

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 3

All School

Watch the Recording of the Recent St. Francis Connections Event

A big thank-you to everyone who joined us last Tuesday for the first St. Francis Connections event of 2021–22! At the lunch and learn, Dr. Jocelyn Abrams and Head of School Steve Lovejoy discussed adolescent anxiety and how parents can help their children cope in an ever-changing landscape. If you missed the session (or just want to review the information presented), you can [watch the recording here](#).

Save the Date: Theater Is Back!

We are excited to showcase our talented students, who will be performing in front of full live audiences again this fall!

- The Middle School production of *Lions in Illyria* will be on Friday, October 29.
- The Upper School production of *The Sound of Music* will be on Friday, November 12, and Saturday, November 13.
- All performances will be in the Fine Arts Center on the Piney Point Campus.
- The Friends of Fine Arts will host a preshow dinner before each Friday night performance. Come for dinner, the show, or both!

More details to come. Stay tuned, and mark your calendars to come out and support the arts!

Join Us This Week for Homecoming Celebration and Spirit Week!

Join us for a week of food, fun, and festivities, starting tomorrow! We emailed you all the details about what to wear and where to be this past Friday. In case you missed it, [click here to view the email!](#)

A Note About the St. Francis Fund

The St. Francis Fund has officially kicked off! We have a dedicated and enthusiastic group of parent volunteers who will be reaching out to you soon. In the meantime, here are some interesting facts about the St. Francis Fund:

- Last year, 87 percent of parents gave to the St. Francis Fund; our goal is to surpass that number this year.
- 91 percent of faculty and staff and 100% of the Board of Trustees have already given to the St. Francis Fund this year!
- Many companies—including Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Goldman Sachs, and others—will match your tax-deductible St. Francis Fund donation, doubling your impact. Check with your employer to see if they participate in a gift-matching program.
- You can [pledge online now](#), and you don't have to pay until June 30, 2022. This is a great option if you want to participate in the St. Francis Fund now, but for tax purposes don't want to make an actual donation until later.
- You can [sign up online](#) to make a recurring gift that is automatically charged to your credit card weekly, monthly, or every three months.
- You can [donate stock](#). While each individual situation is different, donating stock could help you avoid capital gains tax, which can make giving appreciated stock even more beneficial than giving cash.
- Contact [Sandy August](#) with any questions or for more information.

[Make your gift or pledge to the St. Francis Fund today!](#)

Gala 2022: See You at Studio 52!

The Gala countdown has begun! [Save the Date for February 5, 2022](#). This year's Gala chairs, Kim Graeter and Jen McDonald, and the Gala Committee are planning a spectacularly unique evening that you won't want to miss. More details soon!

COVID Dashboard: Weekly Update

St. Francis is updating the following COVID Dashboard weekly to track the number of active cases and total year-to-date cases for students and faculty/staff. This dashboard can also be found on the Parent Portal.

COVID Dashboard

STUDENTS	FACULTY/STAFF
ACTIVE Cases	ACTIVE Cases
Total Active COVID+ Students	Total Active COVID+ Faculty/Staff
1	3
YTD Cases	YTD Cases
Total YTD COVID+ Students	Total YTD COVID+ Faculty/Staff
34	13

*Updated 10/01/21 at 1:00 p.m.

Primary School

From the Assistant Head of School

If you ask most parents their hope for their children as they grow up, they will say, “I just want them to be happy.” I would agree with that, but I also add in, “and kind.”

Kindness is more than being nice. It’s being forgiving and compassionate and showing sympathy. It’s selflessness. Authentic kindness doesn’t just happen when people are watching—there should not be an expectation of a reward. We all want children to work to have kindness become a part of their lives. It’s what we want people to remember about us. Especially important is kindness shown to those who can do nothing for us in return. It isn’t quid pro quo.

Signs of kindness are everywhere at St. Francis: a student in Primary School helping another put on rain boots; a Lower School student from our Leadership Council opening

a peer's door with a warm smile in morning carpool; a student in Middle School holding open a door for a fellow student or teacher; and an Upper School student welcoming a new student to the division and inviting them to join a group for lunch. "Kind is the new cool," and it's contagious.

Kindness comes in many forms in our community. It's the Care and Compassion Committee members who support families with meals after a family member's illness, surgery, or new baby. It's volunteers supporting a classroom or school-wide event in ways that make the work of our faculty and staff more successful. It's providing donuts for a Bible study group, inviting other adults and children you don't know to outside activities, and modeling kindness to those who serve us "behind the scenes."

