

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 2

All School

Important Details About Grandparent and Grandfriends Days

UPDATE GRANDPARENT INFORMATION ON YOUR VERACROSS PROFILE!

We will be welcoming grandparents and grandfriends to the Piney Point Campus on the dates and times listed below. Invitations will be sent soon, so we need your help ensuring we have the correct contact information. **Please make sure the grandparent information is current on your Veracross profile!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

We will be organizing Middle School Grandparents and Grandfriends Day differently this year—alphabetically by student last name, allowing siblings and cousins to enjoy time together, as well! The Middle School event will be held on Wednesday, November 16, as follows:

- Students with last names that start with A–K will host their grandparents and grandfriends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Students with last names that start with L–Z will host their grandparents and grandfriends from 1:00 to 2:15 p.m.

LOWER SCHOOL: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Lower School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days will be organized the same as in previous years—by grade level!

- ***Thursday, November 17***
 - **Kindergarten:** 8:45–10:30 a.m.
 - **First Grade:** 12:30–2:15 p.m.
- ***Friday, November 18***
 - **Second Grade:** 8:45–10:30 a.m.
 - **Third and Fourth Grades:** 12:30–2:15 p.m.

With questions regarding Grandparents and Grandfriends Days, please contact Alaina Stephens at 713.458.6169 or via [email](#).

Get Your Tickets to *Cinderella Confidential* Today!

Our Middle School play, *Cinderella Confidential*, is around the corner! Please join us for an evening of humor and talent on the stage as we witness a new spin on the Cinderella drama. **The show will be in the Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 14, and at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15.** You and your family will not want to miss it! For tickets, reserved seating, and more information, [click here](#). Please [email Kristal St. Clair](#) with questions, or call our box office number at 713.458.6498.

Support the Home Team This Thursday!

The 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 \$2. Exact change is much appreciated. Click [here](#) and scroll down to see the game schedule for the week.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Middle School football home games! This Thursday, October 6, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., the Wolves will face off against Kinkaid at Couper Turf Field.

Explore and Extend: Parents' Night Out Is October 7

The first Parents' Night Out of the school year is this Friday, October 7. This event is open to students in Primary II through Middle School. Dinner is included, along with arts and crafts, gym time, Nerf wars, a fun dessert-cooking project, and a movie. Registration is available online through the [Explore and Extend page](#), or by emailing [Margaret Newsom](#). The cost is \$35.

Friends of Fine Arts: Next Meeting Is October 11

FOFA's next meeting is Tuesday, October 11, at 8:30 a.m. at the 9000 Westheimer building.

DATE CHANGE! SFPO General Meeting Is October 28: All Parents Are Welcome

Catch up with the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) on Friday, October 28, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on Piney Point Campus. Open to all parents, this meeting is an opportunity to hear updates from the SFPO committee chairs and to learn how to get involved with the SFPO.

Order Your Poinsettias Today

They're going like hotcakes—only 150 left! Our red poinsettias are grown by The Brookwood Community. These festive plants also make great gifts. All sales benefit the St. Francis Parents Organization/Friends of Fine Arts. Each poinsettia is \$16, about 16 inches tall, and grown in a six-inch pot that has a decorative foil cover.

[Click here](#) to buy your poinsettias today! Pickup is on the afternoon of Thursday, December 1, and on the morning of Friday, December 2, on the Couper Campus. [Email Melissa Reeves](#) with questions.

Primary School

From the Assistant Head of School

What does it mean to be an Episcopal School? It's a good question. While every Episcopal school is different, there are common threads that bind us. David Madison, executive director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, recently reflected on this more deeply, responding specifically to the question, "What are Episcopal schools for?" His response follows:

"Episcopal schools are for creating lifelong learners. We believe joyful learning begins with supporting curiosity, practicing intellectual openness, and inspiring wonder. We know that students learn best when they feel known, valued, and loved. Our schools give students a foundation for learning that lasts beyond their time on our campuses.

Episcopal schools are for cultivating reflection and prayer. We believe that students thrive by building confidence in religious inquiry and encouraging a love of the spiritual quest. We are not afraid to ask big questions. In fact, these inquiries are essential to our Episcopal identity. Through their journey in our schools, students develop a deeper relationship with a loving and liberating God.

Episcopal schools are for creating people for others. Moral development, grounded in grace and love of God, points young people toward service; a life guided by love for others. It reminds them (and us) that Jesus summarized the entirety of the law with two commands: Love God and love others.

