

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 28

All School

From the Head of School

After the chaos of Winter Storm Uri, we are thankful for a joyful week with our students back in school. I want to extend gratitude to our Facilities, Dining Services, and Technology teams, who helped prepare our campuses for our students' return! It has also been heartwarming to see everyone extend grace, compassion, and care to each other as recovery efforts continue.

We have added some dates back on the calendar to make up for the extended school closure the week of February 15. **Please note that Wednesday, March 24; Monday, April 5; and Wednesday, April 21, will be regular school days.** We appreciate your partnership and flexibility with these schedule adjustments.

Over the next few weeks, I plan to share updates on some of the submitted questions we didn't get to answer at our January 26 Connections Series. We received a few inquiries about how we are tracking COVID-19 cases. I wanted to make sure you knew that we have added a COVID case summary, which is updated each week, to the Parent Portal.

We also received several questions about athletics, competitions, and spectators. I know the athletic experience has looked a little different this year, but I am thrilled that our students have been able to compete. I am also happy that we can now safely welcome some spectators to our home games. Maintaining this will take all of us working together and following safety protocols, so thank you for doing your part to help out!

Let's have a great week, Wolves!

With appreciation,

Steve Lovejoy, MEd
Head of School

2021–22 Draft School Calendar Now Available

To help you with your planning for next year, we have released the draft copy of St. Francis's academic calendar for 2021–22. [Click here to view it.](#)

Please note that this is **not the final version** of the 2021–22 school calendar. However, while some minor details may be altered before the calendar is finalized, we expect the major dates to remain the same.

Important Safety Reminders

Parents, we need your help! In order to safeguard our community and help St. Francis be a good neighbor, please be sure to follow all of St. Francis's carpool-related guidelines, including the following:

- Be helpful and listen to our police officers and security guards during carpool. They are here for the safety of our students, and no one may disregard them.
- Be sure to follow posted speeds on campus and on surrounding roads.
- Stay watchful of pedestrians, and give them the right-of-way.

Thank you for helping us keep our St. Francis family and our campus neighbors safe!

New Items Added to Spirit Store

Check out the new items recently added to the St. Francis Spirit Store!

- Wicking Fleece Quarter-Zip Pullovers in four colors; youth, ladies, and adult sizes
- Sport-Wick Fleece Hooded Pullovers in three colors; youth and adult sizes; two different imprint designs
- Long-sleeve Comfort Color shirts in six colors
- Vineyard Vine long-sleeve shirts (Remaining inventory is up; when it's gone, it's gone!)

Link: https://stores.inksoft.com/STFRANCIS_HTX_SPIRITSTORE/shop/home

Password: wolves

Primary School

From the Primary School Motor Teacher

“It’s time for motor!” It’s an excited cry that rings through all three Primary School cottages at certain times every day. This year, motor class looks a little different, but it remains true to its objective: getting students moving.

The focus of the motor program is to develop gross-motor movements and to increase core- and fine-motor strengths through the exploration of equipment and space. Instead of exploring the motor room this year, students have been able to experience the many outdoor areas around our Couper Campus.

The motor program is integral both to our Reggio-inspired Primary School program and to our St. Francis focus on whole-child development. Primary School students participate in one or two motor classes each week, depending on the number of school days they attend weekly.

Two year olds through five year olds participate in a wide array of age-appropriate activities, like throwing, climbing, and utilizing motor room equipment. These activities aid in strengthening small and large muscle groups and incorporate hand, eye, and foot coordination. Our motor activities create moments for children to celebrate personal achievements and to challenge themselves without a focus on comparing their efforts to those of others.

I am delighted to work with your children in motor weekly, and I hope to encourage lifelong movers.

Sincerely,

Coach (Leveil) Lander
Primary School Motor Teacher

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, March 4

- *Language and Literacy Series*: 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4051762292?pwd=dndPZGJRMEYb1dIUHg0THBTR3RSdz09>
 - **Meeting ID:** 405 176 2292
 - **Passcode:** wolves
-

Monday, March 15–Friday, March 19

- *Spring Break*
-

Wednesday, March 24

- *Schedule Change: Regular school day*
-

Friday, April 2

- *Good Friday: School holiday*
-

Monday, April 5

- *Schedule Change: Regular school day*
-

Wednesday, April 21

- *Schedule Change: Regular school day*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope everyone is bouncing back from the storm craziness! I know so many were impacted in a variety of ways. Some of our faculty had home damage and other issues, but they continue to persevere through anything thrown at them and do what's best for your kiddos. This is just further evidence that nothing can get us down! I remain amazed at their commitment and dedication to keeping our students' school lives as normal as possible.

