

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of May 21

All School

Congratulations, MFE Award Winners!

Second-Grade Humanities Teacher Stephen McCormick and Fourth-Grade Math Teacher Christine Nguyen both received the Marie Fay Evnochides Fund Award, which recognizes outstanding teachers who encourage excellence through education. The foundation announced the winners at the final Lower School Alpha Meeting of the 2022–23 school year. Congratulations!

Thank You for a Very Successful 2023 St. Francis Festival!

We are proud to announce the incredible success of the 2023 St. Francis Festival! All money raised at the event benefits the One Community Fund, which directly supports efforts vital to the growth of our school and church community, including enhanced security measures, staffing expenses, landscaping projects, and many infrastructure improvements. **This year, we raised almost \$74,000**, nearly doubling last year's amount—all because of your enthusiastic participation in this wonderful event. Thank you!

FOFA News + Congratulations, Hannah!

What an amazing year we have shared!

- Thank you to all the students who auditioned for the Middle School play and Upper School musical this past week.
- Our visual art has been changed out for the last two weeks of school so that when you are on campus, you can enjoy our artists in action.
- Congratulations to St. Francis senior Hannah O., who received a \$5,000 college scholarship from Theatre Under the Stars. Many of you saw Hannah on the stage

as Belle in our production of *Beauty and the Beast* this past fall. She will be attending Northwestern University in the fall.

- If you would like to get more involved with FOFA next year, please reach out to Amy Pierce via [email](#) or at 713.478.7579.

Have a colorful summer!

May 23–26: Donate Your Gently Used Uniforms

The Uniform Donation Drive will be held on both campuses during carpool, from Tuesday, May 23, through Friday, May 26.

- Donate any St. Francis–branded items or uniform clothing that is clean and in good used condition for resale to other school families.
- With questions, please contact Ali Williams, Uniform Resale Coordinator, at 713.870.7608.

Primary School

From the Interim Head of School

Dear St. Francis Episcopal School Community,

I have long known of and held high regard for St. Francis Episcopal School. As Headmaster of The Kinkaid School from 1996–2013, I regularly encountered SFES alumni who entered Kinkaid in the ninth grade, when SFES ended in eighth grade. They were impressive students and impressive young people: hard-working, high-character, other-centered boys and girls, leaders, who contributed significantly to life and work in the Kinkaid Upper School. This year I have come to understand more fully the role of St. Francis Episcopal School in the development of those virtues.

“People for others” is not an empty phrase here. Teachers, coaches, administrators, Father Bob Wismer—remind students regularly that St. Francis Episcopal School expects them to help others, support others, serve others—their classmates, their teammates, younger students, those in society struggling and less fortunate.

The Episcopal identity of the school is real. The belief that every child is a child of God, the belief that every human being deserves respect, the belief that God exists and is a God of love and strength and solace—these are woven into the warp and woof of the school. SFES does not proselytize, but neither does it apologize for its Episcopal heritage and beliefs.

Late last fall another Houston independent school suffered a tragedy in its student body. Parents of SFES alumni attending this school asked if Father Wismer would be willing to meet with their children in the chapel, and of course he said yes. Father Wismer

thought a handful of students might show up. Instead, over 200 students showed up, and Father Wismer led the students in Bible reading, hymn-singing, and prayer. Remarkable, truly remarkable.

For me working at St. Francis Episcopal School this year has been a great experience. It has been a privilege to observe the work of the school's talented and dedicated faculty, to watch our students learn and achieve and grow, and to witness the strong and generous commitment of parents to the school. At various times throughout this year I have spoken with SFES grandparents and other Houston friends of my vintage who have told me that "Houston needs St. Francis Episcopal School." And now, at the end of this school year, I understand why they have said that, and I can say that I agree fully.

I close this column by expressing thanks to our students, my colleagues on the faculty and staff, parents, and the members of the Board of Trustees, and by conveying my great confidence in the future of the school.

All best wishes.

Don North
Interim Head of School

From Father Wismer: New Chapel Format in 2023–24

Dear Wonderful Parents of Our Primary School Students,

What a fantastic year it has been. We have had fun, have learned a lot, and were able to draw closer to God and to our friends and teachers. There is joy all around.

I'm also excited about some improvements that we have in store for Chapel. Starting in the 2023–24 school year, Primary II will gather for Chapel on Tuesdays, and Primary I will gather on Wednesdays. Both services will take place at 9:00 a.m. Pre-Primary will join us after the Christmas break. **As always, parents are invited to join their child(ren) during Chapel service.**

This new format will allow us to make the Chapel experience more age-appropriate, and the smaller setting will provide an opportunity for the children and me to get to know one another better. Additionally, I will visit different grade levels to host small-group gatherings. Small groups will allow students to ask questions, tell their stories, and foster fellowship.