Schools exist for a variety of reasons. Episcopal schools, however, answer this question in a more unified way. Guided by our shared Episcopal identity, we are fortunate to be part of communities that are making a difference in the lives of young people each and every day."

I have been a part of Episcopal school communities as an administrator and parent for almost 30 years. I am grateful for all that this involvement has done for me personally and professionally. I give credit to the dozens of teachers, chaplains, priests, friends, and other adults who taught and cared for my own children and helped them become the adults they are today. They are kind and resilient, and they are deep thinkers with a strong sense of social justice. Being part of something bigger than ourselves made a difference in our family's life.

On October 16, our faculty and staff will join the St. Francis Episcopal Church community to celebrate Episcopal School Sunday. We gather on this day in recognition of and thanksgiving for our rich history as a parish school of St. Francis Episcopal Church. This year marks our 70th year as an Episcopal school! Joyful Sounds—

the Lower School choir—will sing at 9:00 a.m., and students in the Middle School choir will lead music at the 11:00 service. Faculty and staff will participate in both of these services.

Please know that you are always welcome to attend services at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Sunday services are held in the church at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

From Cottage to College—Join Us on October 26!

It's been said that the days are long, but the years are short when you're raising children. Though yours are just starting their educational journey, it's likely you've already thought about their path toward high school and beyond. At this special event, our **director of college counseling** will discuss what Primary School parents should know about the college admission process and how, from Primary through Upper School, St. Francis walks alongside you as your children develop into imaginative, critical thinkers and *people for others*. Afterward, we'll take you on a tour of our beautiful new Student Life Center.

Wednesday, October 26
8:45 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Student Life Center, Couper Campus

Attendance is limited to 50 people. Click **here** to reserve your space now. (*We will plan another event if we are unable to accommodate everyone who wants to attend on October 26.*)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 3

- *Primary School Picture Day*
- *Open Library: 3:15 p.m.*

Tuesday, October 4

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend*
- *Primary II Blessing of the Stuffed Animals*
- *Primary II Furry Friend Picnic: Students only*

Wednesday, October 5

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*
- *Primary I Blessing of the Stuffed Animals*

Thursday, October 6

- *Primary II Field Trip*

Friday, October 7

- *Pre-Primary Blessing of the Stuffed Animals: Students only*

Monday, October 10

- *Fall Break Holiday: School closed*

Tuesday, October 11

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend*
- *Primary II Chapel Drama (Hughes and Wiener)*

Wednesday, October 12

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*

Sunday, October 16

- *Episcopal School Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services at St. Francis Episcopal Church*
-

Monday, October 17

- *Open Library: 3:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 18

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel (Capasso and Owens)*
-

Wednesday, October 19

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*
-

Friday, October 21

- *Sporting Clays Classic*
-

Monday, October 24

- *Open Library: 3:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 25

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel (Hughes and Wiener)*
-

Wednesday, October 26

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*

Lower School

From the Assistant Head of School

What does it mean to be an Episcopal School? It's a good question. While every Episcopal school is different, there are common threads that bind us. David Madison, executive director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, recently reflected on this more deeply, responding specifically to the question, "What are Episcopal schools for?" His response follows:

"Episcopal schools are for creating lifelong learners. We believe joyful learning begins with supporting curiosity, practicing intellectual openness, and inspiring wonder. We know that students learn best when they feel known, valued, and loved. Our schools give students a foundation for learning that lasts beyond their time on our campuses.

Episcopal schools are for cultivating reflection and prayer. We believe that students thrive by building confidence in religious inquiry and encouraging a love of the spiritual quest. We are not afraid to ask big questions. In fact, these inquiries are essential to our Episcopal identity. Through their journey in our schools, students develop a deeper relationship with a loving and liberating God.

Episcopal schools are for creating people for others. Moral development, grounded in grace and love of God, points young people toward service; a life guided by love for others. It reminds them (and us) that Jesus summarized the entirety of the law with two commands: Love God and love others.

Schools exist for a variety of reasons. Episcopal schools, however, answer this question in a more unified way. Guided by our shared Episcopal identity, we are fortunate to be part of communities that are making a difference in the lives of young people each and every day."

