

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 17

All School

COVID Dashboard

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
0	0
YTD Cases	YTD Cases
Total YTD COVID+ Students	Total YTD COVID+ Faculty/Staff
37	13

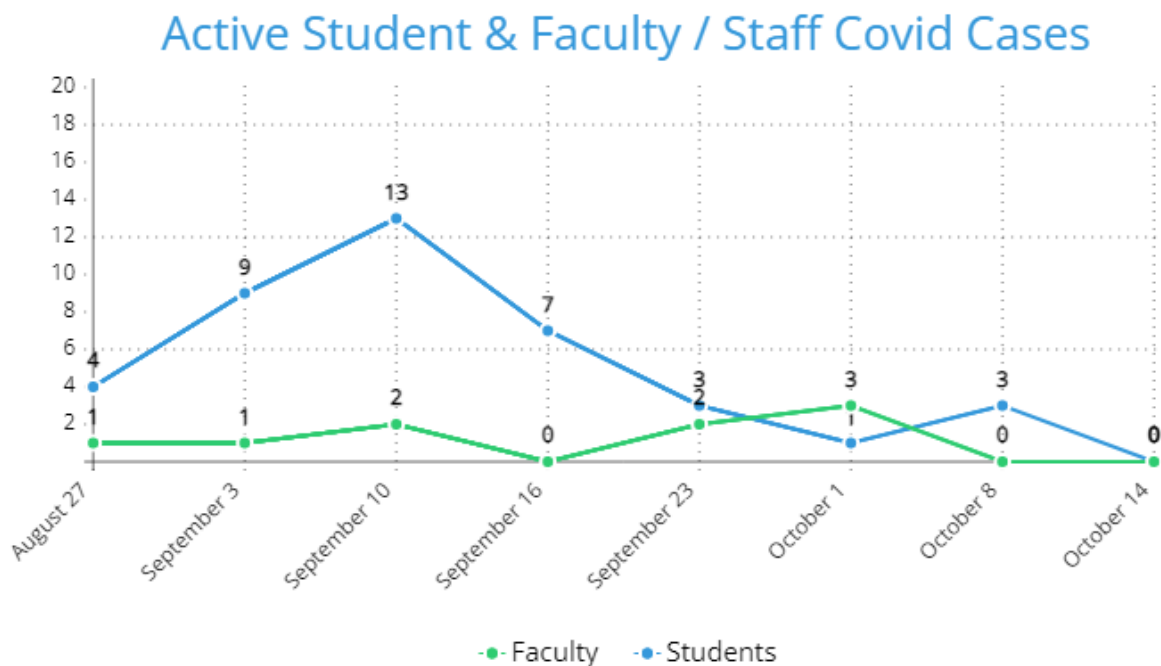
*Updated 10/14/21 at 8:00 a.m.

Important COVID Update

We have been monitoring active and year-to-date COVID cases in the St. Francis community and are pleased to report that our data has been trending downward since mid-September.

- **Beginning the week of October 25, we will implement a mask-optional policy for all divisions.**
- *As people for others*, we will support all students and faculty who continue to wear masks.
- Please understand that, at any time, we may transition back to a mask-required policy if there are significant changes to our institutional data or to a specific division or classroom.
- With questions, please email HealthResponse@StFrancisHouston.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the health and safety of our community.



St. Francis Fund Update

Did you know that the St. Francis Fund only kicked off a few weeks ago and already 30 percent of families have made a gift? Remember, you can pledge today and pay later. Pledge payments aren't due until June 30, 2022. [**Make your gift or pledge today!**](#)

Many thanks to our St. Francis Fund Committee members below, who have been doing outreach to all of our SFES families on behalf of this important initiative!

Thank You, St. Francis Fund Committee Members!		
Taylor and Blake Shaver (St. Francis Fund Chairs)	Emily Anne Harrison	Corinne Plumhoff
Julie Alexander	Kristyn Hogan	Jenny Porter
Zohra Badar	Brett Jennings	Amanda Racusin
Nadia Barrow	Kasey Keller	Melissa Reeves
Rory Bellow	Amanda Ollison	Courtney Schilling
Katie Blades	Keely Langkowski	Greg Schilling
Angela Bookmyer	Megan Lovoi	Sommer Stash
Eileen Condit	Laura McNear	Barbara Steen
Erika Chavez	Samantha Mulvehill	Shelby Stratmann
Jessica Chisholm	Jack Nadal	Catherine Thornton
Vicky Donnelly	Kim Nettles	Rebecca Van Winden
Candace France	Crystal Neustadt	Lynsey Ward
Julie Grandt	Rita Pace	Drew Ward
Kris Hantak	Amy Pierce	Leigh Williams
John Hantak	Alison Plumhoff	Jeff Williams

HJPC Division I Football Championship: Thursday, October 21

Come cheer on our 7/8 Football team in the Division I Championship as they take on Second Baptist, played at Kinkaid on Thursday, October 21, at 4:30 p.m. Help us “white out” the Eagles by wearing WHITE in support of our Wolves!

