

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of August 20

All School

St. Francis Needs YOU!

Are you interested in volunteering? There are many ways you can make a difference for our students, whether you volunteer with the St. Francis Parents Organization, the Advancement Office, the library, or the academic divisions. Please [click here](#) to let us know how you would like to get involved, and a coordinator will be in touch!

Ladies' Clinic Is September 13

Before our annual Sporting Clays Classic, we welcome female shooters of all skill levels for a fun evening of learning and practicing. Join us for our Ladies' Clinic on Wednesday, September 13.

- The cost of \$150 includes professional instruction, golf cart transportation, targets, dinner, and wine!
- Please note that the Greater Houston Sports Club does not rent guns, so plan to bring your own or share with a friend.
- [Click here to register.](#)

Important Information About Explore and Extend

Explore and Extend After-School Care is available daily from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. Registration is required, and reservations are needed for drop-in. To make a reservation, please [email Andrea Stidham](#), Acting Director. No drop-ins are being accepted in Pre-Primary until after Labor Day.

NOTE THIS NUMBER FOR PICKUP AND CARPOOL CHANGES

To communicate changes in pickup and carpool for Explore and Extend students, or to reach someone at pickup, please CALL (do not text) 281.746.3161.

SOME SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

Some of our Explore and Extend classes still have spaces available, as follows:

Mondays

- Myth Busters (Grades 3–6): 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Tuesdays

- USA Chess (Grades 1–5): 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Tae Kwon Do (K–Grade 4): 3:45–4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

- Problem-Solving Through Dramatic Play (Primary II): 2:30–3:15 p.m.
- Tumbling (K–Grade 4): 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Sphero Bots (Grades 2–5): 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Thursdays

- Architects and Engineers (Grades 1–4): 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Fridays

- Mini Stars All Sports (Primary II): 2:30–3:15 p.m.

To register for these classes, visit the [Explore and Extend web page](#) and click on the “Register Here” button.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES BEGIN SOON

Explore and Extend Enrichment Classes begin after Labor Day, with the exception of Woodworking, which begins on Friday, September 22, and Monday, September 25.

Register Today for School of Music Lessons

The School of Music offers private lessons in piano, voice, violin, viola, guitar, and percussion. Group guitar lessons and group percussion lessons for students in grades 5–8 are also available, starting in September. To register for private or group lessons, please visit the [Explore and Extend web page](#) and click on the “Register Here” button. Lessons will begin after Labor Day. Schedules are set by our Program Manager, Dr. Nishikawa, and the divisions.

Booster Club Meeting Is Tuesday

The Booster Club will hold its first general meeting of the school year on Tuesday, August 22, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on Piney Point Campus. Come see what's going on in Booster Club—all are welcome to attend!

What does the Booster Club do?

- Fosters school spirit and provides a sense of community;
- Supports all St. Francis teams and coaches in grades 6–12;
- Coordinates team parents, manages concessions, provides team banners, assists with Senior Recognition, and provides decorations and spirit items for pep rallies, tournaments, and championships; and
- Organizes special events throughout the year, including Homecoming and Hoops and Scoops.

FoFA Meets This Friday

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) for the first meeting of the 2023–24 school year at 8:30 a.m. this Friday, August 25. The meeting will be held in the Advancement Conference Room of the Administration Building (9000 Westheimer Rd.).

- All are welcome to attend and learn about the amazing support FoFA provides St. Francis's students, faculty, and staff.
- FoFA is an inclusive group of parents who support all aspects of the school's fine arts programming. They are thrilled to welcome St. Francis's artists and actors back to the stage, and sincerely hope you will join them to volunteer at student productions, art exhibits, and musical performances this year!

Child Safety in Hot Weather: A Note From the Nurse's Office

While summer temperatures persist, St. Francis's nurses encourage you to [review these resources](#), which provide excellent tips on keeping kids safe in hot weather.

Primary School

From the Head of Primary School

Welcome back to the Primary School! The magic of the first week has energized us all, and we couldn't be more thrilled to embark on this incredible journey alongside you and your child. The hallways are once again buzzing with life, and our classrooms are filled with the promise of endless learning and growth.