I'm excited to see the way our school has been growing, developing, and thriving. We are very committed to celebrating our Episcopal identity, and our Chapels will reflect the best of that commitment. We look forward to joining you in this journey.

Yours truly,

Father Wismer

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 22

- *Primary I End-of-Year Party: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, May 23

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

Wednesday, May 24

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Pre-Primary and Primary I parents may attend*
 - *Pre-Primary End-of-Year Party: 1:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, May 25

- *Primary II End-of-Year Party: 1:00 p.m.*
-

Friday, May 26

- *Last Day of School: 11:00 a.m. dismissal*
- *No Explore and Extend*

Lower School

From the Interim Head of School

Dear St. Francis Episcopal School Community,

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I close this column by expressing thanks to our students, my colleagues on the faculty and staff, parents, and the members of the Board of Trustees, and by conveying my great confidence in the future of the school.

All best wishes.

Don North
Interim Head of School

Order Your School Supplies for Next Year by This Tuesday

School supplies may be ordered for the 2023–24 school year [online here](#).

- To order for **Lower School**, enter the code STF001.

- The deadline to order is this Tuesday, May 23.
- Supplies will be delivered to your child's homeroom/advisory prior to the first day of school.
- Please contact [Stefanie Carper](#) if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 22

- *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, May 23

- *Last Day to Order School Supplies:* See details above
-

Thursday, May 25

- *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 End-of-Year Parties: Student-only events*
 - **Kindergarten:** 12:45–2:00 p.m.
 - **First Grade:** 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m.
 - **Second Grade:** 9:30–10:45 a.m.
 - **Third Grade:** 1:00–2:15 p.m.
 - **Fourth Grade:** 9:00–10:15 a.m.
-

Friday, May 26

- *Last Day of School*
- *Fourth-Grade Completion Ceremony:* 10:00–10:45 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center; fourth-grade parents only
- *Early Dismissal*
 - 11:15 a.m. for kindergarten and first grade

- 11:30 a.m. for second, third, and fourth grades

Middle School

From the Interim Head of School

Dear St. Francis Episcopal School Community,

I have long known of and held high regard for St. Francis Episcopal School. As Headmaster of The Kinkaid School from 1996–2013, I regularly encountered SFES alumni who entered Kinkaid in the ninth grade, when SFES ended in eighth grade. They were impressive students and impressive young people: hard-working, high-character, other-centered boys and girls, leaders, who contributed significantly to life and work in the Kinkaid Upper School. This year I have come to understand more fully the role of St. Francis Episcopal School in the development of those virtues.

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All best wishes.

Don North
Interim Head of School

Eighth Graders: Important Information for the Last Week of School

TUESDAY, MAY 23: LOCKER CLEANOUT AFTER RECOGNITION CEREMONY REHEARSAL

Eighth graders should bring extra bags to clean out their lockers this Tuesday, May 23. They will have time between their Eighth-Grade Recognition Ceremony rehearsal that morning and their English exam to clean out their lockers.

THURSDAY, MAY 25: RECOGNITION CEREMONY AND VIDEO VIEWING

Join us this Thursday, May 25, for the Eighth-Grade Recognition Ceremony and Video Viewing. Don't miss this event! Here are the details:

- **Location:** Fine Arts Center on the Piney Point Campus
- **Date:** Thursday, May 25, at 10:30 a.m.
- **Attire:** This is a formal event. It has become somewhat of a St. Francis tradition for girls to wear white dresses to this event and for boys to wear khakis or slacks with blazers, dress shirts, and ties.
- **Video Viewing:** After the formal ceremony ends, we will view the Eighth-Grade Class Video. Warning: Bring Kleenex.