HJPC Quarter Finals: Monday, October 18

Let's go, Wolves! The following teams will compete with the hopes of advancing to the semi-finals:

- Boys 7/8 Volleyball @ River Oaks Baptist, 5:15 p.m.
- Field Hockey vs. Annunciation Orthodox School, Couper Campus Turf Field, 4:30 p.m.

Second-round games will be held on Tuesday, October 19.

Sporting Clays Classic Is Friday: Get Ready to Have a Blast!

The time has come! Rain or shine, the sixth-annual Sporting Clays Classic, presented by Collectors Firearms, will be held this Friday, October 22. Who will be the highest scorer of them all? Stay tuned: We'll have that and more in next week's *Wolf Watch!*

- Thanks to our Chair Dan Meyer '96, Vice Chair Christiana Blackwell '95, our incredible committee, and our generous sponsors and contributors, this year's event is shaping up to be the best one yet!
- Questions? Please contact Martha Chavez, event manager, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6169.

Last Call! Order Your Poinsettias Today—Limited Plants Available

Purchase beautiful red poinsettias grown by The Brookwood Community and support St. Francis! These festive plants not only decorate your home for the holidays, but also make great gifts for friends, family, and clients. Please share information about this opportunity with others, as all sales benefit the St. Francis Parents Organization/Friends of Fine Arts. Each poinsettia is \$16, about sixteen inches tall, grown in a six-inch pot, and has five to seven blooms. They come with foil pot covers and are wrapped in brown paper sleeves for easy transportation and protection.

- Brookwood has completely *sold out* of poinsettias, so our remaining allotment of plants will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, and we will not have access to extra plants this year. [Click here](#) to purchase your poinsettias today!
- Poinsettias will be available for pickup on Wednesday, December 1, at Couper Campus. [Email Jennifer Stringer](#) with questions.

Buy Tickets Today: One-Night-Only Production of *Lions in Illyria*

The Middle School production of the hilarious *Lions In Illyria* is a one-night-only event in the Fine Arts Center on Friday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m.

- This production is suitable for all ages and is approximately sixty minutes in length, with no intermission.

- To purchase *Lions in Illyria* show tickets and/or Friends of Fine Arts Preshow Dinner tickets, [click here](#).

ABOUT THE SHOW

Giraffes are gentlemen, aardvarks are card sharks, and animals rule the world in this retelling of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. When young lioness Violet is separated from her twin brother by a storm at sea, she must find her way alone in an unknown country. Disguised as a boy, she finds work helping a preposterous peacock win the love of the most graceful gazelle in town. But it's not long before Violet is torn between multiple masters, and the whole menagerie is tangled in matters of the heart. Travel to the weird and wonderful land of Illyria in this clever, magical comedy.

Pumpkin-Carving Contest Is October 25

Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade can use their originality and artistry to carve or decorate a pumpkin for the St. Francis Pumpkin-Carving Contest, which will be held on **Monday, October 25**.

- [Click here](#) for contest instructions.
- [Click here](#) to print out the entry form.
- If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please [email Lauren Wuertz](#).

Support the Home Team!

The Athletics Booster Club invites you to come out and support our Wolves at this week's home games. We will be selling concessions at all games—most items are \$1. Exact change is much appreciated. [Click here](#) and scroll to "Upcoming Events" to see the game schedule for the week.

Primary School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope everyone had a restful weekend! I am excited to have the opportunity to write for *Wolf Watch* this week and share a bit with you about our schoolwide literacy approach.

From Pre-Primary to twelfth grade, our teachers share a fundamental philosophical belief about how children learn all aspects of literacy. This is no accident, as the core of any effective curriculum is alignment of content, consistency of instructional practices, and assurance that the curriculum is steeped in research-informed methodologies.

