

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 19

All School

Varsity Boys' Basketball Team Wins Regional Playoffs!

Congratulations to the Varsity Boys' Basketball team, which won its regional playoff game yesterday 93–56. The game was played at Allen Academy in Bryan, TX, and the Wolves had great support from students, parents, siblings, teachers, and administrators. With this win, the Wolves advance to the Final Four, which will be played this Wednesday and Thursday in Waco. Good luck to the team members as they continue to make history with their state tournament run.

FINAL FOUR SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, February 22, at 2:00 p.m.—Final Four at University High School in Waco, TX
- Thursday, February 23, at 6:00 p.m.—Championship Game at Robinson High School in Robinson, TX

Summer on the Point Registration Opens Tuesday

Summer is just around the corner, and we have planned a summer packed with fun, adventure, and creativity.

- Some new highlights will include Live Action Angry Birds, Cupcake Wars, CSI Detectives, Storm the Castle, Habitats for Cats, and more. Familiar favorites such as Primary School discovery camps, JumpStart classes, basketball, and baseball will return for more fun.
- Registration opens this Tuesday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m. for students in Lower, Middle, and Upper School.

- Registration for students in Primary School opens this Wednesday, February 22, at noon. (We have split the registration start dates to avoid overloading the online registration system. Registration will be unavailable from 8:00 a.m. to noon on February 22 so that we may update the system to include Primary School camps.)

St. Francis Fund Giving Week Begins February 27

St. Francis Fund Giving Week starts on Monday, February 27. To our families who have given to date—thank you for your joyful generosity! We can't wait to show you the impact your gifts make on our school community. For more information or to donate now, please [visit the St. Francis Fund web page](#).

February 27: Volunteers Needed for Art Refresh at PPC

Help us change out the art display on Piney Point Campus! We need 10 to 12 people to help us put up new student artwork in the frames that are in the People Place and outside the Fine Arts Center. Please plan to come by between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. on **Monday, February 27**. Anyone can join us—no experience needed! Please [email Annie Hartigan](#) with any questions.

- **When:** Monday, February 27, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- **Where:** Meet in the People Place or outside the Fine Arts Center
- **Who:** Anyone!

To sign up to volunteer, please [click here](#).

St. Francis Connections: Join Us February 28



Please join us at our upcoming Connections Series event for a discussion about anxiety among children and young adults. School counselors Ted Lakoski, Jennifer Choi, and Dr. Laurie Curtis will lead the discussion, accompanied by Dr. D'Souza.

- [RSVP here](#) to join us for coffee and light bites on Tuesday, February 28, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Piney Point Campus.
- If you have any questions, please email us [here](#).

Buy Tickets Now: MS Musical Is March 4

“We are the music makers; we are the dreamers of dreams.” We hope our Wolves families will join us to watch our Middle School musical, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, on Saturday, March 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. The cast and crew of more than 75 students are creatively staging this jovial production! To attend, please [purchase your reserved-seating tickets online here](#).

Primary School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope you are enjoying this lovely, long weekend.

A significant component of the comprehensive, well-rounded educational approach at St. Francis is taking care of our physical well-being. Extensive research informs us how vital movement, physical-skill development, and exercise are to our spiritual, social-emotional, and academic learning.

This week, I want to highlight St. Francis's unique approach to physical fitness and extensive athletics opportunities in Primary School through twelfth grade. I asked Jamie Platt—our Associate Athletic Director, Director of PE, and Girls' Lacrosse Program Head (that's a lot of titles!)—to share with you about our PE and athletics programs. Our students are truly blessed at St. Francis to have these special physical education programs, athletics opportunities, and experienced coaches!

Have a wonderful week,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

A Look at St. Francis's PE and Athletics Programs

The physical education program at St. Francis Episcopal School emphasizes a "smorgasbord" of activities to help children develop fitness and skills. Fitness and skill development are the curricular cornerstones of the K–8 PE program at St. Francis.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Every class has its own dedicated PE teacher. Our full-time educators at St. Francis have 59 total years of experience teaching physical education, in addition to all having been collegiate athletes and some even playing professionally! Above all, our PE staff

strives to develop high levels of self-esteem within each student and to encourage positive social interactions during classes and beyond.