EIGHTH-GRADE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, May 22	<p><u>Math</u> 8:00–9:30 a.m. Extended Time: 7:30–9:45 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Spanish</u> 10:00–11:30 a.m. Extended Time: 10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</p>
Tuesday, May 23	<p><u>Recognition Ceremony</u> Rehearsal: 8:00-9:30 a.m.</p> <p><u>Locker Cleanout</u> 9:30–9:50 a.m.</p>	<p><u>English</u> 10:00–11:30 a.m. Extended Time: 10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.</p>

Wednesday, May 24	<u>History</u> 8:00–9:30 a.m. Extended Time: 7:30– 9:45 a.m.	<u>Science</u> 10:00–11:30 a.m. Extended Time: 10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 25	<u>Completion Ceremony & Video Viewing</u> 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	
Friday, May 26	<u>No School for Eighth Graders</u>	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FINAL EXAMS

1. Students should arrive at their exam locations 15 minutes before the exam start time.
2. Students will be dismissed to carpool at the end of their last test of the day.
3. Encourage students to bring a book to read or printed or handwritten notes to study in case they finish testing before their dismissal time.
4. On Monday, May 22, through Wednesday, May 24, students will be dismissed after their last exam session of the day ends.

PARENT-SPONSORED LUAU FOR CLASS OF 2027

No end-of-year celebration season would be complete without a good party. Eighth-grade parents are organizing and hosting a party for the Class of 2027. The organizers of the luau will email families directly with more details.

Grades 5, 6, & 8: Locker Cleanout This Tuesday

Middle School students in grades 5, 6, and 8 will be cleaning out their lockers this Tuesday, May 23. Please send an extra bag with your child to assist with locker cleanout.

Order Your School Supplies for Next Year by May 23

School supplies may be ordered for the 2023–24 school year [online here](#).

- To order for **Middle School**, enter the code STF018. (All sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students will also need a TI-30XS calculator.)
- The deadline to order is this Tuesday, May 23.
- Supplies will be delivered to your child's homeroom/advisory prior to the first day of school.
- Please contact [Stefanie Carper](#) if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 22

- *Grades 5–6 Dress*: Regular uniform
 - *Grade 7 Dress*
 - **Tops**: White St. Francis Spirit wear or white polo (Glow Day in math)
 - **Bottoms**: Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, or regular uniform bottoms (no athletic shorts or tennis skirts)
 - *Grade 8 Dress*
 - **Tops**: St. Francis Spirit wear or regular uniform tops
 - **Bottoms**: Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, or regular uniform bottoms (no athletic shorts or tennis skirts)
 - *Eighth-Grade Final Exams Begin*
 - **Eighth-Grade Math Exam**: 8:00–9:30 a.m. (7:30–9:45 a.m. for Extended Time)
 - **Eighth-Grade Spanish Exam**: 10:00–11:30 a.m. (10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. for Extended Time)
 - *Sixth-Grade Unit Exams Begin*
 - **Sixth-Grade English Unit Exam**: During regular class period
-

Tuesday, May 23

- *Grades 5–6 Dress*: Regular uniform
 - *Grades 7–8 Dress*
 - **Tops**: St. Francis Spirit wear or regular uniform tops
 - **Bottoms**: Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, or regular uniform bottoms (no athletic shorts or tennis skirts)
 - *Locker Cleanout for Grades 5, 6, and 8*
 - *Last Day to Order School Supplies*: See details above
 - *Eighth-Grade Recognition Ceremony Rehearsal*: 8:00–9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Eighth-Grade Final Exams*
 - **Eighth-Grade English Exam**: 10:00–11:30 a.m. (10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. for Extended Time)
 - *Seventh-Grade Final Exams Begin*
 - **Seventh-Grade English Exam**: 10:00–11:30 a.m. (10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. for Extended Time)
 - *Sixth-Grade Unit Exams*
 - **Sixth-Grade Science Unit Exam**: During regular class period
-

Wednesday, May 24

- *Grades 5–6 Dress:* Regular uniform
 - *Grades 7–8 Dress*
 - **Tops:** St. Francis Spirit wear or regular uniform tops
 - **Bottoms:** Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, or regular uniform bottoms (no athletic shorts or tennis skirts)
 - *Eighth-Grade Final Exams*
 - **Eighth-Grade History Exam:** 8:00–9:30 a.m. (7:30–9:45 a.m. for Extended Time)
 - **Eighth-Grade Science Exam:** 10:00–11:30 a.m. (10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. for Extended Time)
 - *Seventh-Grade Final Exams*
 - **Seventh-Grade History Exam:** 8:00–9:30 a.m. (7:30–9:45 a.m. for Extended Time)
 - **Seventh-Grade Science Exam:** 10:00–11:30 a.m. (10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. for Extended Time)
 - *Sixth-Grade Unit Exams:* Regular class schedule and dismissal
 - **Sixth-Grade History Unit Exam**
 - **Sixth-Grade Advanced Math Part 1 Unit Exam**
-