Our students are growing, learning, and watching. Ideally, students learn to be kind from seeing it demonstrated. They observe all of us, and watch to see how adults respond to others when in frustrating situations or at other times when it may be difficult to be kind. In the seventh-grade girls' Bible study I lead, we are reading, "10 Ultimate Truths Girls Should Know." It's a good book of truths that aren't just for girls. In the countdown of truths, we start the book with "Truth #10: Kindness is more important than popularity." It may sound easy to choose kindness, but standing alone—even for what is right—takes courage and confidence. It takes practice to be able to show genuine kindness in situations that aren't easy or comfortable.

Ask your child, "Who is the kindest person you know? What do they do that makes them kind?" They'll probably give responses like, "They include everyone; they help people; they listen to others; they're a friend; they're dependable; they're respectful; they don't worry about being popular; and they are kind even if someone isn't kind to them."

Children who are kind have the strongest and most meaningful connections to others. It matters to all of us at St. Francis. Kindness begets kindness.

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." —Ephesians 4:32

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

Join Us This Week for Homecoming Celebration and Spirit Week!

Join us for a week of food, fun, and festivities, starting tomorrow! We emailed you all the details about what to wear and where to be this past Friday. In case you missed it, [click here to view the email!](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 4–Friday, October 8

- *Spirit Week*
-

Monday, October 4

- *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans*: No athletic shorts
-

Tuesday, October 5

- *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans*: No athletic shorts
 - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person
 - *Furry Friend Picnic (Students Only)*
 - *Primary School Open Library*: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library
-

Wednesday, October 6

- *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans*: No athletic shorts
 - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person
-

Thursday, October 7

- *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans*: No athletic shorts
 - *Upper and Primary School Pep Rally*: 11:25 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; students only
 - *Homecoming Celebration*: 4:30–7:30 p.m. on Couper Campus; sponsored by the Booster Club; all are welcome
-

Friday, October 8

- *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans*: No athletic shorts
- *Pre-Primary Blessing of the Stuffed Animals*: Students only

Monday, October 11

- *Fall Holiday*: School closed

Tuesday, October 12

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person
- *Chapel Drama*: Mrs. Hughes's class at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 13

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person
- *A Day in the Life of Primary School*: 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

Thursday, October 14

- *Primary School Admissions Tour*: 9:30 a.m.

Monday, October 18

- *Primary School Open Library*: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library

Tuesday, October 19

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Mrs. Staller's and Mrs. Hughes's classes attend in person
- *Primary II Sings in Chapel*: Mrs. Staller's and Mrs. Hughes's classes

Wednesday, October 20

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person

Monday, October 25

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, October 26

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Mrs. Wiener's and Mrs. Owens's classes attend in person*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Mrs. Wiener's and Mrs. Owens's classes*
-

Wednesday, October 27

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*
-

Friday, October 29

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Primary School Parent-Teacher Conference Day*
-

Monday, November 1

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, November 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Chapel Drama: Mrs. Owens's class*
-

Wednesday, November 3

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*

Thursday, November 4

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Sunday, November 7

- *Primary School Admissions Open House: 2:00–4:00 p.m.*

Lower School

From the Assistant Head of School

If you ask most parents their hope for their children as they grow up, they will say, “I just want them to be happy.” I would agree with that, but I also add in, “and kind.”

Kindness is more than being nice. It’s being forgiving and compassionate and showing sympathy. It’s selflessness. Authentic kindness doesn’t just happen when people are watching—there should not be an expectation of a reward. We all want children to work to have kindness become a part of their lives. It’s what we want people to remember about us. Especially important is kindness shown to those who can do nothing for us in return. It isn’t quid pro quo.

Signs of kindness are everywhere at St. Francis: a student in Primary School helping another put on rain boots; a Lower School student from our Leadership Council opening a peer’s door with a warm smile in morning carpool; a student in Middle School holding open a door for a fellow student or teacher; and an Upper School student welcoming a new student to the division and inviting them to join a group for lunch. “Kind is the new cool,” and it’s contagious.

Kindness comes in many forms in our community. It’s the Care and Compassion Committee members who support families with meals after a family member’s illness, surgery, or new baby. It’s volunteers supporting a classroom or school-wide event in ways that make the work of our faculty and staff more successful. It’s providing donuts for a Bible study group, inviting other adults and children you don’t know to outside activities, and modeling kindness to those who serve us “behind the scenes.”