We will resume our regular uniforms this week. Please remember that girls need to wear shorts, skorts, pants, or a dress; leggings/tights are fine under skorts or dresses. If you have any special circumstances that make it challenging for your child to wear school uniforms, please reach out to your homeroom teacher. We will certainly work with you!

Thanks to those who attended our Lower School Spring Check-in. We had a wonderful discussion! You can view the recording on the Parent Portal.

Thank you also for your amazing response to re-enrollment. We are now able to examine our many applicants and choose mission-appropriate students and families to fill our grade-level openings. It is always so exciting to welcome new families to our wonderful community.

Trimester 2 report cards will be released on Tuesday, March 2. Attached to the e-mail you receive, you will find explanations of the grade-level standards. Please take some time to read over them so you can fully understand where your child falls within the grade-level standards in all academic areas, approaches to learning, and social-emotional development. If you have any questions or want clarification, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

Have a great week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 2

- *Report Cards Online*
-

Friday, March 5

- *Fourth-Grade Instrument Group "PULSE" Rehearsal: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Friday, March 12

- *Fourth-Grade Instrument Group "PULSE" Rehearsal: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Monday, March 15–Friday, March 19

- *Spring Break*
-

Wednesday, March 24

- *Schedule Change: Regular school day*
-

Friday, March 26

- *Fourth-Grade Instrument Group "PULSE" Rehearsal: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Friday, April 2

- *Good Friday: School holiday*
-

Monday, April 5

- *Schedule Change: Regular school day*

Middle School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you well and recovered or on the road to recovery following last week's weather. It was great to be back in school this week, and the energy level on campus was high!

Before our unexpected campus closure, the Middle School faculty and staff took two days to make several substantive alterations to our practices this year:

1. The most visible change was the reintroduction of student movement through our campus. It was great to see kids of all ages in the halls this week!
2. Our second adjustment was to ensure clear understanding of the appropriate use of computers in school. Computers are fantastic tools in education and our

students will continue to make daily use of their computers, but we also need to ensure that our Middle School students are engaging with their teachers and peers during class.

3. Our third adjustment was a recalibration of classroom activities. Our COVID protocols have not changed, but we have learned that students can safely engage in group work and collaborative pursuits.

If you have not already done so, please ask your child to share their experiences from the past week with you. I took the opportunity to ask around this week and have included a few notable and thematic quotes below:

- “It feels like we are more of a community.”
- “I like this a lot more. It feels more like . . . school.”
- “I wish we had our lockers back.”
- “It’s a lot more writing.”
- “This has felt more natural and normal. Once, I even forgot we were in a COVID year.”

Finally, I do hope you will be able to join us for a Zoom presentation on the final trimester of 2020–21, plus a preview of the Middle School in 2021–22. We will be broadcasting live on **Monday, March 8, at 8:00 a.m.**

Here's how to join the SFES Middle School Spring Check-In:

- **Zoom Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2214046355>
- **Meeting ID:** 221 404 6355

Thank you, and have a great afternoon!

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 1

- *"A" Day*
-

Tuesday, March 2

- "B" Day
 - *Trimester 2 Report Cards Available Online: 4:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, March 3

- "C" Day
 - *Trimester 3 Honors Opt-In Forms Due*
-

Thursday, March 4

- "D" Day
-

Friday, March 5

- "E" Day
-

Monday, March 8

- "A" Day
 - *Middle School Spring Check-In: 8:00 a.m. via Zoom*
 - **Join the Zoom Meeting:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/221404635>
 - **Meeting ID: 221 404 6355**
-

Tuesday, March 9

- "B" Day
-

Wednesday, March 10

- "C" Day

Thursday, March 11

- *"D" Day*

Friday, March 12

- *"E" Day*

Monday, March 15–Friday, March 19

- *Spring Break*

Wednesday, March 24

- *Schedule Change:* Regular school day

Friday, April 2

- *Good Friday:* School holiday

Monday, April 5

- *Schedule Change:* Regular school day

Upper School**From the Division Head**

It was great being back at school this week. Who would have known when we left for the Presidents' Day weekend that we would be away for a full week? Most of our community spent the holiday inside cold homes, with unpredictable water and electrical

services. I think most of us have a renewed appreciation for our typically mild Houston winters.

Last week, we extended our second trimester through Thursday to allow students to complete work in progress, and our faculty time to draw their grade books to a close. Friday was the first day of the third trimester, with a revised schedule that includes new elective courses.

The first half of the final trimester can be a challenging one for students. With two thirds of the year behind them, self-motivation can be in short supply. It's important that there is a commitment to work through projects and assignments that require more sustained focus. At the midpoint of the third trimester, you will receive narrative reports from your child's teachers communicating progress in classes. As always, you have access to your child's current grades at all times through Veracross.

