

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 6

All School

From the Head of School

Dear St. Francis Community,

Thank you all for joining Kate and me on Thursday. It was great to connect with our community, and once again, I hope you know how excited we are to have all our students back on campus soon. If you weren't able to tune in, you can watch the recording [here](#). I also want to provide more details about our return that will happen in just a few short days.

We have been working tirelessly to ensure we are prepared to welcome our students and staff back, and I'd like to emphasize a few points from our town hall on September 3.

- We have received our final report from the Methodist Return to Work team and have processes and procedures in place that will allow for a safe return of our students and faculty.
- Our COVID Task Force continues to meet daily to plan, train, and evaluate procedures along with the complexities inherent in returning hundreds of students and faculty to campus. I have confidence in their expertise and advisory capacity of our Task Force.
- We continue to look at multiple data points from various experts rather than relying on a singular set of data to make decisions.
- We are looking for the continued downward trend in Texas Medical Center's four key metrics for Houston:
 - A decrease in the average number of positive cases per day
 - A decrease in the average percentage of positive tests per day
 - A decrease in the average number of hospitalizations per day
 - ICU bed capacity under Phase 1

- Another metric we continue to monitor is the reproduction rate— $R(t)$. This indicator has a greater weight than the number of absolute cases.

As we reopen campus, we will closely monitor trends within the St. Francis community as well as in Harris County. Based on the aforementioned along with the preparation throughout the summer and into the fall to support this plan, we are ready to welcome our **Primary and Lower School students to campus beginning on Wednesday, September 9**, and our **Middle and Upper School students starting on Monday, September 14**. Once again, a remote learning option will continue to be available, and our parents have the freedom to select the learning model that works best for their family.

A successful return to campus is highly dependent on the partnership with our families, and *we need your support and commitment to moving forward together*. This year we could continue to see shifts between the three learning models we presented to the community on July 17 (on-campus, hybrid, comprehensive distance learning) based on factors and exposure within classrooms, divisions, or cohorts. For example, if we have a case(s) in a class, we *may* need to move a class immediately to the comprehensive distance learning model.

I know that working together we will ensure a successful school year for our Wolves. I hope you all have a wonderful Labor Day holiday and I look forward to seeing some of our students in person this week!

Sincerely,

Steve Lovejoy
Head of School

Have You Selected Your Learning Model?

Thank you to those who have submitted your student's learning model selection. However, we have not heard from quite a few of you. Please make your selections [here](#) and complete the respective forms by **Monday, September 7 at 12:00 p.m.** (we realize this is Labor Day but need your assistance). Once again, we recommend choosing the option that works for your child and family. Additionally, we know you may need to adjust your learning model at some point during the school year. You can switch between on-campus or remote learning as needed at two-week intervals by e-mailing your student's division head.

Sign Up for SchoolPass

We are pleased to introduce SchoolPass, an online tool that simplifies communications between parents and their child's teachers and division office. With the SchoolPass app,

parents can quickly, safely, and easily notify the school of their child's at-home health screening results and carpool plans right from their smartphones.

- All members of the St. Francis Episcopal School community will need to be enrolled in this system **by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8.**
- This afternoon, you will receive an activation e-mail from SchoolPass inviting you to create your account through the SchoolPass website. The e-mail will be sent to the primary contact listed in your St. Francis account and will contain your login information.
- Once you have created an account, you can download the SchoolPass app on your smartphone. You may also add other parents and people authorized to pick up your child.
- If you do not receive an activation e-mail from SchoolPass today, please [contact St. Francis Head of Technology Steven Eisenberg.](#)

We are excited to launch the SchoolPass program and hope you find it to be a simple and easy method of communicating with St. Francis. We look forward to seeing you in the carpool line soon!

Mask Reminders

Please review our mask guidelines below, some of which have been adjusted in response to new information from the CDC.

- All adults and students will be required to wear a face covering while indoors on campus.
- Masks with valves or vents, gaiters, and buffs are not allowed.
- Lower School students are asked to have a lanyard for their mask.
- The school will provide a solid-color mask for students and have disposable masks in classrooms should a student misplace theirs.
- Families are encouraged to purchase additional masks so students have access to more than one piece of on-campus personal protection attire and can launder the items appropriately.
- Masks should not have wording and designs should be school appropriate.
- Label your child's face mask if it is reusable and help teach your child how to properly use and remove it.

