientation or would like to review the information provided during those orientations, I encourage you to watch the linked Zoom calls.

Wednesday was our first day of school, and everyone followed a special schedule that allowed for short visits to every class and some getting-to-know-you activities in each one. Thursday was our first odd-day schedule, and Friday was our first even-day schedule. The rotation continues (odd then even) from there.

It has been wonderful to welcome a total of 32 new upper schoolers this year! The first day of school was filled with smiles and laughter as [we ate lunch together](#) over Zoom and enjoyed a [faculty “hot seat” activity](#). We heard from students and faculty about their memories of last year and their hopes for this one.

As we embark on this school-year adventure, I encourage you to take some time to reflect on the words that our faculty shared with students during our opening Upper School gathering: "connection," "grit," "grace," "perseverance," "responsibility," "self-forgiveness," "whimsical," "flexibility," "resourceful," "resilience," "growth," "adventure," "fun," "community," "activity," "breathe," "joy," and "creative." This year will undoubtedly present us with challenges (some of which we are aware of now and others that are still

unknown). We will make it through these challenges by working together and assuming good intentions.

Thank you for your partnership in this journey!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson, EdD  
Head of Upper School

### **This Week's Upper School Schedule**

Please [click here for the upcoming week's schedule](#), including hyperlinks to the Zoom sessions for each class.

### **Virtual US Athletics Experience Starts This Week**

Our virtual athletics experience will begin tomorrow, August 24. Coaches will meet with their teams three to four days per week for team meetings, fitness sessions, skills training, game strategy instruction, and more while we are in our comprehensive distance-learning mode. Coaches will be in touch via e-mail with more details about their program.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, August 24**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule (Odd Day)*
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#### **Tuesday, August 25**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule (Even Day)*
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#### **Wednesday, August 26**

- *Distance-Learning Schedule (Odd Day)*
-

## Thursday, August 27

- *Distance-Learning Schedule (Even Day)*
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## Friday, August 28

- *Distance-Learning Schedule (Odd Day)*

## Church

### **Join Fr. Wismer for *The Goodnight Show***

Join Fr. Wismer for ***The Goodnight Show*** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Preschoolers, younger school children, and the young at heart can enjoy music, stories, and prayers . . . and you can send in requests! It is the perfect way to relax and get ready for bed.

[Click here to watch on the St. Francis Episcopal Facebook page.](#)

### **How to Watch Sunday Service Via Live Stream**

If you would like to join St. Francis Episcopal Church's **11:00 a.m.** Sunday service via Live Stream, here's how to watch:

1. Open the Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—**sfch.org**.
2. Click on the "**Facebook Live Stream**" button. (*You don't need a Facebook account to watch.*)
3. **On the Facebook menu bar (just above the "About" section), select "More" and then, from the drop-down menu, click on "Videos."** This will open a page showing all videos.
4. Prelude music will begin the live stream at 10:50 a.m. to allow time for your connection and for your inspiration. Once the live stream is in progress, you just need to click on the video. If you miss the live video, a recording of the service will also be available on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church website](#).

### **Watch Let It Shine! on YouTube**

We'll continue to put the Let It Shine! videos on the St. Francis YouTube channel, but we've created a dedicated channel for Let it Shine! This is a great way for us to reach children everywhere with these amazing Bible-based video teachings by Allison Devlin, our director of family ministry.

- Please share this channel with anyone you might know who has children and who's looking for entertaining, informative videos that help lead children to Jesus.
- [Click here to visit the channel](#). Be sure to like, subscribe, and turn on notifications!

## Teens, Join Us for GLOW!

We just began a new GLOW series using *The Armor of God—Teen Bible Study Book* by Priscilla Shirer. (But you can join the study at any time!)

- [Click here](#) to learn more about the book and to order your copy today!
- For further details, contact [Allison Devlin](#).

## Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

Bible study for moms will be held on Fridays after carpool and will begin soon. Please [e-mail Allison Devlin](#) for details.

## Women's Bible Study Begins September 21

Women of all ages: Are you looking for a small-group Bible study to call home? Look no further—the “Walking With Jesus” Bible study is for you! You will find your routine of walking with Jesus by:

- Diving into the Word daily
- Surrounding yourself with women who strive to put Jesus first in their lives
- Deepening your prayer life (We will practice different forms of prayer and you will find *your natural way* of being in Jesus's presence.)

This school year, we will study the **Gospel of Matthew**. We will take our time and discuss how to follow our King of Kings. In a world that changes every day, every minute—our King is steadfast and unchangeable.

Let's join together to worship Him on **Mondays at noon, starting September 21**. Please [e-mail Nichole Hilgert](#) to join the study.

## Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us using the “Prayer Requests” link on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#). Please feel free to submit prayer requests for yourself or for someone you know. All prayer requests are confidential and will not be added to the spoken prayer list, but will be prayed for by our staff and Pastoral Care Council over a two-month period.

## Upcoming Events at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following events on a regular basis via Zoom. To join an event listed below, please click the provided link or copy and paste it into your web browser's address bar. Then, enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

### MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER—DAILY, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

- Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74430393620?pwd=N2xoNnI4L1pUQndVZzB0UThOWkdtZ09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 744 3039 3620
  - **Passcode:** 046258
- Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/986428707?pwd=M0ZaMTJzcVpldGswTE1kU3NmOEx3Zz09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 986 428 707
  - **Passcode:** 002711

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Philippians
  - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
  - *Passcode required to join; e-mail Louse Richman to participate.*
- Wednesdays at 3:30–4:30 p.m.
  - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/537694641>

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
  - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86142658053?pwd=THE3Nm0xcW1DeHhCdWMYUjEramldz09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 861 4265 8053
  - **Passcode:** 0AbyWs

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m. (*Please note: This study is on break until September.*)
  - **Contact:** [Lew Arend](#)
- Monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (*Please note: This study is on break until September.*)
  - **Study:** The Men of St. Francis (TMOSF)
  - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81933291372?pwd=MTVmV284bDFzanlvcS9mVzZJNFowZz09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 819 3329 1372
  - **Passcode:** 330576

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS—BIBLE STUDIES AND MEETINGS**

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Meeting:** GLOW
  - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/716183992?pwd=L0RrRU9LOFVqVUtHT3hWYVVmUIEzZz09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 716 183 992
  - **Passcode:** 476823
- Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00–7:15 p.m.
  - **Meeting:** The Goodnight Show
  - **Contact:** [Fr. Bob Wismer](#)
  - [Facebook Live Stream](#)

### **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER**

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
  - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298?pwd=VHJTTDVYem8zMVVJakprZzFqUIBLUT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
  - **Passcode:** 057417

- Wednesdays at 7:30–8:00 a.m.
  - **Meeting:** Prayer Session (We read Scripture and go through a prayer cycle of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession.)
  - **Contact:** [Heather Burkhart](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74720562513?pwd=VWpsVy9WN01LVkdSbEl4NlVJTjlxZz09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 747 2056 2513
  - **Passcode:** 678123
- Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
  - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081?pwd=dTdiSVFIQ2xrRS9kMEhpWDJ6NUlwQT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
  - **Passcode:** 043097
- Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.
  - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298?pwd=VHJTtDVYem8zMVVJkprZzFqUjBlUT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
  - **Passcode:** 057417
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
  - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting**  
**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081?pwd=dTdiSVFIQ2xrRS9kMEhpWDJ6NUlwQT09>
  - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
  - **Passcode:** 043097