The first days of preschool mark a pivotal moment in your child's early childhood development. These formative years are a time of remarkable growth, where cognitive, social, and emotional skills are nurtured and cultivated. Our dedicated team of early

childhood educators carefully designed a week of engaging activities and delightful learning experiences to support our students' curiosity, creativity, and confidence as they acclimate to being on campus.

We invite you to be a partner in your children's education. By engaging in their stories, celebrating their achievements, and fostering their enthusiasm for learning, you play a vital role in shaping their preschool experience. Together, we can create a nurturing and vibrant community that supports your child's development in every way.

We are excited to welcome a new faculty member to our Primary School community:

- **Liliana Avila** is joining St. Francis as a Primary I Teacher. She has more than 20 years of teaching experience and has taught in Mexico City, Santa Fe, and the Woodlands. Ms. Avila has worked as an English as a Second Language teacher and also has experience working in a Reggio-inspired preschool program. She holds a bachelor's degree in preschool education from the Ministry of Public Education in Mexico City, as well as a master's degree in early childhood from Euroinnova Granada in Spain.

Let's make this school year a memorable one, full of laughter, discovery, and accomplishments. Here's to an incredible academic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Ryan Kochel
Head of Primary School

An Important Note About Carpool

We are very excited that Primary School carpool is running smoothly. Please note a few reminders:

- The gate will open at 2:00 p.m. Please refrain from arriving earlier for carpool.
- Cell phone use is discouraged during active carpool loading and unloading.
- It is preferred that the car seat of the youngest student is placed on the passenger side for easy loading and unloading.

Thank you for your assistance!

Primary School Chapel Schedule for 2023–24

Primary School Chapel times for the 2023–24 school year are as follows:

- **Primary I:** Wednesdays at 9:00–9:30 a.m. Parents are invited to attend on their child's day beginning August 30.

- **Primary II:** Tuesdays at 9:00–9:30 a.m. Parents are invited to attend on their child's day beginning August 29.

Pre-Primary students will begin attending Chapel after the Christmas break, and their Chapel schedule will be announced closer to that time.

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

- *Chapel:* Students only
-

Wednesday, August 23

- *Chapel:* Students only
-

Monday, August 28

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, August 29

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, August 30

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school
-

Tuesday, September 5

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, September 6

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, September 11

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, September 12

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
 - *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m.
-

Wednesday, September 13

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Thursday, September 14

- *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m.

Lower School

From the Head of Lower School

What a great start to the 2023–24 school year we've had! Our first three days of school were filled with joy and excitement as students and teachers settled into their classroom learning environment.

It is great to witness the building of classroom communities utilizing the Responsive Classroom approach, which helps students develop five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making. I have no doubts that our students will grow in these capabilities this year as they engage with our student-centered and inquiry-based Lower School curriculum.

Thank you for your partnership in the education of your Lower School child. I hope you have a great first full week of school, and I look forward to seeing you at Parent Information Night on Thursday, August 31.

Kind regards,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 21

- *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, August 24

- *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, August 28

- *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, August 31

- *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.
 - *LS Parent Information Night: 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday: No school*
-

Thursday, September 7

- *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.

Middle School

From the Head of Middle School

I have written this before, but it bears repeating: middle school is not preparation for real life; it *is* real life. The tears shed in middle school are no less real than the ones shed in middle age. Friendships gained and lost in middle school nourish souls and shatter hearts as easily as those in college or graduate school. Lunchroom drama and laughs are memorable whether they happen at work or around a middle school table.

During the first three days of school, I had the privilege of watching middle schoolers cheer for their fellow Wolves as they entered the building at morning carpool. Students engaged in Socratic seminars about their summer readings, and some completed construction projects with marshmallows. Students discussed the merits and potential pitfalls of generative AI in their technology refresher with Director of Educational Technology Steve Johnson.