I have been a part of Episcopal school communities as an administrator and parent for almost 30 years. I am grateful for all that this involvement has done for me personally and professionally. I give credit to the dozens of teachers, chaplains, priests, friends, and other adults who taught and cared for my own children and helped them become the adults they are today. They are kind and resilient, and they are deep thinkers with a strong sense of social justice. Being part of something bigger than ourselves made a difference in our family's life.

On October 16, our faculty and staff will join the St. Francis Episcopal Church community to celebrate Episcopal School Sunday. We gather on this day in recognition of and thanksgiving for our rich history as a parish school of St. Francis Episcopal Church. This year marks our 70th year as an Episcopal school! Joyful Sounds—the Lower School choir—will sing at 9:00 a.m., and students in the Middle School choir will lead music at the 11:00 service. Faculty and staff will participate in both of these services.

Please know that you are always welcome to attend services at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Sunday services are held in the church at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

NeuroWhereAbouts Program Starts This Week

Keeping our students' frontal lobes healthy and free from high-risk behavior is the mission of *NeuroWhereAbouts*, our social-emotional learning and prevention program. ([Click here](#) to read more about it.) This week, we are celebrating and learning about the brain!

We care about your children's brain development and about empowering them to make healthy choices, so students will have an opportunity to learn more about the brain in their advisory classes. You can help reinforce this learning by engaging in a few activities at home with your child:

- Watch a related video with your child at home. Select the video from the links below based on your child's grade:
 - For grades K–2, watch “My Strong Brain (K–2)” at home:
<https://vimeo.com/753896520/b6cb0d0340>
 - For grades 3–5, watch “My Strong Brain (3–5)” at home:
<https://vimeo.com/753898235/159fbf0cbb>
 - For grades 6–8, watch “Know Your Neuro” at home:
<https://vimeo.com/753886314/a40c39e3b1>
- Ask your child what they remembered from the video.
- Praise them for whatever they remembered!
- Use the following discussion and activity handouts to reinforce the material at home:
 - [Grades K–2 Handout](#)
 - [Grades 3–5 Handout](#)
 - [Grades 6–8 Handout](#)
- Answer any questions your child might have about the topic.

Today, children are engaging in risky behavior earlier than in previous generations. Exposure to substances and experimentation with high-risk behaviors begin to surface around ages 9–13 and dramatically increase from middle school to college. Parents are surprised, because many children seem quite innocent at these ages. However, modern temptations and risks arise at a time when brain development is not mature enough to apply the brakes.

St. Francis encourages parents to talk openly about your expectations regarding risky behavior. Set clear boundaries, openly answer questions about risky behavior, and help kids practice refusal skills. Building a family code to help discuss these issues is a wonderful place to start.

No Late-Start Day This Month

Please note that there will not be a Late-Start Day this month.

Parent Lunches With Students Begin October 11

We're thrilled to let you know that, beginning Tuesday, October 11, we will kick off our parent lunches with students! Due to space and safety concerns, lunch visitors are subject to important guidelines:

- All lunch visitors must follow established check-in/checkout procedures and will receive a name tag upon arrival, which must be worn at all times while on campus.
- Lunch visitors are asked to follow the dining procedures on pages 31–32 of our *Lower School Handbook*, as follows: "Any commercially prepared off-campus foods (e.g., fast food, smoothies, cakes) can distract from our goal of encouraging healthier dining choices and are NOT allowed; please do not bring these foods for either parent or student. Please do not bring anything with nuts or nut butters, since many of our students suffer from allergies."

St. Francis uses SignUpGenius for scheduling family lunch dates to ensure efficient organization of highly attended dates when limited space is available. (Please note that lunch times for each grade level are listed at the top of the sign-up page.)

- **To sign up for a day to have lunch with your child or children, [click here](#).**

Parents are encouraged to eat with their Lower School child at the tables along Main Street or at outdoor picnic tables in the courtyard adjacent to the Fine Arts hallway. Students are not allowed to invite their friends to eat with their parents and them.

Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings Are October 18

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 for Lower School students will be provided by Pine Wood Screening Services LLC on Tuesday, 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 Fay Gant, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6128.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 3

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Tuesday, October 4

- *Lower School Individual Picture Day*
-

Wednesday, October 5

- *Student Holiday: No school*
 - *Lower School Parent/Teacher Conferences: 7:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; **parent-only event; no students***
-

Thursday, October 6

- *Blessing of the Animals Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Monday, October 10

- *Fall Break Holiday: No school*
-

Thursday, October 13

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
 - *Lower School Students Attend Special Matinee of Middle School Play: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Sunday, October 16

- *Episcopal School Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services at St. Francis Episcopal Church*
-

Monday, October 17

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
 - *Lower School Parent Meeting With Dr. Collier on the Family Code: 9:15–10:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
-

Tuesday, October 18

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screening (Grades K, 1, and 3)*
-

Wednesday, October 19

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screening (Makeups)*
-

Thursday, October 20

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Friday, October 21

- *SFPO Pumpkin Carving Contest Setup*
- *Lower School Joyful Sounds Field Trip: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*

Middle School

From the Assistant Head of School

What does it mean to be an Episcopal School? It's a good question. While every Episcopal school is different, there are common threads that bind us. David Madison, executive director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, recently reflected on this more deeply, responding specifically to the question, "What are Episcopal schools for?" His response follows:

"Episcopal schools are for creating lifelong learners. We believe joyful learning begins with supporting curiosity, practicing intellectual openness, and inspiring wonder. We know that students learn best when they feel known, valued, and loved. Our schools give students a foundation for learning that lasts beyond their time on our campuses.

Episcopal schools are for cultivating reflection and prayer. We believe that students thrive by building confidence in religious inquiry and encouraging a love of the spiritual quest. We are not afraid to ask big questions. In fact, these inquiries are essential to our Episcopal identity. Through their journey in our schools, students develop a deeper relationship with a loving and liberating God.

Episcopal schools are for creating people for others. Moral development, grounded in grace and love of God, points young people toward service; a life guided by love for others. It reminds them (and us) that Jesus summarized the entirety of the law with two commands: Love God and love others.

Schools exist for a variety of reasons. Episcopal schools, however, answer this question in a more unified way. Guided by our shared Episcopal identity, we are fortunate to be part of communities that are making a difference in the lives of young people each and every day."

I have been a part of Episcopal school communities as an administrator and parent for almost 30 years. I am grateful for all that this involvement has done for me personally and professionally. I give credit to the dozens of teachers, chaplains, priests, friends, and other adults who taught and cared for my own children and helped them become the adults they are today. They are kind and resilient, and they are deep thinkers with a strong sense of social justice. Being part of something bigger than ourselves made a difference in our family's life.

On October 16, our faculty and staff will join the St. Francis Episcopal Church community to celebrate Episcopal School Sunday. We gather on this day in recognition of and thanksgiving for our rich history as a parish school of St. Francis Episcopal

Church. This year marks our 70th year as an Episcopal school! Joyful Sounds—the Lower School choir—will sing at 9:00 a.m., and students in the Middle School choir will lead music at the 11:00 service. Faculty and staff will participate in both of these services.

Please know that you are always welcome to attend services at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Sunday services are held in the church at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

NeuroWhereAbouts Program Starts This Week

Keeping our students' frontal lobes healthy and free from high-risk behavior is the mission of *NeuroWhereAbouts*, our social-emotional learning and prevention program. ([Click here](#) to read more about it.) This week, we are celebrating and learning about the brain!

We care about your children's brain development and about empowering them to make healthy choices, so students will have an opportunity to learn more about the brain in their advisory classes. You can help reinforce this learning by engaging in a few activities at home with your child:

- Watch a related video with your child at home. Select the video from the links below based on your child's grade:
 - For grades K–2, watch “My Strong Brain (K–2)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/753896520/b6cb0d0340>
 - For grades 3–5, watch “My Strong Brain (3–5)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/753898235/159fbf0cbb>
 - For grades 6–8, watch “Know Your Neuro” at home: <https://vimeo.com/753886314/a40c39e3b1>
- Ask your child what they remembered from the video.
- Praise them for whatever they remembered!
- Use the following discussion and activity handouts to reinforce the material at home:
 - [Grades K–2 Handout](#)
 - [Grades 3–5 Handout](#)
 - [Grades 6–8 Handout](#)
- Answer any questions your child might have about the topic.

Today, children are engaging in risky behavior earlier than in previous generations. Exposure to substances and experimentation with high-risk behaviors begin to surface around ages 9–13 and dramatically increase from middle school to college. Parents are surprised, because many children seem quite innocent at these ages. However, modern temptations and risks arise at a time when brain development is not mature enough to apply the brakes.