Our students are growing, learning, and watching. Ideally, students learn to be kind from seeing it demonstrated. They observe all of us, and watch to see how adults respond to others when in frustrating situations or at other times when it may be difficult to be kind. In the seventh-grade girls’ Bible study I lead, we are reading, “10 Ultimate Truths Girls

Should Know.” It’s a good book of truths that aren’t just for girls. In the countdown of truths, we start the book with “Truth #10: Kindness is more important than popularity.” It may sound easy to choose kindness, but standing alone—even for what is right—takes courage and confidence. It takes practice to be able to show genuine kindness in situations that aren’t easy or comfortable.

Ask your child, “Who is the kindest person you know? What do they do that makes them kind?” They’ll probably give responses like, “They include everyone; they help people; they listen to others; they’re a friend; they’re dependable; they’re respectful; they don’t worry about being popular; and they are kind even if someone isn’t kind to them.”

Children who are kind have the strongest and most meaningful connections to others. It matters to all of us at St. Francis. Kindness begets kindness.

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” —Ephesians 4:32

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

From the Division Head

I hope your October is off to a great start. Some essential life skills are introduced in kindergarten, and continue to be taught throughout the Lower School experience. In the article below, our kindergarten team highlights ways we work together to support student independence at school and home.

All the best,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Lower School

From the Kindergarten Teachers: A Note About Fostering Independence

Starting kindergarten is an exciting time in your child’s life as they transition to the Piney Point Campus and step forward into life as a Lower School student. Your Lower School child will be expected to complete some tasks on his or her own. While this may be challenging for students, there are ways that we can work together to foster independence at school and home.

- **Consistent Routines:** Establishing daily routines will create a sense of structure and predictability in your home. Have your child help prepare for each school day

by packing a snack, water bottle, and jacket, and by completing home-practice activities independently. Involve your child in age-appropriate chores that nurture independence and self-confidence, such as feeding the pets and setting the table.

- **Organization:** Practice organizational skills and cleaning up after oneself to build habits of putting things where they belong without adult support.
- **Problem-Solving:** There may be times when your child struggles or experiences obstacles, but allowing them to work through these roadblocks will build a sense of perseverance and independence. Give your child time to problem-solve possible solutions, or use questioning to guide them to find answers within.

Building these life skills at an early age will set your child up for success! We look forward to a wonderful parent-teacher partnership and a positive year of growth!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers (Mary Armintor, Sarah Carl, Monica Masini, Emily Senchuk)

Join Us This Week for Homecoming Celebration and Spirit Week!

Join us for a week of food, fun, and festivities, starting tomorrow! We emailed you all the details about what to wear and where to be this past Friday. In case you missed it, [click here to view the email!](#)

Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Is October 12-15

The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive for Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) will take place this year on October 12-15. The annual children's coat drive, which is sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society, supports MAM by collecting new and used coats so they are available to those in need before the cold temperatures hit. Donations can be given to your homeroom teacher or advisor.

Sale of Memory Books Extended for One Week

This is the last week to purchase Memory Books (for last school year).

- These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes are grade-specific and capture class parties, seasonal events, special days like the Pumpkin Carving Contest, and even distance learning. Remember to order for your child's grade LAST YEAR.
- [Click here to buy your memory books today.](#)
- With questions, email [Jessica Williams](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 4

- *Feast of St. Francis Eucharist for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 3–9 birthdays
 - *Grade 4 Blessing of the Animals:* 9:00 a.m. in the Courtyard
-

Monday, October 4–Friday, October 8

- *Homecoming and Spirit Week*
 - **Monday, October 4**—Pajama Day
 - **Tuesday, October 5**—Under the Stars (Astronauts, aliens, stars, planets, etc.)
 - **Wednesday, October 6**—Western Wednesday (Western wear)
 - **Thursday, October 7**—Blue Out Spirit Day (Wear your St. Francis navy!)
 - **Friday, October 8**—Hippie Day (Tie-dye, jeans, etc.)
-

Wednesday, October 6

- *Late-Start Day:* Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
 - Regular Carpool: 7:00–8:00 a.m.; students will be supervised by staff in the Dining Hall
 - Late-Start Carpool: 9:30–9:55 a.m.; students will be supervised in the Dining Hall until 9:50 a.m., when they will be released to go to class
-