Over the course of many years, we have been working on this alignment process. The first stages involved examining practices in each of our divisions and determining whether what we were doing met the above-mentioned criteria. Adjustments, changes, and a great deal of professional development have taken place—all of which have resulted in a highly aligned literacy approach for each of our learners.

Our **Primary School** bases its literacy approach around Rice University's School Literacy and Culture program, which immerses our youngest Wolves in student-centered, literacy-rich experiences throughout the school day. Daily in Primary School, our students have multiple opportunities to build their literacy skills as they learn that what they say can be written and what is written can be read. Engaging with the morning message, dictating daily news, participating in journaling activities, having their stories taken and acted out by classmates, and listening to and responding to a variety of children's literature are just a few of the literacy experiences you might see in Primary School classrooms throughout the day. This early literacy approach dovetails seamlessly into our Lower School curriculum.

Our **Lower and Middle School** teachers utilize reading and writing workshops out of Teachers College, Columbia University. The majority of our teachers have attended the weeklong reading or writing institutes, and many have attended both. One of the Upper School English teachers also attended a weeklong seminar on writing in Upper School to continue this alignment between Middle and Upper School.

The mission of Teachers College, consistent with that of Rice's School Literacy and Culture program, is to provide students with authentic opportunities for powerful and joyful engagement with literacy, therefore developing lifelong readers and writers. The program is based on decades of research, curriculum development, student choice, and critical attention to methods of instruction, centered around the idea that one size does not fit all. This work centers on young people developing ownership of the learning process; learning skills in phonics, grammar, comprehension, and the craft of writing; and transferring their learning across the curriculum and throughout their lives.

In a workshop classroom, you will see teachers:

- Addressing each child's learning, allowing for every level of academic development and never placing a ceiling on achievement;
- Explicitly teaching strategies students will use not only the day they are taught but also whenever else they need them;
- Supporting small-group work and conferring, with multiple opportunities for differentiating instruction;
- Tapping into the power of a learning community as a way to bring each learner along at his or her own pace;
- Building choice- and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum; and
- Engaging students in meaningful and authentic independent work so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups.

The routines and structures of reading and writing workshops are kept simple and predictable so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners. Teachers coach students in this work; design powerful and active curricular opportunities; and continue to learn from collaborators, researchers, other teachers, and children.

This approach continues into our **Upper School** English courses, as they blend structures from workshops into courses deliberately aligned to progress through finding voice; appreciating stylistic elements; writing to persuade and inform; and, finally, focusing on sophistication in the students' writing, while also recognizing audience and purpose. Students are given the tools and skills to reflect on their own writing through revision-based writing workshops. Peer-to-peer and teacher-to-student revision are also integral parts of the writing process. Daily writing opportunities are incorporated to build writing fluency and for practice with expression. In their literature studies, students approach texts through essential questions that encourage them to build their own interpretations of a variety of texts and genres. Throughout this process, they think critically, analyze, evaluate, and expand reading and writing skills in an inquiry-based curriculum.

Our Upper School also offers AP English curriculum to ensure our most advanced learners are appropriately challenged. They learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Reading literary works and writing essays to explain and support analysis of them is a major focus. They work to master the following additional skills, too:

- Reading a text deeply and drawing conclusions from details;
- Identifying the techniques used by an author and their effects;
- Developing an interpretation of a text; and
- Presenting a personal interpretation and making an argument for it in writing.

As you can see, from our youngest learners to our oldest students, we are committed to providing a spiraling, engaging, aligned, and research-informed literacy program where students build lifelong literacy skills and step forward on their unique journeys in learning and life.

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Cheers!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

Hearing and Vision Screenings Are Tomorrow

St. Francis will be offering vision and hearing screenings on the Couper Campus for students who turned 4 years old by September 1, 2021. Screenings will be provided by

Pine Wood Screening Services LLC tomorrow—**Monday, October 18**. Here's what you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses should bring them to school.
- We do not refer to the screening as a “test.” Please help us by doing the same. The teachers will explain the process to our students, and they will discover that they are playing two games with the screeners.
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist.

If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie King, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

Primary School Fall Conferences: Sign Up Today

Please click on the name of your child's teacher, below, to sign up for a time to meet.