Thursday, May 25

- *Grades 5–6 Dress:* Regular uniform
- *Grade 7 Dress*
 - **Tops:** St. Francis Spirit wear or regular uniform tops
 - **Bottoms:** Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, or regular uniform bottoms (no athletic shorts or tennis skirts)
- *Grade 8 Dress*
 - White dress or dress uniform
 - Blazer, dress shirt, tie, and slacks or khaki pants
- *Eighth-Grade Recognition Ceremony and Class-Video Viewing:* 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
 - Family members are invited to join us in the Fine Arts Center for a final celebration of our eighth graders and their time in the St. Francis Middle School. After they receive their Middle School Completion Certificates, we will view a video that celebrates their entire educational journey.
 - This is a formal event. It has become somewhat of a St. Francis tradition for girls to wear white dresses to this event and for boys to wear khakis or slacks with blazers, dress shirts, and ties.
- *Seventh-Grade Final Exams*

- **Seventh-Grade Math Exam:** 8:00–9:30 a.m. (7:30–9:45 a.m. for Extended Time)
 - **Seventh-Grade Advanced Math Part 2 Exam:** 8:00–9:30 a.m. (7:30–9:45 a.m. for Extended Time)
 - **Seventh-Grade Spanish Exam:** 10:00–11:30 a.m. (10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. for Extended Time)
 - *Sixth-Grade Unit Exams:* Regular class schedule and dismissal
 - **Sixth-Grade Math Unit Exam**
-

Friday, May 26

- *Grade 8:* No school
- *Free Dress for Grades 5–7*
 - **Tops:** Any school-appropriate T-shirt is acceptable. No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or basketball jerseys without an undershirt. Clothing may not have images or references to political views, drugs, weapons, or violence.
 - **Bottoms:** Students may wear athletic shorts, blue jeans, or leggings with a long T-shirt.
 - **Shoes:** Closed-toed shoes are required.
- *Grades 5–7:* Dismissal at noon
- *Sixth-Grade Unit Exams:* Special class schedule and early dismissal
 - **Sixth-Grade Spanish Unit Exam**

Upper School

From the Interim Head of School

Dear St. Francis Episcopal School Community,

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Interim Head of School

Upper School Students: End-of-Year Cleanup

Upper School students, please clean out your lockers and athletic gear and take home any personal items. If you are looking for long-lost clothing items, please be sure to check the lost and found with Coach Baber. Also, check with Ms. Urbanek for lost jewelry, wallets, or AirPods.

Final Exam Schedule for Trimester 3

Trimester 3	8:00–11:00 a.m.	12:00–3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 23	B2	A4

Trimester 3	8:00–11:00 a.m.	12:00–3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 24	A2	B4
Thursday, May 25	B1	A3
Friday, May 26	A1	B3

Calculus Prep Offered in July

We are offering a course to help current precalculus students prepare for AB Calculus next year. By no means is this course necessary for enrollment, but it offers students the opportunity to keep their pencils sharp over the summer.

- **Details:** Upper School Calculus Prep for Students Taking Calculus in Fall 2023: Mondays–Thursdays, July 17–27; 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; with Upper School Math Teacher Ytri Tonthat
- **To Register:** If you are interested, you can register from the portal via the “Explore and Extend Registration” link.
- **Questions?** With any questions, please [email Mr. Tonthat](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 22

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *No Assessment Day*
-

Tuesday, May 23

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Upper School Exams:* See schedule above
-

Wednesday, May 24

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School Exams:* See schedule above

Thursday, May 25

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School Exams:* See schedule above

Friday, May 26

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Last Day of School*
- *Exams*
 - Those students who are taking exams past 11:00 a.m. will have lunch provided by the school.
 - Students who have completed exams for the day may then leave campus.
 - Students with only afternoon exams do not have to arrive until the time of their exam.

Church

Healing Prayers and Anointings Available

Healing prayers and anointings are always available after Sunday Eucharist services, or you may schedule an appointment with a priest. For more information or to schedule, email [Sally Jo Flores](mailto:SallyJoFlores) or call 832.325.2983.

Join Us at 9:00 a.m. Each Sunday for Our Family-Focused Service and Events

- **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](mailto:AllisonDevlin) to sign up and receive service hours.

Mom's Bible Study Resumes This Fall

- **WHAT:** New material in the fall
- **WHEN:** On summer break until September
- **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 [Heather Burkhart](#). 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. (**First meeting is May 24.**)
 - **NEW Study:** *Women of the New Testament (LifeGuide Bible Study)* by Phyllis J. Le Peau
 - **Study will be held via Zoom.**
 - **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 June 13.**)
 - **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](#)

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.