We've seen so much growth in our students, and look forward to our work together in the months ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Take good care,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School/Interim Head of Upper School

ACT Information for Juniors

This upcoming **Tuesday, March 2**, the Class of 2022 will be taking an official ACT With Writing on campus. **All juniors should arrive to campus no later than 7:50 a.m.** Please read below for further details.

- **Standard Time:** Students taking the exam without accommodations should expect to finish around noon. They will then proceed to lunch and resume their normal Odd Day schedule.
- **Extended Time:** Those in extended time will finish around 2:00 p.m. We will provide box lunches for those students and give them time to eat before proceeding to their Block 7 class at 2:30 p.m.

ITEMS TO BRING

- Several sharpened No. 2 pencils (nonmechanical)
- Graphing calculator
- Snacks (This is especially important for those in extended time.)
- Positive mental attitude

Families will be billed \$46 for the cost of the exam (a discounted rate). I would also like to gently remind families that **this will be the only opportunity our juniors have to**

take an official ACT or SAT on campus. We are only offering it in response to COVID concerns, and students will have to take all other official exams at schools hosting on the national test dates.

If you have any questions, please [e-mail Steven Scales](#). For more information directly from ACT, feel free to click on the following link: [Information for Examinees](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 1

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Tuesday, March 2

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
 - *ACT Administration (Grade 11 Only)*
 - *Report Cards Released*
-

Wednesday, March 3

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Thursday, March 4

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Friday, March 5

- *Even Day*
- *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*

Monday, March 8

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Tuesday, March 9

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, March 10

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Thursday, March 11

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Friday, March 12

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Monday, March 15–Friday, March 19

- *Spring Break: School holiday*
-

Wednesday, March 24

- *Schedule Change:* Regular school day
-

Friday, April 2

- *Good Friday:* School holiday
-

Monday, April 5

- *Schedule Change:* Regular school day

Church

2021 Lenten Challenge—Feeding the Hungry

This year, our Lenten Challenge will be a focused fundraiser to help those who are less fortunate.

For four weeks in March, we will intensify our collection for the **Fairhaven Food Pantry**. We will gather donations and nonperishable food items. FFP is especially in need of plastic grocery bags, as well as diapers, canned food, pasta, and other nonperishable items. There will be collection baskets located in the Narthex every Sunday morning.

Please consider purchasing items for this worthwhile cause on your next visit to the grocery store. Contact the church office at 713.782.1270 if you have any questions.

Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for March 27

Father Bates will lead a **forgiveness workshop on Saturday, March 27, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room**. This will be a time during Lent to consider whom you need to forgive, and to work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” — C.S. Lewis

Social-distancing guidelines will be followed, and everyone is required to wear a mask. Please RSVP to Sally Jo Flores [via e-mail](#) or call the church office at 713.782.1270 if you plan to attend.

Middle School Bible Study: A Note From Allison Devlin

I want to invite your children to experience the struggles and triumphs of Christian as he travels along the narrow path to the Celestial City, and discover how the characters and places in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* apply to your child's spiritual journey.

- **Who:** Middle School students
- **What:** Bible study and fellowship
- **When:** Every Sunday, after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service (started January 24)
- **Where:** CE212 (GLOW room, upstairs above the church office; we will stay socially distant with masks on)
- **Why:** Often disguised as something that would help him, evil accompanies Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. As you walk with him, you'll begin to identify today's many religious pitfalls. These are presented by men such as Pliable, who turns back at the Slough of Despond, and Ignorance, who believes he's a true follower of Christ when he's only trusting in himself. Each character represented in this allegory is intentionally and profoundly accurate in its depiction of what we see all around us, and unfortunately, what we too often see in ourselves. But while Christian is injured and nearly killed, he eventually prevails. So can you!

This study is awesome, and I hope you decide that your child will participate. Please [let me know](#) so I can order them a book. If your child would prefer to attend virtually, there will be a Zoom option available.

A Note for High School Students and Parents From Allison Devlin

We are starting a new activity for our high school-aged teens at St. Francis Episcopal Church!

- **Who:** High school teens
- **What:** Dinner and Bible study
- **When:** Every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. (next meeting is March 10)
- **Where:** Houston Racquet Club
- **Why:** Come experience the struggles and triumphs of Christian as he travels along the narrow path to the Celestial City, and discover how the characters and places in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* apply to your spiritual journey. Often disguised as something that would help him, evil accompanies Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. As you walk with him, you'll begin to identify today's many religious pitfalls. These are presented by men such as Pliable, who turns back at the Slough of Despond, and Ignorance, who believes he's a true follower of Christ when he is only trusting in himself. Each character represented in this allegory is intentionally and profoundly accurate in its depiction of what we see all around us, and unfortunately, what we too often see in ourselves. But while Christian is injured and nearly killed, he eventually prevails. So can you!