Thursday, October 7

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 3–9 birthdays
- *Lower School Lunch Rallies:* 10:50–11:20 a.m. in the Dining Hall/People Place; student-only event
- *Lower and Middle School Pep Rally:* 2:05–2:45 p.m. on Piney Point Field; student-only event
- *Homecoming Celebration:* 4:30–7:30 p.m. on Couper Campus; sponsored by the Booster Club; all are welcome

Monday, October 11

- *Fall Holiday*: School closed
-

Tuesday, October 12–Friday, October 15

- *Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Thursday, October 14

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 10-16 birthdays
-

Sunday, October 17

- *Episcopal School Sunday*: 9:00 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Joyful Sounds choir performance
-

Monday, October 18

- *Chapel for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 10-23 birthdays
 - *Hearing and Vision Screenings*: For students in kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and for all students who are new to St. Francis
-

Tuesday, October 19

- *Hearing and Vision Screenings*: For students in kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and for all students who are new to St. Francis

Thursday, October 21

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 17-23 birthdays

Friday, October 22

- *Joyful Sounds Choir Performance: At Couper Campus*

Middle School

From the Assistant Head of School

If you ask most parents their hope for their children as they grow up, they will say, “I just want them to be happy.” I would agree with that, but I also add in, “and kind.”

Kindness is more than being nice. It’s being forgiving and compassionate and showing sympathy. It’s selflessness. Authentic kindness doesn’t just happen when people are watching—there should not be an expectation of a reward. We all want children to work to have kindness become a part of their lives. It’s what we want people to remember about us. Especially important is kindness shown to those who can do nothing for us in return. It isn’t quid pro quo.

Signs of kindness are everywhere at St. Francis: a student in Primary School helping another put on rain boots; a Lower School student from our Leadership Council opening a peer’s door with a warm smile in morning carpool; a student in Middle School holding open a door for a fellow student or teacher; and an Upper School student welcoming a new student to the division and inviting them to join a group for lunch. “Kind is the new cool,” and it’s contagious.

Kindness comes in many forms in our community. It’s the Care and Compassion Committee members who support families with meals after a family member’s illness, surgery, or new baby. It’s volunteers supporting a classroom or school-wide event in ways that make the work of our faculty and staff more successful. It’s providing donuts for a Bible study group, inviting other adults and children you don’t know to outside activities, and modeling kindness to those who serve us “behind the scenes.”

Our students are growing, learning, and watching. Ideally, students learn to be kind from seeing it demonstrated. They observe all of us, and watch to see how adults respond to

others when in frustrating situations or at other times when it may be difficult to be kind. In the seventh-grade girls' Bible study I lead, we are reading, "10 Ultimate Truths Girls Should Know." It's a good book of truths that aren't just for girls. In the countdown of truths, we start the book with "Truth #10: Kindness is more important than popularity." It may sound easy to choose kindness, but standing alone—even for what is right—takes courage and confidence. It takes practice to be able to show genuine kindness in situations that aren't easy or comfortable.

Ask your child, "Who is the kindest person you know? What do they do that makes them kind?" They'll probably give responses like, "They include everyone; they help people; they listen to others; they're a friend; they're dependable; they're respectful; they don't worry about being popular; and they are kind even if someone isn't kind to them."

Children who are kind have the strongest and most meaningful connections to others. It matters to all of us at St. Francis. Kindness begets kindness.

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." —Ephesians 4:32

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

A Note About Carpool This Week

Due to special events on campus this week, carpool may take longer on Wednesday, October 6, and Thursday, October 7. We appreciate your patience as we work to release a larger portion of the Middle School during afternoon carpool.

Student Digital Planners and Academic Independence

We are pleased to announce that Middle School students have access to a digital planner linked to their Veracross account. The platform was designed by our friends at Academic Independence, who made a short introductory video to introduce the tool to St. Francis. [Click here](#) to watch it.

Lauren Price, director of Academic Independence, will be our featured guest during the Middle School Parent Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:45 a.m. I hope you will join us for a great morning of learning about self-regulation, positive mindsets, and study skills!

Modified Athletics Practice Plans This Wednesday and Thursday

LATE-START SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

There will be a modified practice schedule for Wednesday, October 6, due to the late-start schedule. Please see below for details.