St. Francis encourages parents to talk openly about your expectations regarding risky behavior. Set clear boundaries, openly answer questions about risky behavior, and help kids practice refusal skills. Building a family code to help discuss these issues is a wonderful place to start.

No Late-Start Day This Month

Please note that there will not be a Late-Start Day this month.

Middle School Winter Sports Update

We are excited for this coming week and for the remainder of our fall sports season! Looking ahead to the Middle School winter sports season, please see important details below:

- Winter sports will begin on Monday, October 24.
- Winter sport options include the following:
 - Boys' Basketball, Boys' Soccer, Coed Swimming, Wrestling
 - Girls' Basketball, Girls' Soccer, Coed Swimming
- Winter sports rosters are uploaded in Veracross. It is very important that rosters are accurate for planning purposes. Students and parents should check their winter sport to confirm. If a change is requested, please [email T Riley](#).

Upcoming Dates in the Middle School

PARENT CONFERENCES—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Middle School Parent Conferences are this Wednesday, October 5. If you haven't yet signed up for a time slot with your child's advisor, please use the relevant link below to sign up:

- [Fifth-Grade Sign-up](#)
- [Sixth-Grade Sign-up](#)
- [Seventh-Grade Sign-up](#)
- [Eighth-Grade Sign-up](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Middle School hearing and vision screenings are Tuesday, October 18, and Wednesday, October 19. This is for fifth graders, seventh graders, and any new eighth graders. [Click here](#) to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services. 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.**
- 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 Fay Gant, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6128.

SEVENTH-GRADE OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE (OLE): FORM DUE OCTOBER 21

Seventh-grade parents, please remember to fill out [this form](#) and have your student turn it in by Friday, October 21. Outdoor Learning Experiences are at Camp Olympia again this year, with seventh grade's OLE taking place November 2–4.

Join Us for Middle School Bible Studies

Bible studies are meeting every other week, with eighth grade and seventh grade meeting on Fridays, and sixth grade and fifth grade meeting on Mondays. Boys' Bible studies will meet in Mrs. Flores's room, and girls' Bible studies will meet in Mrs. Gutierrez's room. Both rooms are right off of the library.

- The next time fifth grade will meet is Monday, October 17, at 12:45 p.m.
- The next time sixth grade will meet is this Monday, October 3, at 12:45 p.m.
- The next time seventh grade will meet is this Friday, October 7, at 12:15 p.m.
- The next time eighth grade will meet is on Friday, October 14, at 12:15 p.m.

A Note About Community Service Hours

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. At the Recognition and Awards Ceremony in the spring, students who have completed 20, 30, 50, or 100 hours of service during a school term will receive a certificate recognizing their achievements. Additionally, one graduating student will be recognized for exemplifying and representing the quality of being "people for others."

- [Use this form](#) to submit your community service hours. You can drop the form off in the Middle School Office or email it to [Kelly Murray](#).
 - Fifth Grade: 10 hours
 - Sixth Grade: 10 hours
 - Seventh Grade: 15 hours
 - Eighth Grade: 20 hours

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 3

- *Dress Uniform*
- *Middle School Honor Code Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*

- *Sixth-Grade Bible Study*: 12:45 p.m. in Mrs. Flores's room (boys' Bible study) and Mrs. Gutierrez's room (girls' Bible study); both rooms are right off of Crum Library
-

Tuesday, October 4

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, October 5

- *Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences*: No school
-

Thursday, October 6

- *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Feast of St. Francis Eucharist*: 9:35 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
-

Friday, October 7

- *SFES Spirit Dress*: St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
 - *Middle School Trimester 1 Midpoint*
 - *Seventh-Grade Bible Study*: 12:15 p.m. in Mrs. Flores's room (boys' Bible study) and Mrs. Gutierrez's room (girls' Bible study); both rooms are right off of Crum Library
-

Monday, October 10

- *Fall Break Holiday*: No school

Upper School

From the Assistant Head of School

What does it mean to be an Episcopal School? It's a good question. While every Episcopal school is different, there are common threads that bind us. David Madison, executive director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, recently reflected

on this more deeply, responding specifically to the question, “What are Episcopal schools for?” His response follows:

“Episcopal schools are for creating lifelong learners. We believe joyful learning begins with supporting curiosity, practicing intellectual openness, and inspiring wonder. We know that students learn best when they feel known, valued, and loved. Our schools give students a foundation for learning that lasts beyond their time on our campuses.