This study is awesome, and I hope you decide to participate. [Let me know](#) so I can order you a book.

MAM Volunteer Opportunities

Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) needs volunteers for its ReSale Store and Warehouse at 1625 Blalock Road and is hoping for help from families and friends of our congregation and school.

- MAM is following all safety protocols—masks and sanitizer are provided; social distancing is practiced; and the shift size is limited to six people.
- If your child or group needs service hours, this is a great opportunity to fulfill the requirement.
- Please check the dates available in this [SignUpGenius link](#) and sign up to help—either on your own or in a group.
- For additional information, contact our church liaison, Andrea Eubanks, [via e-mail](#) or 713.859.1448.

In-Person Worship

The Holy Eucharist is offered at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. We 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 livestream our worship service on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Access the livestream via our church [website](#), [YouTube channel](#), or [Facebook page](#). Instructions for livestreaming are included at the bottom of this section.

- In-person worship guidelines are available [here](#).
- Only a limited number of participants can be safely seated according to the distancing guidelines. To ensure we comply with these guidelines, please sign up each week, indicating you would like to come to worship. To do so, go to the St. Francis Episcopal Church [website](#), click "Sign Up for In-Person Worship," choose the date, and sign up through the SignUpGenius app to attend the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.

Join Fr. Wismer for *The Goodnight Show* on Tuesdays

Join Fr. Wismer for ***The Goodnight Show*** on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. on the [St. Francis Facebook page](#). 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.](#)

Let It Shine! In-Person and on YouTube

Join us for in-person Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout: All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate. Children will learn lessons from the Bible, act out Bible stories, memorize key verses from Scripture, and pray together outside following safe-distancing guidelines.

The Let It Shine! videos are available on the St. Francis YouTube channel, with a dedicated channel for Let it Shine! This is a great way for us to reach children everywhere with 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 is looking for entertaining, informative videos to help lead children to Jesus.
- [Click here to visit the channel.](#) **Be sure to like, subscribe, and turn on notifications!**

Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** is on **Fridays at 11:00 a.m.**, led by **Allison Devlin**, director of family ministry. Please contact Allison via [e-mail](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Moms in Prayer

Join other mothers for a time of prayer together on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Please contact Allison Devlin via [e-mail](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

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 two months.

Upcoming Events at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following events regularly 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:** Current study on the prophet Isaiah
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
 - *Passcode required to join; e-mail Louise Richman to participate.*
- Fridays at 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 - **Study:** *Mom Set Free* by Jeannie Cunnion
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - *E-mail Allison Devlin for meeting location*

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Lew Arend](#)
- The Men of St. Francis (TMOSF)
 - Monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (Next meeting is March 9)
 - **Study:** The Gospel of Mark
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423240761>
 - **Meeting ID:** 864 2324 0761
 - **Passcode:** sW9R20

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81068388948>
 - **Meeting ID:** 810 6838 8948
 - **Passcode:** 767200

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS—BIBLE STUDIES AND MEETINGS

- Sundays at 10:15–10:45 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** GLOW
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4394746544>
 - **Meeting ID:** 716 183 992
 - **Passcode:** 476823
- Tuesdays at 7:00–7:15 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** The Goodnight Show
 - **Contact:** [Fr. Bob Wismer](#)

- [Facebook Livestream](#)
- Wednesdays at 6:30–8:00 p.m. (Every other Wednesday; next meeting is March 10)
 - **Meeting:** Teen Dinner and Bible Study
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - **Location:** Houston Racquet Club

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>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 05741
- Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081>
 - **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>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Thursdays at 8:15–8:45 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Prayer Session (We read Scripture and go through a prayer cycle of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession.)
 - **Contact:** [Heather Burkhardt](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79725936159>
 - **Meeting ID:** 797 2593 6159
 - **Passcode:** 678123
- Thursdays after carpool drop-off
 - **Meeting:** Prayer Session
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - *E-mail Allison Devlin to get the meeting location*
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081>
 - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
 - **Passcode:** 043097

How to Watch Sunday Service Via Livestream

If you would like to join St. Francis Episcopal Church's 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Sunday service via livestream, here's how to watch:

1. Open an Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—sfch.org.
2. Click on the "Watch Live Stream" button. Choose to watch from Facebook or YouTube.
3. Prelude music will begin on the livestream 10 minutes before the service to allow time for your connection and your inspiration. If you miss the live video, a recording of the service will also be available on [St. Francis's YouTube channel](#).