After-School Care Starts Soon

Explore and Extend after-school care will begin for Primary and Lower School students on **Wednesday, September 9.** Middle School after-school care will begin on **Monday, September 14.**

- All students attending **must be registered.** For the 2020–21 school year, we will not be able to accept drop-ins without a reservation. When your child needs

drop-in care on a certain day, [e-mail the Explore and Extend Office](#) before noon on that same day to make a reservation.

- Registered families will receive directions for pickup from both campuses via e-mail.

Enrichment Classes and School of Music Lessons Start Next Week

Explore and Extend enrichment class registration is still open, and enrichment classes will begin the week of September 14. School of Music lessons will also begin the week of September 14, with all lessons done virtually for the start of the year. Registration is available through Veracross, and you can also find a link to Explore and Extend registration [on our web page here](#).

Division Hours for On-Campus Instruction

Once on-campus instruction begins, each division will follow its normal academic schedule:

- **Primary School:** 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Lower School:**
 - **Grades K–1:** 8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
 - **Grades 2–4:** 8:15 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.
- **Middle School:** 8:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
- **Upper School:** 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Are You Getting the Latest Updates From Us?

Please review the contact information we have for your family, and correct it if necessary. We want to make sure you are able to receive the latest updates from St. Francis!

1. Log into the Parent Portal at www.StFrancisHouston.org/Login.
2. Click on “Update Family Profile” on the right-hand side.
3. You will want to review all of the sections, but definitely be sure to click on “My Personal Contact Information,” “Change Primary Address,” and “Change Primary Home Phone.”
4. If you have any changes, click “Edit.”
5. Don’t forget to click “Save” when you are finished.

If you have any questions or concerns, please [e-mail Technology](#).

Spirit Wear and PE Clothing Stores Close Thursday

The [St. Francis Episcopal School Spirit Store](#) and the [St. Francis Episcopal School PE Clothing Store](#) will close this Thursday, September 10. [Click here for](#)

[details](#). (And please note that while the Spirit Store will reopen each month, the PE Clothing Store will only reopen twice more this school year, prior to the winter and spring sports seasons.)

Virtue of the Month: Respect

During the month of September, the St. Francis community is focusing on respect. Our virtue verse is Matthew 7:12: “*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*” Try to memorize it as a family. You can find virtue resources [here](#).

We Want Your Pictures and Videos for Chapel!

Share images of *things that bring your children joy*, or submit a video of your student playing a musical instrument or singing for a musical offering. Musical submissions should be filmed in landscape format and be less than 2 minutes long. Submit photos and videos via the [Contribute to Chapel Form](#).

Buy Your Poinsettias Today

It's time to purchase your beautiful, full poinsettias and help support fine arts faculty in ALL divisions! Order for your home and your business. These poinsettias make great gifts, too!

- To purchase your \$16 poinsettia, visit the [Wolf Den Campus Store](#) and select “FoFA (Poinsettias).”
- Poinsettias will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 3.
- Order 25 or more for free delivery to your home.

Friends of Fine Arts thanks you for your support! For more information, [e-mail FoFA](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

I hope you and your family are having a safe and fun Labor Day weekend! Primary School teachers and staff are looking forward, with great excitement, to students beginning on-campus learning on **Wednesday, September 9**.

If your child is in a three-day homeroom, please pay close attention to the adjusted on-campus days communicated to you on Friday, August 28.

Our attendance schedule for the upcoming weeks is unique; please review the PS schedule below to help you plan. I have also included information that will be helpful for the upcoming week.

September				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 Labor Day	8 Distance learning	9 Full-day on-campus for 5-day students and 3-day students	10 Full-day on-campus for 5-day students and 2-day students	11 Full-day on-campus for 5-day students and 3-day students
14 On-campus for 5-day students and 3-day students	15 On-campus for 5-day students, Meriwether's 2-day students, Britton, Burrow, Scriber	16 Remote/distance learning	17 On-campus for 5-day students and Meriwether's 3-day and 2-day	18 On-campus for 5-day students, 3-day students, Britton, Burrow, Scriber, Meriwether

SCHOOLPASS

St. Francis will be utilizing a software called SchoolPass to initiate the COVID-19 screening process each day.