- No MS physical education class; 3:50 p.m. carpool pickup at Piney Point Campus
- No practice for Cross-Country, Field Hockey, and Boys Volleyball; 3:50 p.m. carpool pickup at Piney Point Campus
- Girls Volleyball will practice at Piney Point Campus, with 4:30 p.m. carpool pickup (except the 8 Gray team, which will have an away match)
- Football will practice at Piney Point Campus, with 5:00 p.m. carpool pickup

MODIFIED PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

There will also be a modified practice schedule on Thursday, October 7, to accommodate the Homecoming festivities at Couper Campus. Please see below for details.

- MS physical education will have carpool pickup at 3:50 p.m., as usual
- Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Volleyball will have condensed practices on the Piney Point Campus. Carpool pickup (at Piney Point Campus) will be at 3:50 p.m. for each of these teams.
- 6/7 Football will practice at Piney Point Campus until 4:15 p.m.
- The Howlers will be transported to Couper Campus by bus.
- The 7/8 Football team will be transported to Couper Campus by bus for its game.

Join Us This Week for Homecoming Celebration and Spirit Week!

Join us for a week of food, fun, and festivities, starting tomorrow! We emailed you all the details about what to wear and where to be this past Friday. In case you missed it, [click here to view the email!](#)

Spirit Week and Spirit Dress Days

The theme for Spirit Week is “Under the Stars.” Students not participating in spirit dress are expected to wear their school uniform. It is our expectation that all costumes will be in good taste and that students will be appropriately covered at all times. No sleeveless tops, please!

- **Monday, October 4**—Pajama Day
- **Tuesday, October 5**—Under the Stars Day (Astronauts, aliens, stars, planets, etc.)
- **Wednesday, October 6**—Western Wednesday (Western wear)

- **Thursday, October 7**—White Out Spirit Day (White tops and bottoms are appropriate!)
- **Friday, October 8**—Hippie Day (Tie-dye, jeans, etc.)

Casual Dress Day Guidelines

On Casual Dress Days, students are expected to follow dress-code guidelines and may also wear appropriate T-shirts and blue jeans.

- Leggings are permitted with long T-shirts.
- Jeans, slacks, or shorts must be the same length as uniform shorts.
- No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or basketball jerseys are allowed, except over a T-shirt.

Fifth-Grade Movie Night Rescheduled (and Reimagined!)

Fifth-Grade Movie Night will now include games and other activities! Originally scheduled for Friday, October 8, the newly expanded event—Fifth Grade Movie and Game Night—has been rescheduled and will now take place on Friday, February 25. Though the event is still a few months away, our planning has begun, and we are excited to host an evening of fun events just for our fifth-grade students. More details to come as we approach the event date!

Deadline to Purchase MS Pictures Is Tuesday

Online purchasing of Middle School pictures is available until this Tuesday, October 5. To purchase photos online, please visit www.PrePayOrders.com and use the Flyer Code of SFEMIDDLE2021. If your child was not here for photos, please note that we will have a makeup photo day on Thursday, November 4.

Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Is October 12–15

The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive for Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) will take place this year on October 12–15. The annual children’s coat drive, which is sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society, supports MAM by collecting new and used coats so they are available to those in need before the cold temperatures hit. Donations can be given to your homeroom teacher or advisor.

Sale of Memory Books Extended for One Week

This is the last week to purchase **Fourth-Grade Memory Books** (for last school year).

- These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes are grade-specific and capture class parties, seasonal events, special days like the Pumpkin Carving Contest, and even distance learning. Remember to order for your child’s grade **LAST YEAR**.

- [Click here](#) to buy your memory books today.
- With questions, email [Jessica Williams](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 4–Friday, October 8

- *Spirit Week*
-

Monday, October 4

- *"D" Day*
 - *Pajama Day Dress*
 - *Middle School Eucharist Chapel: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 5

- *"E" Day*
 - *Under the Stars Day Dress: Astronauts, aliens, stars, planets, etc.*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 8 Girls/Grade 7 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Wednesday, October 6

- *"A" Day*
 - *Late Start: Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.*
 - *Western Wear Dress*
 - *No Bible Study or PE*
-

Thursday, October 7

- *"B" Day*
- *White Out Spirit Wear: White tops and bottoms are appropriate*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 6 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*

- *Booster Bash Lunch*: 12:05–12:55 p.m. in the Dining Hall/People Place; student-only event
 - *Lower and Middle School Pep Rally*: 2:05–2:45 p.m. on Piney Point Field; student-only event
 - *Homecoming Celebration*: 4:30–7:30 p.m. on Couper Campus; sponsored by the Booster Club; all are welcome
-

