

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of August 27

All School

Mark Your Calendars: Episcopal School Sunday Is October 1

Please mark your calendars for Episcopal School Sunday on October 1, and plan to join us for the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service at St. Francis Episcopal Church. During this special time, we will also celebrate and bless the installation of Dr. Chelsea Pope Collins as Head of School. More details to follow.

Admissions Is on the Hunt for New Wolves!

The Admissions Office is ready to begin receiving new student applications for the 2024–25 school year. Admissions tours are starting soon, so please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. ([Click here for the tour dates.](#)) Current families with an additional student applying do not need to attend an admissions tour, but are welcome to attend.

Holiday Poinsettia Sale Coming Soon

One way to support our arts is to purchase beautiful red poinsettias grown by The Brookwood Community! These festive plants not only decorate your home for the holidays, but also make great gifts for friends, family members, and clients. Please share this opportunity, as all sales benefit the St. Francis Parents Organization Friends of Fine Arts.

- Each poinsettia is \$18, about sixteen inches in height, grown in a six-inch pot, and has five to seven blooms. They come with foil pot covers and are wrapped in brown paper sleeves for easy transportation and protection.
- Poinsettias will be available for pickup on Thursday, November 30, on the Couper Campus.
- The link to purchase will be available soon.

Hey, Wolf Pack! Save the Dates for Homecoming 2023!

Mark your calendars to come cheer on our Wolves during Homecoming week!

- **Middle School Football Game:** Thursday, September 28, at 5:00 p.m.
- **Upper School Volleyball Game:** Friday, September 29, at 4:30 p.m.
- **Upper School Football Game:** Friday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m.

All MS and US teams playing during Homecoming week will be celebrated. Stay tuned—more details about Homecoming festivities are coming soon!

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.](#)

Explore and Extend: Register Now for After-School Care

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.

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.

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!

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 Assistant Head of Primary School

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Ashley Stephenson, and I am excited to join Primary School full-time as the assistant head. For the past seven years, I've worked here at St. Francis as both a literacy specialist and a curriculum and instruction specialist. While I spent most of my time working with Lower School faculty and students, I also spent time weekly in Primary School, working principally with Primary II.

I'm thrilled to return to my early childhood roots, as my bachelor's degree is in early childhood education, and I spent the first 18 years of my career teaching kindergarten and first grade.

It's been wonderful spending time in classrooms over the past few weeks and watching our talented teachers build inclusive and joyful classroom communities and nurture the curiosity and interests of each student. How special it is to be greeted with smiles, hugs, and lots of exciting stories when I visit classrooms!

I've also had the opportunity to meet many of you at Meet the Teacher and in the carpool line. If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, I hope we will soon.

Fondly,

Ashley Stephenson, MEd
Assistant Head of Primary School

Memory Books: Order by September 15

Primary and Lower School Memory Books for last school year are now available for purchase. These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes are grade-specific and capture class parties; seasonal events; and special days like Grandparents Day, Splash Day, and more! Remember to order for your child's grade **last year**.

- **Please Note: The order deadline for memory books is Friday, September 15.**
- [Click here](#) to buy your memory books today.
- With questions, email [Crystal Neustadt](mailto:Crystal.Neustadt).

Mark Your Calendar

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 Assistant Head of Lower School

At the beginning of each year, teachers and students develop classroom social agreements to support a positive and successful school year. These agreements may be what you remember as school rules. We have used the Responsive Classroom framework for the last eight years to engage students in developing behavior expectations for themselves and others. Classroom and school agreements provide general guidelines and clarity on what is expected of all in the Lower School on a daily basis.

The process of developing agreements for our Lower School Social Contract is complex to allow input from all students. Each classroom brainstorms and lists agreements to ensure all feel valued and respected. Next, classes meet as a grade level to discuss all agreements shared in their classroom. This phase of the process takes time, as students gather as a grade level, share, and consolidate ideas that are the same. Once consensus is obtained within the grade level, two students from each grade are selected as grade-level representatives. Student representatives meet in September to discuss and debate suggestions from each grade level and to develop the Lower School Social Contract for the year.