- Starting on Wednesday, September 9, you will need to answer health-screening questions about your child before coming to campus each morning.
- We ask that you download the SchoolPass app to your phone. At morning carpool, you will show from your app that you have answered the health-screening questions.
- Please reference the SchoolPass information in the All School section of *Wolf Watch*, above.
- **You will receive an e-mail directly from SchoolPass this evening with login information!**

STUDENT FACE MASKS

Thank you in advance for your support in providing your child with a face mask for school.

- Teachers have been asked to intentionally schedule breaks for children and adults to safely remove their masks throughout the day.
- Primary School guidelines for student masks require every student to have a face mask.
- Face masks may be a solid color, a design, or have characters. We ask that you help your child find comfortable masks that are not controversial, political, or disruptive to classroom learning.
- Please write your child's name or initials on his or her face masks.

CARPOOL

Just like during the start of past school years, carpool will require patience and planning to allow time for parents, students, and teachers to acclimate to drop-off routines.

- There will be some tears from students and parents, too. Tears from both are normal during this start-of-school experience. Remember, it is easier for your child to leave you versus your child seeing you leave.
- Please remember to place your child's lovey and a small family photo in his or her bag on the first day of school. You can use these items to start a dialogue with your child about carpool and what on-campus learning will look like.
- I encourage you to read the article ["What to Do if Your Preschooler Won't Stop Crying at Drop-off."](#) as it contains helpful advice on how to support your child and yourself during this new transition.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your trust and support during our on-campus return to school. I speak for all of our Primary School faculty in saying that we look forward to partnering with you to make this school year safe and successful for all Primary School members.

Sincerely,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Primary School

PS New Parent Meetings Are Thursday

New parents are invited to a virtual New Parent Meeting this Thursday, September 10, 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. All sessions will be recorded and links will be included in your teacher's SeeSaw posts.

Save the Date for Parent Information Nights

This year, Primary School Parent Information Nights will be hosted virtually on Zoom to minimize the number of visitors on campus. Links will be included in your teacher's SeeSaw posts. Sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Pre-Primary: Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m.
- Primary I and Primary II: Thursday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Your Child's Birthday in Digital Chapel!

Each year, the Primary School celebrates student birthdays in Chapel by having students bring coins to donate to Eye Care for Kids. This philanthropic organization provides glasses for children who would not otherwise be able to have them. Students and their families drop their coins into a special Chapel bank as the PS community counts out their new age.

As detailed in [The Chapel Plan](#), if your child has an August or September birthday, we invite you to submit a video of them counting out their age or an image of them holding up their age on their fingers. Share your video via the [Contribute to Chapel Form](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 7

- *Labor Day Holiday*: School closed
-

Thursday, September 10

- *New Parent Meetings via Zoom*: See links above
 - **Pre-Primary**: 8:15 a.m.
 - **Primary I and Primary II**: 10:00 a.m.
-

Tuesday, September 15

- *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night*: 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; see link above
-

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

- *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night: 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; see link above*

Lower School

From the Division Head

If it's possible, we are even more excited about the students' return than when we thought they were returning in August! I know you are, as well! Distance sure does make the heart grow fonder. The teachers have so enjoyed getting to know their students remotely and are eagerly awaiting Wednesday, when we can greet many of them in person!

The classrooms are prepared; protocols are in place; and all we need now are the smiling faces of your children in our halls and classrooms—distanced, of course!

Here is some important information for those who will be returning for **on-campus learning** on Wednesday, September 9:

- On **Wednesday, September 9**: Please send your child's **school supplies** in a bag labeled with both your child's name and the homeroom teacher's name. Please also send them with a mask or two. We are asking that masks be labeled with names and be a solid or simple school-appropriate design. They also should have a tether or lanyard.
- On **Thursday, September 10**: Please send your child's iPad, accessories, and **distance-learning materials** back to school.
- The teachers will resume sending the **weekly, grade-level bulletins** via Seesaw on Friday afternoon. Daily schedule updates will continue for remote learners.