In the gym and on the Outdoor Athletic Complex and fields, we actively teach skills that include:

- Throwing and catching
- Chasing, fleeing, and dodging
- Large-field sport games
- Striking with implements
- Use of long-handled and short-handled implements
- Volleying
- Kicking and punting
- Balancing and rhythms
- Dribbling with hands and feet
- Scooters and parachutes
- Cooperative activities and relays

We also dedicate the last class of each week to fitness concepts, using age-appropriate exercises and equipment to educate and promote a lifetime of physical activity in our students.

The evidence is mounting that the earliest years of a child's life are critical in developing movement and activity habits. Children who develop competency in movement patterns at an early age enjoy increased opportunities for health-related fitness as adults.

We believe in success for everyone! Skills are taught in logical, sequential order, gradually increasing in complexity, so each child will experience success while learning skills. A broad base of activities is offered to SFES students in order for them to identify many physical activities that are personally enjoyable and that they may continue throughout their lives.

St. Francis Episcopal School's physical education staff takes pride in teaching children the value of physical fitness and in providing numerous planned routines for developing fitness. Even strenuous exercise can be FUN when presented in a motivating, enjoyable manner!

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOCUS

Beginning in Primary School at age 2, our students participate in Motor classes. We facilitate the growth of our youngest Wolves in a student-centered, developmentally appropriate environment, which is in-sync with the division's Reggio-inspired approach.

LOWER SCHOOL FOCUS

In grades K–4, the program is based on a flexible skills-based approach. Each day, students experience a well-planned lesson consisting of an introductory activity, a fitness component, a weekly skill focus, and a game.

Students in grade 5 concentrate more on developing convergent skills, such as sports skills and specific fitness activities. We aim to introduce students to our athletics offerings, including strength training, agility and fitness, stretching, and group games.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

St. Francis's Middle School offers a comprehensive athletics program with fall, winter, and spring sports seasons. Students in grades 6–8 have the opportunity to participate on teams and compete against other schools throughout the year in the following sports:

- **Middle School Boys:** Cross-Country, Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Wrestling, Baseball, Lacrosse, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field
- **Middle School Girls:** Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Softball, Lacrosse, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field

We're proud that more than 90 percent of students participate in at least one sport each year! Students who are not on a team are enrolled in a PE class. We are members of the Houston Junior Preparatory Conference (HJPC), which comprises K–8 and K–12 schools from the Houston area. We have won 31 HJPC championships.

UPPER SCHOOL FOCUS

Upper School athletics began in the fall of 2018, when we opened the doors to our new Upper School. Since then, our Upper School athletes have made history with the division's first games and victories! As the division grows, we anticipate adding more sports offerings similar to those in the Middle School program.

Around 80 percent of Upper School students participate in athletics and compete in at least one of the following sports:

- **Upper School Boys:** Cross-Country, Volleyball, 6-Man Football, Basketball, Swimming, Soccer, Wrestling, Baseball, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field
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Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 20

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school
-

Tuesday, February 21

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

Wednesday, February 22

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

Friday, February 24

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day:* Students may dress in Western wear (no guns or spurs, please)

Monday, February 27

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, February 28

- *St. Francis Connections Event:* [RSVP here](#) to join us for coffee and light bites from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Piney Point Campus
- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend

Wednesday, March 1

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

Monday, March 6

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, March 7

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend
- *Woolrich Awards Luncheon:* 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8

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

Monday, March 13–Friday, March 17

- *Spring Break: No school*

Monday, March 20

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

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

Thursday, March 23

- *Primary II Field Trip*

Monday, March 27

- *Open Library*
-

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*
 - *Primary II Fathers and Friends Picnic: 11:00 a.m.*
-

Friday, March 31

- *Primary II Field Trip to Piney Point Campus*

Lower School

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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- Throwing and catching
- Chasing, fleeing, and dodging
- Large-field sport games
- Striking with implements
- Use of long-handled and short-handled implements
- Volleying
- Kicking and punting
- Balancing and rhythms
- Dribbling with hands and feet
- Scooters and parachutes
- Cooperative activities and relays

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Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 20

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school

Wednesday, February 22

- *Ash Wednesday 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.