PRE-PRIMARY

[Mrs. Biehl](#)

[Mrs. Britton](#)

[Mrs. Meriwether](#)

[Mrs. Oteiza 3-Day](#)

[Mrs. Oteiza 2-Day](#)

PRIMARY I

[Mrs. Capasso](#)

[Mrs. Ferguson](#)

[Mrs. Peden](#)

[Mrs. Scriber](#)

PRIMARY II

[Mrs. Hughes](#)

[Mrs. Owens](#)

[Mrs. Staller](#)

[Mrs. Wiener](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 18

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

- *Hearing and Vision Screenings:* For students who turned 4 years old by September 1, 2021
-

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
 - *Makeup Hearing and Vision Screenings:* For students who turned 4 years old by September 1, 2021
-

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.*
-

Monday, November 8

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

Tuesday, November 9

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

Wednesday, November 10

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

Monday, November 15

- *Primary I Parent Step-up*
 - *Lunch on the Lawn for Primary I*
-

Tuesday, November 16

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person*
 - *Primary II Parent Step-up: 10:15 a.m. on the Piney Point Campus*
 - *2-Day Pre-Primary Parent Step-up*
 - *Lunch on the Lawn: Primary II and Mrs. Oteiza's 2-day class*
-

Wednesday, November 17

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*
 - *Pre-Primary Parent Step-up*
 - *Lunch on the Lawn for Pre-Primary*
-

Friday, November 19

- *Primary School Thanksgiving Feast: Students only*

Lower School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope everyone had a restful weekend! I am excited to have the opportunity to write for *Wolf Watch* this week and share a bit with you about our schoolwide literacy approach.

From Pre-Primary to twelfth grade, our teachers share a fundamental philosophical belief about how children learn all aspects of literacy. This is no accident, as the core of

any effective curriculum is alignment of content, consistency of instructional practices, and assurance that the curriculum is steeped in research-informed methodologies.

Over the course of many years, we have been working on this alignment process. The first stages involved examining practices in each of our divisions and determining whether what we were doing met the above-mentioned criteria. Adjustments, changes, and a great deal of professional development have taken place—all of which have resulted in a highly aligned literacy approach for each of our learners.

Our **Primary School** bases its literacy approach around Rice University's School Literacy and Culture program, which immerses our youngest Wolves in student-centered, literacy-rich experiences throughout the school day. Daily in Primary School, our students have multiple opportunities to build their literacy skills as they learn that what they say can be written and what is written can be read. Engaging with the morning message, dictating daily news, participating in journaling activities, having their stories taken and acted out by classmates, and listening to and responding to a variety of children's literature are just a few of the literacy experiences you might see in Primary School classrooms throughout the day. This early literacy approach dovetails seamlessly into our Lower School curriculum.

Our **Lower and Middle School** teachers utilize reading and writing workshops out of Teachers College, Columbia University. The majority of our teachers have attended the weeklong reading or writing institutes, and many have attended both. One of the Upper School English teachers also attended a weeklong seminar on writing in Upper School to continue this alignment between Middle and Upper School.

The mission of Teachers College, consistent with that of Rice's School Literacy and Culture program, is to provide students with authentic opportunities for powerful and joyful engagement with literacy, therefore developing lifelong readers and writers. The program is based on decades of research, curriculum development, student choice, and critical attention to methods of instruction, centered around the idea that one size does not fit all. This work centers on young people developing ownership of the learning process; learning skills in phonics, grammar, comprehension, and the craft of writing; and transferring their learning across the curriculum and throughout their lives.

In a workshop classroom, you will see teachers:

- Addressing each child's learning, allowing for every level of academic development and never placing a ceiling on achievement;
- Explicitly teaching strategies students will use not only the day they are taught but also whenever else they need them;
- Supporting small-group work and conferring, with multiple opportunities for differentiating instruction;
- Tapping into the power of a learning community as a way to bring each learner along at his or her own pace;

- Building choice- and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum; and
- Engaging students in meaningful and authentic independent work so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups.

The routines and structures of reading and writing workshops are kept simple and predictable so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners. Teachers coach students in this work; design powerful and active curricular opportunities; and continue to learn from collaborators, researchers, other teachers, and children.