We have some important meetings coming up. Please mark your calendars:

- For parents selecting the **remote-learning option**, we would like to invite you to a meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, at 9:00 a.m.** to cover some procedures and logistics.
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6981622244>
 - **Meeting ID:** 698 162 2244

- **Passcode:** sfes
- For parents of all new students (on-campus and remote), we have a **New Parent Meeting** scheduled for **Thursday, September 10, at 9:00 a.m.**
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6981622244>
 - **Meeting ID:** 698 162 2244
 - **Passcode:** sfes

If you have not yet watched the back-to-school video that we sent out via Seesaw, please do so, as we outline procedures to keep everyone safe. Also, please have your child watch the video created for students regarding carpool and their return to school. Our hope is that by seeing what re-entry will look like, students will not be anxious or frightened to see us all in our PPE gear.

Finally, I know I shared the article [“5 Sneaky Signs Your Kid Is Anxious About Going Back to School”](#) on Sunday, August 16, when we thought on-campus learning was starting that Wednesday. I wanted to share it again, now that we are returning on September 9. I also want to share another great article on the same topic: [“Back-to-School Anxiety During COVID-19.”](#) Your kiddos might be feeling anxious about coming to school, and both articles contain some great tips for how you can help them cope with the mixed emotions they may be feeling. Your teachers will continue to be in close contact with you as we transition into life back at school.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the Lower School team if you have questions. See you in carpool—behind my mask and shield!

Blessings,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Register Now for Short Stay

Registration is now open for Short Stay, which is available beginning **Monday, September 14**. Please note that Short Stay is only for Lower School students who have siblings in Middle School carpool. There will be no drop-ins for Short Stay this year; only registered students may participate, in order to ensure adequate supervision and distanced desk space. Registration is available through Veracross, and you can find a link to Explore and Extend registration [on our web page here](#).

Buy Lower School Scrapbooks Now

Lower School scrapbooks for last school year (2019–20) are now available for purchase at Membership Toolkit on the front page. [Click here to buy yours](#). These beautiful Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific and capture class parties, special days like

the Pumpkin Carving Contest, and even moments from distance learning. Remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, [e-mail us](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 7

- *Labor Day Holiday*: School closed
-

Tuesday, September 8

- *Remote-Learning Parent Meeting*: 9:00 a.m. via Zoom; for those families continuing remotely
-

Wednesday, September 9

- *On-Campus Classes Begin*: For Lower School
-

Thursday, September 10

- *Rescheduled New Parent Meeting*: 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
-

Wednesday, September 16

- *Welcome to the Den Conferences*: Via Zoom; SignUpGenius links were e-mailed
-

Friday, October 2

- *Individual School Pictures*: Dress uniform

Middle School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you enjoying the long Labor Day weekend. We have a great deal of information to share with you in advance of students' return to campus the week of September 14. Thus, my message this week is separated into sections to help you understand important goings-on in the week ahead.

WELCOME TO THE DEN CONFERENCES

This year's Welcome to the Den conferences are **Wednesday, September 16, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.** (no scheduled classes). Conference sessions will be conducted via Zoom. Each conference is 20 minutes long and includes the student, advisor, and parents/guardians. Please be on the lookout for an e-mail from your advisor with a link to sign up for a conference time that works for you and your child(ren).

Welcome to the Den conferences are an opportunity for students and parents to talk with each other and their advisor about high points and challenges during the opening weeks of school, as well as to revisit hopes, expectations, and goals that may have been discussed during Meet the Teacher conferences in mid-August.

Welcome to the Den conferences are mandatory for all students and at least one parent/guardian. If a scheduling conflict prevents you and your child from joining a conference together on Wednesday, September 16, please work with your advisor to arrange an alternate time that week.

To ensure that all families have a conference with their advisor on this day, we do not offer conferences with teachers other than the advisor. If you desire a meeting with a teacher or teachers (in addition to the meeting with your child's advisor), please reach out to those individuals after conference day to find a meeting time.