Episcopal schools are for cultivating reflection and prayer. We believe that students thrive by building confidence in religious inquiry and encouraging a love of the spiritual quest. We are not afraid to ask big questions. In fact, these inquiries are essential to our Episcopal identity. Through their journey in our schools, students develop a deeper relationship with a loving and liberating God.

Episcopal schools are for creating people for others. Moral development, grounded in grace and love of God, points young people toward service; a life guided by love for others. It reminds them (and us) that Jesus summarized the entirety of the law with two commands: Love God and love others.

Schools exist for a variety of reasons. Episcopal schools, however, answer this question in a more unified way. Guided by our shared Episcopal identity, we are fortunate to be part of communities that are making a difference in the lives of young people each and every day.”

I have been a part of Episcopal school communities as an administrator and parent for almost 30 years. I am grateful for all that this involvement has done for me personally and professionally. I give credit to the dozens of teachers, chaplains, priests, friends, and other adults who taught and cared for my own children and helped them become the adults they are today. They are kind and resilient, and they are deep thinkers with a strong sense of social justice. Being part of something bigger than ourselves made a difference in our family’s life.

On October 16, our faculty and staff will join the St. Francis Episcopal Church community to celebrate Episcopal School Sunday. We gather on this day in recognition of and thanksgiving for our rich history as a parish school of St. Francis Episcopal Church. This year marks our 70th year as an Episcopal school! Joyful Sounds—the Lower School choir—will sing at 9:00 a.m., and students in the Middle School choir will lead music at the 11:00 service. Faculty and staff will participate in both of these services.

Please know that you are always welcome to attend services at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Sunday services are held in the church at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

No Late-Start Day This Month

Please note that there will not be a Late-Start Day this month.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 3

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, October 4

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, October 5

- *No School for Students Due to Parent Conference Day*
 - *Parent Conference Day: 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.*
-

Thursday, October 6

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Parent Conferences, Continued: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*
-

Friday, October 7

- *“A” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Upper School Feast of St. Francis Eucharist: 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Crum Gym*
 - *Individual/Group Pictures: 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Monday, October 10

- *Fall Break Holiday: No school*

Tuesday, October 11

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Wednesday, October 12

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel for Freshmen and Seniors: 10:00–10:30 a.m.; location TBD*
- *PSAT Day: Information will be emailed*

Thursday, October 13

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, October 14

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Crum Gym*

Sunday, October 16

- *Episcopal School Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services at St. Francis Episcopal Church*

Church

Veterans Day Recognition: Submit Names by October 27

On Sunday, October 30, we will honor and celebrate our veterans, giving thanks to all who have served honorably in the United States military. If you have a name to add to the Veterans Day publication we produce annually, please send the name and rank of the person to be listed, plus any other pertinent information, to Sally Jo Flores via **email** or at 713.782.1270 by Thursday, October 27.

Weekly Worship Schedule

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.

Pre-K to High School: Sunday Morning Programs

LET IT SHINE! CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

Join Mrs. Devlin each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate in Let It Shine! during the adult sermon.

LIGHTHOUSE EXPRESSIONS IN ART

Each Sunday after the Family Worship Service, children are invited to join other children in the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) to create an art project based on that day's Let It Shine! lesson.

G.L.O.W. FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need our middle school students to serve as volunteers each week at Lighthouse Expressions in Art after the Family Worship Service. Come help younger children make the craft project of the week! Contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 to sign up and receive service hours.

HIGH SCHOOL REVIVAL—THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

High school students are invited to come to the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) each week after the Family Worship Service. Come read and discuss some intense Bible stories that aren't always talked about in Sunday School. We will read the Bible "in context" and reflect on how God is sharing His truth with us. Learn how pride ended up killing Absalom, how God used Rahab, deeper truths about the Exodus plagues, how God really is the Alpha and the Omega, about Balaam and the donkey, and so much more. Along with these riveting Bible passages, we will learn how to use Anglican Prayer Beads, practice Lectio Divina, and introduce Christian meditation. High School Revival is led by Nichole Hilgert.

Be Still Yoga: Next Session Is October 6

Join other women for an hour of yoga and meditative prayer every other Thursday. In stillness, God speaks to our hearts and fills us with the refreshing presence of His Spirit.

- Bring a yoga mat if you have one!
- Refreshments to follow.
- The group meets at 11:30 a.m. every other Thursday in CE212. The next class is on October 6.