This approach continues into our **Upper School** English courses, as they blend structures from workshops into courses deliberately aligned to progress through finding voice; appreciating stylistic elements; writing to persuade and inform; and, finally, focusing on sophistication in the students' writing, while also recognizing audience and purpose. Students are given the tools and skills to reflect on their own writing through revision-based writing workshops. Peer-to-peer and teacher-to-student revision are also integral parts of the writing process. Daily writing opportunities are incorporated to build writing fluency and for practice with expression. In their literature studies, students approach texts through essential questions that encourage them to build their own interpretations of a variety of texts and genres. Throughout this process, they think critically, analyze, evaluate, and expand reading and writing skills in an inquiry-based curriculum.

Our Upper School also offers AP English curriculum to ensure our most advanced learners are appropriately challenged. They learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Reading literary works and writing essays to explain and support analysis of them is a major focus. They work to master the following additional skills, too:

- Reading a text deeply and drawing conclusions from details;
- Identifying the techniques used by an author and their effects;
- Developing an interpretation of a text; and
- Presenting a personal interpretation and making an argument for it in writing.

As you can see, from our youngest learners to our oldest students, we are committed to providing a spiraling, engaging, aligned, and research-informed literacy program where students build lifelong literacy skills and step forward on their unique journeys in learning and life.

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Cheers!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

Hearing and Vision Screenings Are Tomorrow

St. Francis will be offering vision and hearing screenings for all new students who are at least 4 years old; all kindergarteners; and all students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7. In addition, all students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be screened for Acanthosis nigricans.

Screenings will be provided by Pine Wood Screening Services LLC tomorrow—Monday, October 18. **Please make sure your child is in attendance.**

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- **If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her tomorrow.**
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie King, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

Step Forward to Middle School Is November 5

The Middle School is excited to host a *Step Forward to Middle School* day for current fourth-grade parents on Friday, November 5, at 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room. We hope you will join us to see Middle School classes in action, hear from our faculty, learn more about our educational philosophy and curriculum, and much more.

Please help us plan! Let us know you are coming by completing the RSVP at [this link](#). Thank you!

Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Extended Through Thursday

The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive for Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) has been extended. We will continue to take coat donations until this Thursday, October 21. 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.

LS Field Hockey Clinic Is October 30

Students in kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to join us for a field hockey clinic, offered through Velocity, on Saturday, October 30, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Come learn the fundamentals of this growing sport!

- The \$50 registration fee includes a T-shirt and field hockey stick.
- Register by emailing [Margaret Newsom](mailto:Margaret@stfrancis.org).

Mark Your Calendar

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

- *Makeup 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 Performances:* At Couper Campus, returning to Piney Point Campus at 12:00 p.m. for lunch
 - 10:00 a.m. for Upper School
 - 11:00 a.m. for Primary School
-

Monday, October 25

- *Chapel for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 24–30 birthdays
 - *Grade 4 ERB Testing*
-

Monday, October 25-Thursday, October 28

- *Grade 4 ERB Testing*
-

Thursday, October 28

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 24–30 birthdays
-

Friday, October 29

- *Storybook Character Day*
 - *All Saints'/Halloween Parties:* In classrooms
-

Monday, November 1

- *All Saints Eucharist for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 31–November 6 birthdays
-

Wednesday, November 3

- *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, November 4

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 31–November 6 birthdays
- *Classroom Group Pictures and Individual Makeup Pictures*: Individual pictures are at 9:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall; group pictures are outside to enable social distancing

Middle School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope everyone had a restful weekend! I am excited to have the opportunity to write for *Wolf Watch* this week and share a bit with you about our schoolwide literacy approach.

From Pre-Primary to twelfth grade, our teachers share a fundamental philosophical belief about how children learn all aspects of literacy. This is no accident, as the core of any effective curriculum is alignment of content, consistency of instructional practices, and assurance that the curriculum is steeped in research-informed methodologies.

Over the course of many years, we have been working on this alignment process. The first stages involved examining practices in each of our divisions and determining whether what we were doing met the above-mentioned criteria. Adjustments, changes, and a great deal of professional development have taken place—all of which have resulted in a highly aligned literacy approach for each of our learners.

Our **Primary School** bases its literacy approach around Rice University's School Literacy and Culture program, which immerses our youngest Wolves in student-centered, literacy-rich experiences throughout the school day. Daily in Primary School, our students have multiple opportunities to build their literacy skills as they learn that what they say can be written and what is written can be read. Engaging with the morning message, dictating daily news, participating in journaling activities, having their stories taken and acted out by classmates, and listening to and responding to a variety of children's literature are just a few of the literacy experiences you might see in Primary School classrooms throughout the day. This early literacy approach dovetails seamlessly into our Lower School curriculum.