VERACROSS PORTAL ACCESS THIS WEEK

The Middle School schedule will change on Monday, September 14. From this day forward, all MS students will begin following the [On-Campus Learning Schedule](#). **The major difference between this schedule and our remote-learning schedule is a start time of 8:00 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m.** Please also note that, though classes end at 3:45 p.m., afternoon carpool for all MS students begins at 3:55 p.m.

This change requires us to turn off access to Student and Parent Portals on Thursday, September 10, and Friday, September 11. Our faculty are prepared for this and will be e-mailing you and your child(ren) with schedules for those two school days, along with links to assignments or online resources normally accessed through Veracross.

ADJUSTMENTS TO ON-CAMPUS PROCEDURES

Our ongoing commitment to the health and safety of the St. Francis community will

impact the way students navigate classes and our facility this year. From morning drop-off to student pickup, there are a number of ways that our year will look different. Assistant Head of Middle School for Student Life Marion Tolon (Coach T) and Director of School Counseling Ted Lakoski are creating **a series of videos designed to inform students and families of these changes**. Advisors will be sharing these videos with students in the coming days, and we will share them with you in our next *Wolf Watch*.

CARPOOL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

We have made several adjustments to morning and afternoon carpool this year. We have also recently updated the document in your Parent Portal to reflect our 3:55 p.m. pickup time for all MS students. MS families should avoid joining the carpool queue prior to 3:45 p.m. to avoid being caught in the LS carpool line. Please [click here](#) for detailed information on morning and afternoon carpool, and to view maps of traffic flow during both carpool times.

SCHOOLPASS

Please review the information related to our new SchoolPass app in the All School section above. You should be receiving an e-mail directly from SchoolPass this evening with your unique username and login information.

I appreciate your time and partnership.

Thank you!

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Attendance Reminder

Please note: Parents should be using the Parent Portal to update attendance information for their child(ren). This function is available through the "Update Attendance" button on the home page of your Parent Portal.

Athletics Update

In alignment with our school's overall objective to allow our students to be on campus as long as possible, we are postponing fall athletics. While we understand this decision will be met with disappointment, it was made in the best interest of our student-athletes, coaches, parents, and community. The Houston Junior Preparatory Conference (HJPC) has already canceled fall championships and other middle school programs in the conference have also decided not to compete against other schools this fall.

MOVING FORWARD

We have begun the fall season virtually while in our comprehensive distance learning model, and coaches will continue meeting with student-athletes and teams on Zoom to

create team experiences through fitness training, skills training, game strategy instruction, and overall team bonding. Coach-led fitness training, yoga, fundamental skills instruction and practice, video breakdowns, and more are happening throughout the week in Middle and Upper School Athletics virtual practices.

As we look ahead to students returning to campus, we are planning for the next phase of our fall athletics plans. Middle and Upper School students will have the opportunity to meet within their cohorts to perform general fitness activities and sport-specific training during their practice time after school. Specific safety protocols will be in place including social distancing, masks when appropriate, hand sanitizing, no shared water stations, cohort groups, and more. The Athletics Administration and coaches will be sharing more details via e-mail with student-athletes and parents as we approach re-entry to on-campus learning.

While we are disappointed that we will not compete in “traditional” athletics this fall, we are excited to continue to strengthen relationships with our student-athletes as we promote physical activity and skills training. Our hope is that conditions will improve so that we are able to move forward with a more traditional winter and spring season. We will continue to monitor the situation and will update the community as we learn more and will be in touch next week with additional details.

T. Riley
Director of Athletics

PE Clothing Store Closes Thursday

The online [St. Francis Episcopal School PE Clothing Store](#) is open now through Thursday, September 10.

- This store will operate independently from the Spirit Store. The PE Clothing Store will open again prior to the winter sports season (October 5–15) and prior to the spring sports season (January 4–14, 2021).
- Items available for purchase include athletic shorts and T-shirts to be worn for physical education classes and sports practices. New items in the shop include a girls' youth-style short and a gray shorts option for boys and girls.
- Items will be shipped directly to you the week after the online shopping window closes on September 10.
- Please note that all sales are final and no exchanges or returns will be permitted.