Friday, October 8

- *"A" Day*
 - *Hippie Day*: Tie-dye, jeans, etc.
-

Monday, October 11

- *Fall Holiday*: No school
-

Tuesday, October 12–Friday, October 15

- *NJHS/Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Tuesday, October 12

- *"C" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *No Morning Tutorials Due to MS Division Meeting*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 8 Girls/Grade 7 Boys and Girls)*: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
-

Wednesday, October 13

- *"D" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study (Grade 8 Boys)*: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
-

Thursday, October 14

- *"E" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 6 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*
-

Friday, October 15

- *"A" Day*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans:* No athletic shorts
-

Monday, October 18

- *Hearing and Vision Screenings:* For all new students and for students in fifth grade and seventh grade
-

Tuesday, October 19

- *Hearing and Vision Screenings:* For all new students and for students in fifth grade and seventh grade

Upper School

From the Assistant Head of School

If you ask most parents their hope for their children as they grow up, they will say, "I just want them to be happy." I would agree with that, but I also add in, "and kind."

Kindness is more than being nice. It's being forgiving and compassionate and showing sympathy. It's selflessness. Authentic kindness doesn't just happen when people are watching—there should not be an expectation of a reward. We all want children to work to have kindness become a part of their lives. It's what we want people to remember about us. Especially important is kindness shown to those who can do nothing for us in return. It isn't quid pro quo.

Signs of kindness are everywhere at St. Francis: a student in Primary School helping another put on rain boots; a Lower School student from our Leadership Council opening a peer's door with a warm smile in morning carpool; a student in Middle School holding open a door for a fellow student or teacher; and an Upper School student welcoming a new student to the division and inviting them to join a group for lunch. "Kind is the new cool," and it's contagious.

Kindness comes in many forms in our community. It's the Care and Compassion Committee members who support families with meals after a family member's illness, surgery, or new baby. It's volunteers supporting a classroom or school-wide event in ways that make the work of our faculty and staff more successful. It's providing donuts for a Bible study group, inviting other adults and children you don't know to outside activities, and modeling kindness to those who serve us "behind the scenes."

Our students are growing, learning, and watching. Ideally, students learn to be kind from seeing it demonstrated. They observe all of us, and watch to see how adults respond to others when in frustrating situations or at other times when it may be difficult to be kind. In the seventh-grade girls' Bible study I lead, we are reading, "10 Ultimate Truths Girls Should Know." It's a good book of truths that aren't just for girls. In the countdown of truths, we start the book with "Truth #10: Kindness is more important than popularity." It may sound easy to choose kindness, but standing alone—even for what is right—takes courage and confidence. It takes practice to be able to show genuine kindness in situations that aren't easy or comfortable.

Ask your child, "Who is the kindest person you know? What do they do that makes them kind?" They'll probably give responses like, "They include everyone; they help people; they listen to others; they're a friend; they're dependable; they're respectful; they don't worry about being popular; and they are kind even if someone isn't kind to them."

Children who are kind have the strongest and most meaningful connections to others. It matters to all of us at St. Francis. Kindness begets kindness.

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." —Ephesians 4:32

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

Join Us This Week for Homecoming Celebration and Spirit Week!

Join us for a week of food, fun, and festivities, starting tomorrow! We emailed you all the details about what to wear and where to be this past Friday. In case you missed it, [click here to view the email!](#)

Summer Travel to Greece and Italy

We are excited to announce that Ximena Allub will lead an optional summer trip to Greece and Italy!

- The trip dates are June 7–15, 2022. [Click here](#) to see the itinerary and trip site, and [click here](#) to print the required application to join the trip. (The application also includes additional details on deadlines and how to register.)
- If you'd like to see a sneak preview of the trip, [click here](#) for a video from the 2015 St. Francis trip to Greece and Italy.
- Señora Allub will host a Zoom information meeting for parents tomorrow—Monday, October 4—at 12:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting when it's time (password: wolves). The Zoom meeting will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.
- The trip application interest form is due to Señora Allub by Friday, October 15, and online registration with ACIS is due by Monday, November 1, for the lowest possible price.