Our **Lower and Middle School** teachers utilize reading and writing workshops out of Teachers College, Columbia University. The majority of our teachers have attended the weeklong reading or writing institutes, and many have attended both. One of the Upper

School English teachers also attended a weeklong seminar on writing in Upper School to continue this alignment between Middle and Upper School.

The mission of Teachers College, consistent with that of Rice's School Literacy and Culture program, is to provide students with authentic opportunities for powerful and joyful engagement with literacy, therefore developing lifelong readers and writers. The program is based on decades of research, curriculum development, student choice, and critical attention to methods of instruction, centered around the idea that one size does not fit all. This work centers on young people developing ownership of the learning process; learning skills in phonics, grammar, comprehension, and the craft of writing; and transferring their learning across the curriculum and throughout their lives.

In a workshop classroom, you will see teachers:

- Addressing each child's learning, allowing for every level of academic development and never placing a ceiling on achievement;
- Explicitly teaching strategies students will use not only the day they are taught but also whenever else they need them;
- Supporting small-group work and conferring, with multiple opportunities for differentiating instruction;
- Tapping into the power of a learning community as a way to bring each learner along at his or her own pace;
- Building choice- and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum; and
- Engaging students in meaningful and authentic independent work so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups.

The routines and structures of reading and writing workshops are kept simple and predictable so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners. Teachers coach students in this work; design powerful and active curricular opportunities; and continue to learn from collaborators, researchers, other teachers, and children.

This approach continues into our **Upper School** English courses, as they blend structures from workshops into courses deliberately aligned to progress through finding voice; appreciating stylistic elements; writing to persuade and inform; and, finally, focusing on sophistication in the students' writing, while also recognizing audience and purpose. Students are given the tools and skills to reflect on their own writing through revision-based writing workshops. Peer-to-peer and teacher-to-student revision are also integral parts of the writing process. Daily writing opportunities are incorporated to build writing fluency and for practice with expression. In their literature studies, students approach texts through essential questions that encourage them to build their own interpretations of a variety of texts and genres. Throughout this process, they think critically, analyze, evaluate, and expand reading and writing skills in an inquiry-based curriculum.

Our Upper School also offers AP English curriculum to ensure our most advanced learners are appropriately challenged. They learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Reading literary works and writing essays to explain and support analysis of them is a major focus. They work to master the following additional skills, too:

- Reading a text deeply and drawing conclusions from details;
- Identifying the techniques used by an author and their effects;
- Developing an interpretation of a text; and
- Presenting a personal interpretation and making an argument for it in writing.

As you can see, from our youngest learners to our oldest students, we are committed to providing a spiraling, engaging, aligned, and research-informed literacy program where students build lifelong literacy skills and step forward on their unique journeys in learning and life.

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Cheers!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

HJPC Division I Football Championship: Thursday, October 21

Come cheer on our 7/8 Football team in the Division I Championship as they take on Second Baptist, played at Kinkaid on Thursday, October 21, at 4:30 p.m. Help us “white out” the Eagles by wearing WHITE in support of our Wolves!

HJPC Quarter Finals: Monday, October 18

Let’s go, Wolves! The following teams will compete with the hopes of advancing to the semi-finals:

- Boys 7/8 Volleyball @ River Oaks Baptist, 5:15 p.m.
- Field Hockey vs. AOS, Couper Campus Turf Field, 4:30 p.m.

Second-round games will be held on Tuesday, October 19.

Hearing and Vision Screenings Are Tomorrow

St. Francis will be offering vision and hearing screenings for all new students who are at least 4 years old; all kindergarteners; and all students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7. In addition, all students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be screened for Acanthosis nigricans.

Screenings will be provided by Pine Wood Screening Services LLC tomorrow—Monday, October 18. **Please make sure your child is in attendance.**

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- **If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her tomorrow.**
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie King, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Extended Through Thursday

The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive for Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) has been extended. We will continue to take coat donations until this Thursday, October 21. 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.

Fall-to-Winter Sports Transition

We are closing in on the end of the fall season for Middle School athletics. We are proud of the students' efforts on the field, on the trails, and in the gym this fall. Good luck to all teams still competing this coming week in regular-season competition and to our teams competing in the Houston Junior Preparatory Conference tournaments.

The last day of Middle School fall sports will be Friday, October 22. Students should be prepared to return all issued equipment and cleaned uniforms in a timely manner to their coaches.