Now that teachers have finished going over most of their classroom routines, they will dive headfirst into their courses. Expect to hear about English book clubs, history research papers, linear and nonlinear equations, the scientific method, and much more in the weeks to come.

Warmly,

Byron R. Williams, EdD
Head of Middle School

MS Athletic Team Photos Are August 25

All fall Middle School athletes will have their picture taken in uniforms this **Friday, August 25, at 2:45 p.m. in the Piney Point Gym**. Teams traveling to Couper Campus this day will load the bus after their picture is taken.

- Parents, please make every effort for students to be present for picture day, and **remind them to pack their team uniforms on this day**.
- Be on the lookout for an email from our school photographer (Freeman Photography) with information on how to order and view the picture gallery.

Parent Information Night Is August 30

We hope to see you at Middle School Parent Information Night on **Wednesday, August 30, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

- This session offers parents the opportunity to learn about their child's classes from the teachers. (Schedules will be going home with the students on Monday, August 28.)
- When you arrive, please go to the Fine Arts Center (FAC) for a brief introduction. Afterward, you will walk through your child's schedule, visiting every class period. Each teacher will give a brief look into their class.

Late-Start Day: Tuesday, September 5

Please note that the Middle School's first Late-Start Day is Tuesday, September 5. Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. that day.

Eighth-Grade Chapel and Tie Ceremony Is September 11

The Eighth-Grade Chapel and Tie Ceremony will be held on Monday, September 11, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC). Eighth graders are required to wear their dress uniforms at this event.

Information About OLEs for Grades 5–7

Fifth- through seventh-grade students will visit Carolina Creek in Huntsville for Outdoor Learning Experiences (OLEs), according to the following schedule:

- **Fifth Grade:** Friday, October 20
- **Sixth Grade:** Thursday, October 19–Friday, October 20
- **Seventh Grade:** Wednesday, September 13–Friday, September 15

Please note that OLEs are required trips for all students in grades 5–7.

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. One graduating student is recognized for exemplifying and representing the quality of being “people for others.”

To submit your service hours, complete [this Community Service Hours Request Form](#) and drop it 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

Middle School Athletics: Practice and Carpool Times

Please see below for Middle School Athletics and PE practice and carpool pickup times.

MS ATHLETICS/PE PRACTICE AND CARPOOL TIMES

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>ARRIVAL TIME</u>	<u>PRACTICE START TIME</u>	<u>PRACTICE END TIME</u>	<u>CARPOOL PICKUP*</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
MSPE	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Cross-Country	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:40 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Girls Volleyball: 6th/7th (Piney Point)	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Football	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	4:20 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Girls Volleyball: 8th (Couper)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Travel time included
Boys Volleyball: 6th/7th/8th (Couper)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Travel time included

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>ARRIVAL TIME</u>	<u>PRACTICE START TIME</u>	<u>PRACTICE END TIME</u>	<u>CARPOOL PICKUP*</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Field Hockey: 6th/7th/8th (Couper)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Travel time included

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 21

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Tuesday, August 22

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, August 23

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, August 24

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

Friday, August 25

- *SFES Spirit Dress: Students may wear St. Francis Spirit shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms.*

Upper School

From the Division Head: Seniors Continue One Tradition and Begin Another

The Class of 2024 spent this past week preparing to lead St. Francis by continuing one tradition started a few years ago, and creating a new tradition to kick off the school year. On Tuesday, the seniors assembled to paint their assigned parking spots, which are located in the immediate left parking lot as one enters the Couper Campus. Painting colorful, joyful, and imaginative layouts, the seniors spent the morning personalizing their parking spaces, even in 100-degree heat. They were happy with their creations.



On Wednesday a new tradition was born—taking a picture of the entire senior class on the football field at sunrise.



The idea was to capture the class at the awakening of the school year as they prepare to lead us through this school year. This started a wonderful new tradition at St. Francis.

Thanks to parent **Melissa Reeves** for proposing the idea, parents **Eleanor Young** and **Katherine Phelps** for taking pictures and helping out, and for **Dean of Students Harold Baber** for planning, organizing, and seeing it through!