The contract is signed by all Lower School students, teachers, and administrators, and is displayed in our hallways and classrooms. Because of the student involvement in each phase of developing agreements, all in the Lower School have individual buy-in. It brings me joy to work collaboratively with teachers and students in this Lower School activity that sets the behavior expectations for our school year ahead.

Warmly,

Mary Peña
Assistant Head of Lower School

Memory Books: Order by September 15

Primary and Lower School Memory Books for last school year are now available for purchase. These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes are grade-specific and capture class parties; seasonal events; and special days like Grandparents Day, Splash Day, and more! Remember to order for your child's grade **last year**.

- **Please Note: The order deadline for memory books is Friday, September 15.**
- [Click here](#) to buy your memory books today.
- With questions, email [Crystal Neustadt](#).

Fall First Communion Classes for Grades 2 and Up

Interested in having your student receive communion at our Lower School Eucharist Chapels? First Communion Classes offered by St. Francis Episcopal Church begin Sunday, September 17. For more details, please see the "Church" section of this *Wolf Watch*, below.

Mark Your Calendar

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

Tuesday, September 5

- *Late-Start Day*: 10:00 a.m.

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.

Monday, September 11

- *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, September 14

- *LS Chapel Leadership Induction (Fourth Grade)*
 - 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

Since my article in the August 13 *Wolf Watch*, several people have asked me if I decided to purchase new shoes in honor of the new school year. Answer: Not yet. However, I need you to think about your own footwear for Wednesday night. You are invited to attend our Middle School Parent Information Night this Wednesday, August 30, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. What

does that have to do with your shoes? Well, we begin the evening in the Fine Arts Center (FAC), where you'll have a chance to hear from our new Head of School, Dr. Chelsea Collins.

After a few minutes in the FAC, you will head off on an adventure to meet your students' teachers. You will follow their schedules, which will take you all the way from the science labs near the gym to the Spanish and math classrooms on the second floor and down to the Villas for history and English. The campus is big, and you will get to see how your students feel when they crisscross it to get from class to class.

You may be tempted to slip on your fanciest footwear for this event in an attempt to match your brand new Parent Information Night outfit. If those shoes are ultra comfortable, go for it. If they are not, don't do it.

Now, I'm exaggerating a little bit about the amount of walking, and I know that I am overestimating the amount of time and thought that will go into your Parent Information Night attire, but what you wear is not the most important part of this event.

You will have a chance to walk in your child's footsteps. You will get a taste of what it's like to take a St. Francis Spanish, English, math, science, history, technology, religion, or fine arts class. Come prepared to learn more about these people who spend more waking hours with your children than you do. My hope is that at the end of the night, you will see why I am so excited about this school year and the future of St. Francis.

See you soon!

Byron R. Williams, EdD
Head of Middle School

Eighth-Grade Parents: Register for Boston Trip by August 30

Please register your child for their Boston trip by Wednesday, August 30. The trip will be Monday, October 23, through Thursday, October 26.

- To register, [click here](#).
- [Click here](#) to view a tentative itinerary.
- With questions, please email [Marion Tolon](#).

Parent Information Night Is Wednesday

We hope to see you at Middle School Parent Information Night this **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 tomorrow, 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 Tie Ceremony Is September 11

The Eighth-Grade 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.

Fifth-Grade Parents: Order Memory Books by September 15

Fourth-grade Memory Books (for last school year) are now available for purchase. These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes are grade-specific and capture class parties; seasonal events; and special days like Grandparents Day, Splash Day, and more! Remember to order for your child's grade **last year**.

- **Please Note: The order deadline for memory books is Friday, September 15.**
- [Click here](#) to buy your memory books today.
- With questions, email [Crystal Neustadt](#).

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 28

- *"A Day"*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel:* 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
-

Tuesday, August 29

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

Wednesday, August 30

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Parent Information Night:* 6:00–7:30 p.m.
-

Thursday, August 31

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel:* 9:50 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
-

Friday, September 1

- *"A" Day*

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

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday*: No school

Upper School

From the Division Head

“Would anyone like to be the first to give his or her speech?” One student raised her hand, approached the front of the class, drew a deep breath, and started. The Freshman Speech Class had begun. Although she had to compose herself at first, she quickly became engaged with the rest of the class. Drawing support from her peers, her self-confidence improved and her words began to flow easily as she continued her story. When she finished, the class gave her enthusiastic applause.