Winter sports will begin on Monday, October 25. Students have elected their winter sports choices through a recent survey. More information on winter sport details will be shared via email to team/parent rosters and through next week's *Wolf Watch*.

Elective Surveys Due Tomorrow Morning

Please note that the Trimester 2 elective survey was shared with your child on Friday via their school email account. The survey will remain open until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, October 18. If you have questions, please reach out to your advisor. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 18

- *"B" Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*
 - *Hearing and Vision Screenings: For all new students and for students in fifth grade and seventh grade*
 - *NJHS/Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Tuesday, October 19

- *"C" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *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*
 - *Makeup Hearing and Vision Screenings: For all new students and for students in fifth grade and seventh grade*
 - *NJHS/Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Wednesday, October 20

- *"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*
 - *NJHS/Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Thursday, October 21

- *"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.*
 - *NJHS/Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Friday, October 22

- *"A" Day*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans: No athletic shorts*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 5 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Monday, October 25

- *"B" Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*
 - *Pumpkin-Carving Contest*
-

Tuesday, October 26

- *"C" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *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 27

- *"E" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School Parent Meeting: 7:45–8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
 - *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 28

- **"D" 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.*
 - *Middle School Matinee Performance of **Lions in Illyria**: 11:00 a.m.; students only*
-

Friday, October 29

- *"A" Day*
 - *Halloween Dress-up Day: Guidelines will be shared with students*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 5 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Middle School/Upper School "Halloween Hauntcert" Choir Performance: Student-only event*
 - *Middle School Performance of **Lions in Illyria**: 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
-

Monday, November 1

- *Middle School Eucharist*
-

Wednesday, November 3

- *Late-Start Day: Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.*
-

Thursday, November 4

- *Makeup Student Photos*

Upper School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope everyone had a restful weekend! I am excited to have the opportunity to write for *Wolf Watch* this week and share a bit with you about our schoolwide literacy approach.

From Pre-Primary to twelfth grade, our teachers share a fundamental philosophical belief about how children learn all aspects of literacy. This is no accident, as the core of any effective curriculum is alignment of content, consistency of instructional practices, and assurance that the curriculum is steeped in research-informed methodologies.

Over the course of many years, we have been working on this alignment process. The first stages involved examining practices in each of our divisions and determining whether what we were doing met the above-mentioned criteria. Adjustments, changes, and a great deal of professional development have taken place—all of which have resulted in a highly aligned literacy approach for each of our learners.

Our **Primary School** bases its literacy approach around Rice University's School Literacy and Culture program, which immerses our youngest Wolves in student-centered, literacy-rich experiences throughout the school day. Daily in Primary School, our students have multiple opportunities to build their literacy skills as they learn that what they say can be written and what is written can be read. Engaging with the morning message, dictating daily news, participating in journaling activities, having their stories taken and acted out by classmates, and listening to and responding to a variety of children's literature are just a few of the literacy experiences you might see in Primary School classrooms throughout the day. This early literacy approach dovetails seamlessly into our Lower School curriculum.

Our **Lower and Middle School** teachers utilize reading and writing workshops out of Teachers College, Columbia University. The majority of our teachers have attended the weeklong reading or writing institutes, and many have attended both. One of the Upper School English teachers also attended a weeklong seminar on writing in Upper School to continue this alignment between Middle and Upper School.

The mission of Teachers College, consistent with that of Rice's School Literacy and Culture program, is to provide students with authentic opportunities for powerful and joyful engagement with literacy, therefore developing lifelong readers and writers. The program is based on decades of research, curriculum development, student choice, and critical attention to methods of instruction, centered around the idea that one size does not fit all. This work centers on young people developing ownership of the learning process; learning skills in phonics, grammar, comprehension, and the craft of writing; and transferring their learning across the curriculum and throughout their lives.

In a workshop classroom, you will see teachers:

- Addressing each child's learning, allowing for every level of academic development and never placing a ceiling on achievement;
- Explicitly teaching strategies students will use not only the day they are taught but also whenever else they need them;
- Supporting small-group work and conferring, with multiple opportunities for differentiating instruction;
- Tapping into the power of a learning community as a way to bring each learner along at his or her own pace;
- Building choice- and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum; and
- Engaging students in meaningful and authentic independent work so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups.