Fourth-Grade Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale

If your child was in fourth grade last year, please note that Lower Scrapbooks scrapbooks for the 2019–20 school year are now available for purchase at Membership Toolkit on the front page. [Click here to buy yours.](#) These beautiful

Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific and capture class parties, special days like the Pumpkin Carving Contest, and even moments from distance learning. Remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, [e-mail us](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 7

- *Labor Day Holiday: School closed*
-

Tuesday, September 8

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, September 9

- *Wellness Wednesday Schedule*
-

Thursday, September 10

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
 - *Parent and Student Portals Unavailable Due to Schedule Changeover*
-

Friday, September 11

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
 - *Parent and Student Portals Unavailable Due to Schedule Changeover*
-

Monday, September 14

- *On-Campus Schedule for All MS Students*
- *Grades 5 and 7 on Campus*
- *Grades 6 and 8 Remote*

Tuesday, September 15

- *On-Campus Schedule for All MS Students*
- *Grades 5 and 7 on Campus*
- *Grades 6 and 8 Remote*

Wednesday, September 16

- *No School*
- *Welcome to the Den Conferences (Virtual)*

Thursday, September 17

- *On-Campus Schedule for All MS Students*
- *Grades 6 and 8 on Campus*
- *Grades 5 and 7 Remote*

Friday, September 18

- *On-Campus Schedule for All MS Students*
- *Grades 6 and 8 on Campus*
- *Grades 5 and 7 Remote*

Upper School

From the Upper School Counselor

I hope this message finds you and your families well and that you are enjoying the Labor Day weekend. Even though it does not seem like it (or feel like it) here in Houston, we are now stepping into the fall season. I personally can't wait for the weather to cool down, so we can enjoy some outdoor, socially distanced gatherings with our students more comfortably as they transition back to on-campus learning in the next couple of weeks.

Last week, we completed our first full week of school. Our students have surely begun to settle into the rhythm of distancing learning—navigating through the new Veracross Student Portal, as well as the countless Zoom links for classes, clubs and councils,

tutorials, etc. I see students demonstrating flexibility and strengthening their problem-solving skills as they adjust to this new mode of learning. I am also so pleased to hear from various students that virtual communities are forming through group texts and Zoom hangouts, even though almost half of our students have yet to meet one another in person.

Very soon, we will go through the transition of re-entry. It will be another adjustment that may pose excitements or challenges, or both. It is crucial for us to remain flexible and hold loose to our own expectations, extending grace to ourselves and to one another. It is also helpful to shift our perspectives daily to consider changes as opportunities to grow and uncertainties as potential adventures. It is certainly refreshing to be honest with ourselves and open to one another about how we are doing and feeling, as well as to receive support from others, for we are all in this together as a family.

I am very excited to welcome our students back on campus, and I look forward to the campus being filled with students' laughter.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Choi, LCSW
Upper School Counselor

Athletics Update

In alignment with our school's overall objective to allow our students to be on campus as long as possible, we are postponing fall athletics. While we understand this decision will be met with disappointment, it was made in the best interest of our student-athletes, coaches, parents, and community. The Houston Junior Preparatory Conference (HJPC) has already canceled fall championships and other programs in the conference have also decided not to compete against other schools this fall.

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T. Riley
Director of Athletics

Sign Up for Welcome to the Den Conferences

Wednesday, September 16, is a student holiday so that we can conduct our first student-led parent-teacher conferences of this school year. Advisors will assist each student during a conversation about academic and social/emotional strengths and challenges, as well as about setting goals for the year.

Please click on the name of your child’s advisor below to select a time:

- [Mrs. Allub](#)
- [Dr. Black](#)
- [Mrs. Choi](#)
- [Dr. Leachman](#)
- [Mrs. Matzen](#)

A Note About Attendance

Please remember to communicate absences or early dismissals/late arrivals to Cathleen Flaniken in the Upper School Office.