Thursday, February 23

- *Lower School Fairy Tale Day*

Friday, February 24

- *Lower School Joyful Sounds Field Trip to The Buckingham and Treemont Senior Living: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
- *Go Texan Day*

Monday, February 27

- *Lower School 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, February 28

- *St. Francis Connections Event: [RSVP here](#) to join us for coffee and light bites from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Piney Point Campus*

Wednesday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 2

- *Lower School 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, March 3

- *Grade 4 Family Heritage Showcase: 10:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m.*

Monday, March 6

- *Lower School 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.

Wednesday, March 8

- *Art à la Carte First-Grade Field Trip: 10:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m. to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

Thursday, March 9

- *Art à la Carte Third-Grade Field Trip: 10:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m. to The Menil Collection*
- *Lower School Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
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Middle School

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Looking Ahead: Fall 2023 Preseason Practice Dates

Looking ahead to the preseason practice plans for the fall of 2023, please note the following start dates for Middle School Athletics. Students interested in playing a fall sport should plan to attend practices during the preseason.

SPORT	START DATE	NOTES
Football	08/02/2023	Equipment distribution
Football	08/03/2023	Practice begins
Boys Volleyball	08/07/2023	Practice begins
Girls Volleyball	08/07/2023	Practice begins

SPORT	START DATE	NOTES
Coed Cross-Country	08/07/2023	Practice begins
Field Hockey	08/07/2023	Practice begins

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Middle School Social Is Friday

Planned by the Student Council, the Middle School Social will be a night full of fun this Friday, February 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Couper Campus fields and gym! Students in fifth through eighth grades are invited. There will be lots to do, including an inflatable obstacle course, a toxic meltdown, and of course, a dance floor and DJ!

- Play classic games like bowling and ping-pong, plus board games, card games, and more.
- Several sports balls will be available for students to use on the field.
- Each student will receive a voucher to get food from the event’s food trucks, which will serve chicken, waffles, and fries.

Come for a night full of games, food, music, and fun!

Eighth Graders: White-Shirt Day Is March 1

Eighth-grade parents, this is the time of year when we begin the traditional events that mark the recognition of our eighth-grade class and their accomplishments at St. Francis Middle School.

On **Wednesday, March 1**, eighth-grade students will participate in the filming of a portion of their Eighth-Grade Video, as well as take their class portrait. We ask that you make every effort to have your students here at school by 8:30 a.m. (Note: This is a Late-Start Day, so we are asking your students to arrive before school starts to get this filmed.) Students are allowed to be out of uniform on this day and are asked to wear the following clothing:

- Boys: White button-down shirt
- Girls: White blouse or nice white top (school-appropriate)
- All Students: Blue jeans with no holes or rips

Students may wear any school-appropriate shoes for this day. Boots are absolutely okay!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 20

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: School closed*
-

Tuesday, February 21

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Special Schedule for Black History Month Assembly*
-

Wednesday, February 22

- *Dress Uniform*
 - *Special Schedule for Ash Wednesday Chapel*
-

Thursday, February 23

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *No Chapel*
-

Friday, February 24

- *Go Texan Day: Students may wear cowboy dress or SFES Spirit Dress (SFES Spirit shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms)*
- *Trimester 2 Ends*
- *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*

- *Middle School Social: 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Couper Campus*

Upper School

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Boys Volleyball	08/07/2023	Practice begins

Report Cards Available March 10

Report cards will be available online via the Parent Portal on Friday, March 10.