The routines and structures of reading and writing workshops are kept simple and predictable so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners. Teachers coach students in this work; design powerful and active curricular opportunities; and continue to learn from collaborators, researchers, other teachers, and children.

This approach continues into our **Upper School** English courses, as they blend structures from workshops into courses deliberately aligned to progress through finding voice; appreciating stylistic elements; writing to persuade and inform; and, finally, focusing on sophistication in the students' writing, while also recognizing audience and purpose. Students are given the tools and skills to reflect on their own writing through revision-based writing workshops. Peer-to-peer and teacher-to-student revision are also integral parts of the writing process. Daily writing opportunities are incorporated to build writing fluency and for practice with expression. In their literature studies, students approach texts through essential questions that encourage them to build their own interpretations of a variety of texts and genres. Throughout this process, they think critically, analyze, evaluate, and expand reading and writing skills in an inquiry-based curriculum.

Our Upper School also offers AP English curriculum to ensure our most advanced learners are appropriately challenged. They learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Reading literary works and writing essays to explain and support analysis of them is a major focus. They work to master the following additional skills, too:

- Reading a text deeply and drawing conclusions from details;
- Identifying the techniques used by an author and their effects;
- Developing an interpretation of a text; and
- Presenting a personal interpretation and making an argument for it in writing.

As you can see, from our youngest learners to our oldest students, we are committed to providing a spiraling, engaging, aligned, and research-informed literacy program where

students build lifelong literacy skills and step forward on their unique journeys in learning and life.

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Cheers!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

Hearing and Vision Screenings Are Tomorrow

St. Francis will be offering vision and hearing screenings for all new students tomorrow—Monday, October 18. **Please make sure your child is in attendance.**

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- **If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her tomorrow.**
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie King, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

Fall Sports Update

Congratulations to the members of our inaugural Upper School Boys Volleyball team on completing their first season. The season was capped with our Senior Recognition Night this past Friday in Crum Gym. Also, congratulations to our JV Girls Volleyball team members, who finished their season this past Friday with a match in Crum Gym, as well.

Good luck to the Upper School Cross-Country team, which will close out its season this week with a race at Willow Waterhole Greenspace on Wednesday, October 20.

The Varsity Girls Volleyball team will still be in action through the end of October.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 18

- "B" Day
 - Regular School Uniform
 - Upper School Hearing and Vision Screening: New students only; 9:15–10:35 a.m. in the Primary School main office
-

Tuesday, October 19

- "A" Day
 - Regular School Uniform
-

Wednesday, October 20

- "B" Day
 - Regular School Uniform
 - Upper School Chapel: 10:00-10:35 a.m.
-

Thursday, October 21

- "A" Day
 - Regular School Uniform
-

Friday, October 22

- "B" Day
 - Regular School Uniform
 - Upper School Chapel: 10:00-10:35 a.m.
-

Monday, October 25

- "A" Day
- Regular School Uniform

- *Upper School Individual Pictures Makeup Day: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, October 26

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

Wednesday, October 27

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

Thursday, October 28

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

Friday, October 29

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular School Uniform*
- *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
- *Middle School/Upper School "Halloween Hauntcert" Choir Performance: Student-only event*

Church

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.

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** meets on **Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.** and is 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: Meets Every Sunday

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: Next Meeting Is October 20

The high school Bible study continues meeting every other week at the Houston Racquet Club, with the next meeting planned for Wednesday, October 20. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. to have dinner and to study *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. All high schoolers are invited to attend. For additional information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

Help Meet MAM's Updated Supply Needs

Memorial Assistance Ministries recently let us know that your generous donations have been helping to keep the organization's pantry well supplied. Thank you! They do still have some urgent needs, so if you are able to help, please consider donating the following items:

- Laundry detergent
- Baby wipes
- Size 2 diapers
- Size 3 diapers
- Size 5 diapers
- Size 6 diapers

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.

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](mailto:Louise.Richman@stfrancis.org)
- **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](mailto:Martin.O'Malley@stfrancis.org)
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is November 9**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** Simply Good News
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](mailto:The.Rev.Stuart.Bates@stfrancis.org)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Acts of the Apostles
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](mailto:The.Rev.Stuart.Bates@stfrancis.org)
 - **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](mailto:George.Hippard@stfrancis.org)
 - **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](mailto:Allison.Devlin@stfrancis.org)
- Wednesdays at 6:30–8:00 p.m. (**Every other week; next meeting is October 20**)
 - **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](#).