- We continue to take attendance during remote learning, and this will ensure that variances in attendance are not counted as unexcused absences.
- We highly encourage students to reach out to their teachers when a class is missed so that assignments stay current; however, a student notifying a teacher of an absence or early dismissal/late arrival is not considered an attendance notification.
- Please reach out to [Cathleen Flaniken](#) or [Cara Henderson](#) with any questions you might have!

Look for Your SchoolPass E-mail This Evening

Please review the information related to our new SchoolPass app in the All School

section of this *Wolf Watch* (above). **You should be receiving an e-mail directly from SchoolPass this evening with your unique username and login information.**

This Week's Upper School Schedule

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

PE Clothing Store Closes Thursday

The online [St. Francis Episcopal School PE Clothing Store](#) is open now through this Thursday, September 10.

- This store will operate independently from the Spirit Store. The PE Clothing Store will open again prior to the winter sports season (October 5–15) and prior to the spring sports season (January 4–14, 2021).
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Tuesday, September 8

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, September 9

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
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Thursday, September 10

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
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Friday, September 11

- *Remote-Learning Schedule*
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Wednesday, September 16

- *Welcome to the Den Conferences: Via Zoom*

Church

We Are Open for In-Person Worship!

The Holy Eucharist will be offered at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. We will also offer an evening Eucharist on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing all those who are ready to return. For those who are not comfortable returning to in-person worship, we will continue to live stream our worship service on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. via Facebook.

- We will be working under the guidelines and protocols for your safety as originally approved by our bishop and vestry. In-person worship guidelines are available [here](#).
- Because only a limited number of the congregation can be safely seated according to the distancing guidelines, it will be necessary for you to let us know you plan to attend the worship services. We have created a SignUpGenius for that purpose. Go to the St. Francis Episcopal Church website (sfch.org) and click "Sign Up for In-Person Worship." You will need to sign up each week, indicating the date you would like to come to worship.
- We pray for your patience and grace as we work out adhering to the guidelines and safely gathering for worship. Once you reach the church doors with your masks on (masks are required for adults and children 2 years and older), you will be guided through the process of being seated. Individuals and families will be seated by ushers. Most likely, you will be able to choose whether you will be seated in the Transepts or the Nave. You will not get to decide exactly where you sit. The distancing guidelines will dictate exactly where people are seated by our ushers.
- Obviously, if you are ill, have a fever, or are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms, or are in a high-risk health group, we recommend you stay at home

and continue to worship with us online. (Click [here](#) for a list of high-risk conditions.) If you are 65 years of age or older and otherwise healthy, you are welcome to worship if you choose.

- We welcome your children to worship, but will not have Children's Sunday School or childcare available during the services at this time. Mrs. Devlin's Sunday School lessons will continue to be broadcast online at 10:00 a.m. Fr. Wismer will be giving a children's homily.
- Ushers will assist you in maintaining the 6-foot safe distance between one another from the time you leave your vehicle until seated. Families may sit together. A distance of 6 feet will be maintained between individuals and/or families. Seating will be in every other pew, and the congregation will receive the communion wafer while in their pew. We will all stand for the Great Thanksgiving, as doing so will help us maintain the safe-distancing guidelines.
- Bulletins and offering baskets for your donations will be available as you are seated. We ask you to refrain from any congregational singing, passing of the peace, and kneeling; nor will the plate be passed during the service. These are all part of the bishop's guidelines.
- The celebrant and priest will administer the bread of the Eucharist to you while in your pews, and you may remove your mask to consume the wafer and put it back on afterward.
- After the dismissal by the priest, please remain seated until dismissed by the ushers by row. We ask for your cooperation to return to your home and not gather in groups outside.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

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

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=THE3Nm0xcW1DeHhCdWMYUIEramldz09>
 - **Meeting ID:** 861 4265 8053
 - **Passcode:** 0AbyWs
- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Lew Arend](#)
- Monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00–9:30 a.m.
 - **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://us02web.zoom.us/j/4394746544>
 - **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=VHJTDDVYem8zMVWJjakprZzFqUjBlUT09>
 - **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=VHJTTDVYem8zMWVJakprZzFqUIBLUT09>
 - **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=dTdSVFIQ2xrRS9kMEhpWDJ6NUlwQT09>
 - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
 - **Passcode:** 043097