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- *Presidents' Day Holiday: No school*
-

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- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
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Wednesday, February 22

- *"A" Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Upper School Ash Wednesday Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym; ashes only, no Eucharist*
 - *Varsity Boys' Basketball Team Plays Final Four Game: 2:00 p.m. at University High School in Waco, TX; there will be a 4:00 p.m. notification about the boys' basketball championship*
-

Thursday, February 23

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - **Potential Alternate Schedule** for Championship Game in Waco
-

Friday, February 24

- *“A” Day*
 - *Go Texan Day*: Students may choose to wear Western attire; those students who do not choose to dress up may wear the regular school uniform
 - *Upper School Chapel*: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
-

Monday, February 27

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, February 28

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *St. Francis Connections Event*: [RSVP here](#) to join us for coffee and light bites from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Piney Point Campus
-

Wednesday, March 1

- *Parent Conference Day/No Classes for Students*: Conferences begin at 8:00 a.m. and go until 4:00 p.m. The SignUpGenius link will be available soon so that parents may reserve a spot.
-

Thursday, March 2

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Spring Sports Trimester 3 Pep Rally*
-

Friday, March 3

- *“A” Day*

- *St. Francis Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
 - *Upper School Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
-

Saturday, April 22

- *Save the Date for Prom:* Juniors, seniors, and their dates; more details will be provided closer to the event

Church

Join Us at 9:00 a.m. Each Sunday For the Following:

- **Sunday Worship**
- **Let It Shine Children's Bible Lesson**
- **Lighthouse Expressions in Art:** Meet in the school's People Place (across from the Dining Hall) to create an art project based on that day's Let It Shine).
- **GLOW for Middle School Students (Volunteer Opportunities):** Contact [Allison Devlin](#) to sign up and receive service hours.

Palm Sunday Passion Play Is April 2

Join us on Sunday, April 2, at 9:00 a.m. for the Palm Sunday Passion Play.

- Children can participate as we re-enact the events of Holy Week, waving palm branches as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey and reciting the Passion Gospel.
- **Donkey Photos:** A donkey will be available for family photos in the courtyard after the service.

Walk to Calvary Is April 7

Children, meet in the Fine Art Center on Friday, April 7, at noon to follow Father Wismer and Mrs. Devlin on an interactive journey of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Please note: Children ages 6 and up can be dropped off while parents attend the Good Friday service in the church.

Kids' Easter Egg Hunt Is April 9

Kids, join us for He Is Risen! at Let It Shine on Sunday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m. We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, enjoy an Easter egg hunt, and pet and feed bunnies.

Eighth Graders, Join Us for Confirmation Class

Eighth graders, if you missed the Confirmation Class Ice Cream Social and Orientation, you can still join the 2023–24 Confirmation Class. If you are in eighth grade and have not been confirmed, please contact Cindy Huteson via [email](#) or call the church office at 713.782.1270.

Shrove Tuesday Festivities & Mardi Gras Party Are This Week

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Party on **February 21** (the day before Ash Wednesday) from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to get details and tickets.

Join Us for Ash Wednesday Services

Begin your Lenten journey that leads to the cross and the joy of the resurrection with the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, February 22. The first day of Lent is a special day of holy obligation. Services will be held at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. to accommodate your schedule that day.

Forgiveness Workshop Is April 1

Father Bates will lead a **forgiveness workshop on Saturday, April 1, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room**. RSVP to Sally Jo Flores [via e-mail](#) or call the church office at 713.782.1270 to sign up.

Join Us Wednesdays for Mom's Bible Study

- **WHAT:** *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family* by Paul David Tripp
- **WHEN:** Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m.
- **WHERE:** Richmond House on the Couper Campus
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** To sign up or for more information, contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

Outreach Ministries

- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team. For additional information, contact the church's Director of Outreach [Heather Burkhart](#).
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and food donations. For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#). To volunteer, [click here](#).

Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us using the “Prayer Requests” link on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#).

Bible Studies at St. Francis

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

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

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays of each month)
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is March 14.**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
 - **Location:** [The Corner Bakery](#) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)
- 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:** Paul's Letter to the Romans
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)

- **Location:** The Bride's Room

How to Watch Sunday Service Via Livestream

To join St. Francis Episcopal Church's 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Sunday service via livestream, open an Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—sfch.org. Click on the "Watch Live Stream Worship Services" button. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.