Warmly,

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of Upper School

Senior Parent College Information Night

Parents play a crucial role in the college applications journey by being a pillar of support for their senior. Join Mrs. Mejia, Director of College Counseling, to gain insights into the college application process and scholarship opportunities, and to learn how to empower your senior. Senior Parent College Information Night is on **Wednesday, August 23, at 6:30 p.m.**, and will be held in the Student Life Center's Nau Dining Hall on Couper Campus.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 21

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

Tuesday, August 22

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, August 23

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center*
 - *Senior Parent College Information Night: 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the Student Life Center's Nau Dining Hall*
-

Thursday, August 24

- *“A” Day*
 - *Free Dress*
-

Friday, August 25

- *“B” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Opening Eucharist: 10:00–10:45 a.m. in the Student Life Center*
-

Monday, August 28

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, August 29

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, August 30

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center*
-

Thursday, August 31

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, September 1

- “A” Day
- *St. Francis Spirit Dress*: Wear a St. Francis Spirit T-shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Chapel*: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Our Family-Focused Service and Events

- **Sunday Family Worship Service**: 9:00 a.m.
- **Let It Shine Children's Bible Lesson**: On Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service, join Mrs. Devlin to learn about the Bible as we act out Scripture with costumes and props and pray together.
- **Coffee, Donuts, and Crafts**: Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service), get a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship while young children color, create an art project based on the lesson learned at Let it Shine, and have fun with friends.

Miss the Family Blessing for the School Year?

If you missed our Family Blessing for the School Year, please contact [Allison Devlin](#)! Our vision is for the families of St. Francis to desire and engage in a daily relationship with God and to commit to modeling the Christian faith this school year in their homes with their children.

Students, Join Us for Weekly Book Studies on Sundays

On Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria, join your friends for weekly meetings to talk about some amazing, Biblically inspired stories. Books will be provided. Please contact [Allison Devlin](#) to sign up.

- **Grades 1–4**: *The Dead Sea Squirrels* by Mike Nawrocki
- **Grades 5–8**: *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

High School and Adult Volunteer Opportunities: Sign Up Now

This year, we are tracking and giving awards to high school students and adults for completing hours of service at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

- There will be a Gold Wolf Award for completing 50+ service hours, a Silver Rabbit Award for completing 25–49 service hours, and a Bronze Bird for completing 10–24 service hours. Award recipients will be recognized in May on Mother's Day.

- We need volunteers to help lead weekly book clubs and First Communion Classes, set up crafts and supervise kids on Sundays, and serve at events like Pizza and Bingo Night, the Blessing of the Animals, the Children's Christmas Party, and much more!
- To sign up, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code below with your mobile phone:



Moms' Bible Study Resumes September 13

- **What:** This fall, the Moms' Bible Study will center around the First15 app, which lets you connect with God every day and explore different topics through daily devotions that feature Scripture reading, devotional thought, guided prayer, and action steps. During weekly meetings, we will gather to discuss the theme of the week, reflect on the Scriptures, and pray. Download First15 for free from the App Store or Google Play.
- **When:** Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m., beginning September 13
- **Where:** Richmond House on the Couper Campus
- **For More Information:** To sign up or with questions, contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

First Communion Classes Begin September 17

Children in second grade and up are invited to attend First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist.

- **Class Schedule:** 10:00 a.m. on the following Sundays: September 17, September 24, October 15, and October 22
- **Class Location:** School library
- **Parent Coffee:** Sunday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Family Session:** Saturday, November 4, at 2:30 p.m.
- **First Communion Sunday:** Sunday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

Pizza and Bingo Night Is September 24

Join us for fellowship, pizza, and bingo on Sunday, September 24, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.

Blessing of the Animals Is October 1

Bring your furry, feathered, or fishy pet friends to the school courtyard on Sunday, October 1, at 4:00 p.m. to receive a special blessing as we honor God and His amazing creation.

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](#).

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 an appointment, email [Sally Jo Flores](#) or call 832.325.2983.

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

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 September 12.**)
 - **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](#)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Ezra
 - **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.