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

Mark Your Calendar: Music Concert on October 12

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m., for a concert by guitarist Marc Garvin and harpist Emily Klein. RSVP to Julie Lowery by [email](#) to let us know you might come.

AGAPE: Join Us October 16 for Fellowship, Dinner, and Fun

Join us this coming **Sunday, October 16, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center** for prayers and music led by our children and youth, followed by dinner, pumpkin painting, and fall crafts. Children and teens will have the opportunity to say prayers, read Scripture, act out skits, play musical instruments, and sing. Your kids will love having an important role in this service. Ask how your family can be a part of AGAPE! For more information or to volunteer, contact [Allison Devlin](#).

October 16–23: Donate Coats to Kitty's Coat Drive

Several years ago, teachers in Spring Branch ISD noticed that many children were not wearing coats during a year of cold winter weather. As a result, MAM was asked to help collect coats and distribute them to children in need. St. Francis Episcopal Church and School answered the call. In honor of Kitty Elliott—who organized the original coat drive—it has been officially named The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive. Collection areas will be set up at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 16, and Sunday, October 23. Please bring coat donations on these Sundays or to the church office during that week.

Join Us Tuesdays for Mom's Bible Study

This fall, the **SFES Moms' Bible Study** meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in CE212.

- The study will be on the book "**Never Alone: Parenting in the Power of the Holy Spirit**" by Jeannie Cunnion.
- In this seven-session study, **discover how the Holy Spirit's presence and power transform how you lead and love your kids**. You'll be invited to wrestle through the question, "Do I really know how to parent in the power of the Holy Spirit, or have I settled for parenting in my power?" Good news, Mom! The Holy Spirit is championing you in the holy work of motherhood. Where you can't, He can! He is faithfully at work. You are never alone in your pursuit to point your kids to the love of Jesus.
- For more information or to RSVP, please contact **Allison Devlin** via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

Help Meet MAM's Urgent Supply Needs

Memorial Assistance Ministries has an urgent plea from the pantry team. Demand for

pantry products has again peaked, and they are running very low on several items. Here is their latest list of needs:

- **Meals to Go**
 - Individually wrapped cheese/peanut butter crackers
 - Fruit strips
 - Trail mix
 - Vienna sausage
- **Hygiene Items**
 - Size 6 diapers
 - Baby wipes
 - Tissues
 - House cleaner
 - Deodorant for men and women
 - Lotion
 - Shaving cream

Many families continue to need help with the basics. Please keep the pantry in mind if any of your classes, youth groups, or other groups are looking for a project. For additional information, contact the church's director of outreach, [Heather Burkhart](#).

Fair Haven Food Pantry Needs Volunteers/Donations

The Fair Haven Food Pantry has been providing food to help people in the Spring Branch/Memorial area since 1975.

- **October Food Collection Item: Canned Vegetables**
- Now operating under a client-choice model, **the pantry needs friendly volunteers** to help clients shop for their families, restock shelves, and assist with registration. Feeding the needy is part of serving one another, and as we serve others, we are serving Christ.
- Thank you for not donating any glass containers or expired items.
- For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#). To volunteer, [click here](#).

Many families continue to need help with the basics. Please keep the pantry in mind if any of your classes, youth groups, or other groups are looking for a project.

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.

Wednesday Night Eucharist, Program, and Dinner

On Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., join Fr. David Price for Eucharist in St. Clare Chapel, followed by a program and dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.

- Fr. Price is leading a program titled “The Face—Jesus in Art.” These narrated video lessons trace the dramatically different ways in which Jesus has been represented in art by people throughout history and around the world. It is tantamount to a travelogue of art and monuments from the early 3rd Century to the present: from ancient Rome to 21st Century America. The first video covers “The Gospel According to Giotto in Padua.”
- The cost of dinner is \$10 per person at the door.
- Contact [Fr. Price](#) for more information.

Bible Studies at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following Bible studies, either in-person, via Zoom, or both. To join a Zoom call, use the event link listed below.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Daniel
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83321039436>
 - **Meeting ID:** 833 2103 9436
 - **Passcode:** 649679

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is October 11.**)
 - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Includes Breakfast**
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Romans
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84206856514>
 - **Meeting ID:** 842 0685 6514
 - **Passcode:** Bi6Ga0

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Gospel of Luke and Paul's Letter to the Romans
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 05741
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** 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](#).