Spirit Week/Homecoming Dance Dates and Details

Please find details about our upcoming Spirit Week events and Upper School Homecoming Dance below.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday, October 4–Friday, October 8**—Spirit Week
- **Tuesday, October 5, at 5:45 p.m.**—US JV Girls Volleyball Game vs. St. Constantine, in Crum Gym
- **Wednesday, October 6, at 6:15 p.m.**—US Boys Volleyball vs. Kinkaid, in Crum Gym
- **Thursday, October 7, 11:25 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**—Primary and Upper School Pep Rally (Homecoming Court Presentation)
- **Thursday, October 7, at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.**—US Girls JV and Varsity Volleyball Game vs. Faith West Academy
- **Saturday, October 9, at 8:30 a.m.**—Cross-Country at St. John's Maverick Ramble
- **Saturday, October 16, 8:00–10:30 p.m.**—Homecoming Dance on Couper Campus

SPIRIT WEEK

The theme for the week is “Under the Stars.” Students who do not participate in the assigned costumes for dress-up days must wear their school uniforms. As always, the Code of Conduct is in place. It is our expectation that all costumes will be in good taste and that students will be appropriately covered at all times.

- **Monday, October 4**—Pajama Day
- **Tuesday, October 5**—Under the Stars (Astronauts, aliens, stars, planets, etc.)

- **Wednesday, October 6**—Western Wednesday (Western wear)
- **Thursday, October 7**—Blue Out Spirit Day (Wear your St. Francis navy!)
- **Friday, October 8**—Hippie Day (Tie-dye, jeans, etc.)

UPPER AND PRIMARY SCHOOL PEP RALLY AND HOMECOMING COURT PRESENTATION

This **Thursday, October 7**, Upper School students will be hosting a pep rally for our neighbors in the Primary School. This is a very sweet and memorable tradition that began when the Upper School was founded.

We will crown a Homecoming Court! The Homecoming Court comprises seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. Two winners will be chosen from each class. Parents of Homecoming Court members who would like to attend the pep rally should arrive in Crum Gym no later than 11:25 a.m.

HOMECOMING DANCE

On **Saturday, October 16**, St. Francis will host the Upper School Homecoming Dance. The dance will take place from **8:00 to 10:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym on Couper Campus**. Students must arrive no later than 8:30 p.m. Here are some additional details:

- **Food**—Dinner will not be provided, so we encourage students to eat beforehand.
- **Guests**—Students wanting to bring a guest must pick up a form from Ms. Urbanek and return it, signed and completed, by Tuesday, October 12.
- **Dates**—We are a small school and want to limit social pressure as much as possible. We are strongly encouraging students to come as friends and with friends. Students should not feel the need to ask a date or have a date to attend the dance. We anticipate the majority will come solo/with a group of friends. We are messaging this to them, as we just want them to attend and have fun.
- **Dress Code**—The dance is semiformal, so suits and party attire are fine.
- **Theme**—The theme for the evening is "Under the Stars."
- **Behavior**—As with all school functions, we have a zero-tolerance policy related to any substance abuse or tobacco (including vaping). This policy applies to guests, as well.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 4–Friday, October 8

- *Spirit Week*

Monday, October 4

- "A" Day

- *Pajama Day Dress*
 - *Upper School Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Eucharist Chapel: 10:00–10:45 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 5

- *"B" Day*
 - *Under the Stars Day Dress: Astronauts, aliens, stars, planets, etc.*
-

Wednesday, October 6

- *"A" Day*
 - *Western Wear Dress*
 - *Upper School Late Start: 10:00 a.m.*
-

Thursday, October 7

- *"B" Day*
 - *Blue Out Spirit Day: Wear your St. Francis navy!*
 - *Upper School Admissions Tour: 9:30–11:30 a.m. in Crum Loft*
 - *Upper and Primary School Pep Rally and Homecoming Court Presentation: 11:25 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in Crum Gym on Couper Campus; student-only event*
 - *Booster Bash Lunch: 12:00–12:50 p.m. in Crum Gym and at the outdoor tables on Couper Campus; student-only event*
 - *Homecoming Celebration: 4:30–7:30 p.m. on Couper Campus; sponsored by the Booster Club; all are welcome*
-

Friday, October 8

- *"A" Day*
 - *Hippie Day Dress: Tie-dye, jeans, etc.*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
-

Monday, October 11

- *Fall Holiday: School Closed*
-

Tuesday, October 12

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
-

Wednesday, October 13

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
 - *PSAT for Sophomores and Juniors: 8:00–11:30 a.m.; sophomores and juniors arrive at 7:45 a.m.*
-

Thursday, October 14

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
 - *Club Fair: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
-

Friday, October 15

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
-

Saturday, October 16

- *Upper School Homecoming Dance: 8:00–10:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym on Couper Campus; theme is "Under the Stars"*

Church

Donate to Kitty's Coat Drive

Several years ago, teachers in the Spring Branch Independent School District noticed that many children were not wearing coats during a year of cold winter weather. As a result, Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) was asked to help collect coats and

distribute them to children in need. St. Francis Episcopal Church and St. Francis Episcopal School answered the call.