Calling every student one by one, I was impressed with how much the students had put into their speeches. The assignment was to talk about a personal setback—what had happened, how it was addressed, and what was learned. Some spoke easily; others had more difficulty and had to read theirs. A few chose not to use notes at all, attempting to speak from the heart as we had discussed. When we were finally finished with the set, we discussed how the students felt about delivering their speeches. One remarked how awkward eye contact was for her; another said that part was not hard for him, but slowing his pace down was; and another mentioned that he found reading his speech cost him engagement with the audience.

This Freshman Speech Class was born from conversations I had with several faculty members when I had first accepted the position as Interim Head of Upper School. They had relayed to me that, given the wide variety of schools our freshmen were coming from, most did not seem to enter with effective public speaking skills. Furthermore, most did not have a good sense of how to make presentations using various forms of media. Since I had taught speech to juniors and seniors years earlier, we decided that we would make speech a mandatory trimester course for freshmen and add it to the fine arts rotation. I would teach it. And so, almost two weeks into school, we are well on our way.

By the time the trimester is over, each student will have delivered eight to ten speeches. Furthermore, the course will conclude with a speech or presentation of ten to twenty minutes for a major grade. I will have to do some research to corroborate this, but I believe that St. Francis may be the only high school in the city that requires Speech for an entire grade of students. We are off to a good start—let’s keep up the momentum!

Regards,

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of School

Winter Sports Selection and Sign-up Is Wednesday

Students will reconfirm or sign up for winter sports this Wednesday, August 30, after Chapel. Offerings for this winter are Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Coed Swimming, and US Physical Education. Sign-up numbers are very important for us so that we may plan accurately for the upcoming season. Students should select a sport only if they are truly interested and willing to commit to full team participation. This includes attending all practices and competitions.

The majority of winter sports practices are held after school, except for swimming practices, which will be held in the mornings before school.

Homecoming Mums and Garters on Sale Now

Show your support for the Wolves at the big Homecoming game with a custom mum or garter! Both mums (\$100) and garters (\$75) can be personalized with the student's name, year, and/or sport.

- [Check out pictures here.](#)
- The Booster Club will be offering presales through Wednesday, September 13. [Click here](#) to order yours today!
- All mums and garters will be delivered to students the week of Homecoming.
- Questions? Email [Charity Todd](#).

Order Now: Varsity and JV Car Decals and Varsity Yard Signs

Show all of your neighbors your Wolf pride with the NEW St. Francis Varsity yard sign! From volleyball to basketball and golf to cross-country, we've got your sport covered. One sport is included with your sign, and more sports can be added to your yard sign via additional placards.

You can also order car decals for select Varsity and JV sports, with more sports options coming soon.

- [Click here to see sample yard signs and decals.](#)
- [Click here](#) to place your order today.
- Costs are as follows:
 - **Varsity Yard Signs:** \$100
 - **Additional Placards:** \$25
 - **Car Decals for Varsity and JV Sports:** \$15

- Orders will be delivered to the Upper School Office Manager in approximately one week. With questions, [email Colleen Dunlap](#).

Soon, we'll also be offering arts yard signs and car decals for students who have lettered in arts—so keep an eye on *Wolf Watch!*

Booster Club Pop-Up Sales!

The Booster Club will have in-person pop-up sales of Homecoming mums, Varsity and JV car decals, and Varsity yard signs on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 6, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Upper School Parent Night
- Thursday, September 7, at the JV and Varsity volleyball games
- Friday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the football game

Mark Your Calendar

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

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday: School closed*

Tuesday, September 5

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Late-Start Day: 10:00 a.m.*

Wednesday, September 6

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center*
- *Parent Information Night: 6:30 p.m. in the Student Life Center*

Thursday, September 7

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, September 8

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *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.

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](mailto:SallyJoFlores@stfrancis.org) 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](http://stfrancis.org).

Bible Studies at St. Francis

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](mailto:MartinO'Malley@stfrancis.org)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays of each month)
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**The next meeting is September 12.**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
 - **Location:** [The Corner Bakery](http://www.thecornerbakery.com) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](mailto:SallyJoFlores@stfrancis.org)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Ezra
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](mailto:GeorgeHippard@stfrancis.org)

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.