In honor of the person who organized the original coat drive, this event has been officially named "The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive."

Collection areas will be set up at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 10, and Sunday, October 17. Please bring coat donations on these Sundays or to the church office during the week.

In-Person Worship

The Holy Eucharist is offered at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.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.

Parish Fall Picnic Is October 17

Save the date for an evening of pumpkin painting, fall-inspired crafts, and dinner on Sunday, October 17! Want to help? Call the church office at 713.782.1270 to volunteer and to sign up to attend the picnic. The cost is \$10 per person, with a \$25 per family maximum. Please contact Allison via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Music Ministry: Music by Purcell on October 27

On Wednesday, October 27, members of the St. Francis Music Ministry will perform music by Purcell in the church, following the Wednesday evening Eucharist service at 6:00 p.m. in St. Clare Chapel and dinner in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. Come for an enjoyable evening, dinner, and beautiful music. Dinner is \$10 per person. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** resumes on September 21, meeting on **Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.** and led by **Allison Devlin**, director of family ministry. Please contact Allison via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Join Ms. Devlin for In-Person Let It Shine!

Join Ms. Devlin each Sunday for in-person Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate.

Middle School Bible Study

We invite your Middle School-aged children to meet for Bible study each Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. service.

- **Who:** Middle School students
- **What:** Bible study and fellowship
- **When:** Meets every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service
- **Where:** CE212 (GLOW room, upstairs above church office)
- **Why:** New study on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

For more information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

High School Bible Study: New Series

The high school Bible study continues meeting every other week at the Houston Racquet Club, with the next meeting planned for this Wednesday, October 6. We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. to have dinner and to study *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. For additional information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

Help Meet MAM's Updated Supply Needs

In the wake of COVID, many families continue to need assistance. Memorial Assistance Ministries' pantry teams currently need nonperishable food items with which to pack sack lunches, such as:

- Tuna Lunch To-Go
- Individually wrapped protein bars/granola bars
- Small cans of Vienna Sausage
- Individual packs of trail mix
- Individually wrapped cheese/peanut butter crackers
- Individually wrapped fruit strips

For additional information, contact our church liaison, Andrea Eubanks, [via email](#) or at 713.859.1448.

Fair Haven Food Pantry Needs Canned Vegetables

The Fair Haven Food Pantry needs our help! The ministry, which has been providing food assistance to people in the Spring Branch/Memorial area since 1975, has requested donations of **canned vegetables** in October.

- The pantry also needs your help to sort and box produce from the Houston Food Bank and to distribute food boxes in the drive-through pickup line.
- To volunteer, please [click here](#).
- For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#).

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 and Days to Remember at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following events, either in-person, via Zoom, or both. To join a Zoom 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Sunday, October 10, and Sunday, October 17:** The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive
- **Wednesday, October 27:** Purcell concert by St. Francis Music Ministry

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** New study on the book *Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn From Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
 - *To participate, email Louise Richman.*

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Acts and After You Believe
 - **Contact:** [Martin O’Malley](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine
- Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is October 12**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.

- **Study:** Acts of the Apostles
- **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84213782442>
 - **Meeting ID:** 842 1378 2442
 - **Passcode:** 1c6HEL

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Book of Job
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room (St. Francis Episcopal School)
 - **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 10:00–10:45 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** GLOW Middle School
 - **Study:** C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*
 - **Location:** Classroom CE212
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
- Wednesdays at 6:30–8:00 p.m. (**Every other week; next meeting is October 6**)
 - **Meeting:** High School Dinner and Bible Study
 - **Study:** C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*
 - **Location:** Houston Racquet Club
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **In-Person Meeting Place:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 05741
- Wednesday Night Eucharist, Program, and Dinner (**\$10 per person**)
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** Church and Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **In-Person Meeting Place:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>

- **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Thursdays at 6:15–6:45 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/79725936159>
 - **Meeting ID:** 797 2593 6159
 - **Passcode:** 678123
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Spiritual Enrichment
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** The Bride's Room

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 Worship Services" button. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available. If you prefer to watch from Facebook or YouTube, click on the links to go to those streaming servers.

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](#).