

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 24

All School

Homecoming Is This Week

It's a big week, Wolves! For everything you need to know about Homecoming, [click here](#).

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PRE-ORDER HOMECOMING FOOD FROM TORCHY'S TACOS!

Will you and your family be hungry at the Homecoming game on Friday? Then order your Torchy's now! Advance sales will close at midnight TONIGHT, September 24. Very limited food will be available for purchase at the game. [Pre-purchase your food tickets here](#). Pick up your Torchy's tickets at the Will Call table on Friday at the game.

NEW THIS YEAR: CONCESSION TICKETS

All concessions and drinks will be available to purchase by ticket only. The concession stand and grab-and-go tables will not be accepting payment in any other form. Purchase tickets at the ticket tables when you arrive at the games Thursday and Friday.

HOMECOMING VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

Booster Club needs volunteers to help make Homecoming a success! Volunteers are still needed at the big events on Thursday, September 28, and Friday, September 29. Come meet some new people and have fun pitching in. [Click here](#) to sign up today. Let's Back the Pack!

Join Us October 1 to Celebrate the Installation of Dr. Collins

The St. Francis community will celebrate and bless the installation of Dr. Chelsea Pope Collins as Head of School during Episcopal School Sunday on October 1, 2023. Join us at St. Francis Episcopal Church for either the 9:00 a.m. service, when the Joyful Sounds Choir will provide music, or the 11:00 a.m. service, when the Middle School Choir will sing. A

reception will immediately follow each service. [Please RSVP by clicking here.](#)

Sporting Clays Classic Is October 20—Register Today

Join us for a casual and fun day at the Greater Houston Sports Club on Friday, October 20! Our Sporting Clays Classic is open to the whole community, so family, friends, clients, and colleagues are all welcome. Purchase a team ticket for four guests or an individual ticket. The registration fee includes entry, 12- and 20-gauge ammunition, targets, golf cart transportation, a light breakfast, and lunch. [Register here!](#)

Primary School

From the Division Head

In early childhood education, the Reggio Emilia approach stands out as a unique and innovative pedagogical philosophy. Originating in the small town of Reggio Emilia, Italy, after World War II, this approach emphasizes the importance of a strong partnership between educators, parents, and the community. At its core, the Reggio Emilia approach recognizes parents as essential collaborators in their child's educational journey. So, how are parents seen as significant in this dynamic approach, and how does their involvement enrich the educational experience?

- **Mutual Respect and Collaboration:** One of the fundamental principles of the Reggio Emilia approach is the belief in the competence and potential of every child. This belief extends to the parents, as well. Educators and parents are seen as equal partners, each bringing their unique perspectives, skills, and knowledge to the table. This mutual respect and collaboration create a rich learning environment where everyone is valued and contributes to the child's growth and development.
- **A Window Into the Child's World:** Parents are often the first and most influential teachers in a child's life. They have an intimate understanding of their child's interests, strengths, and challenges. By actively involving parents in the educational process, educators gain valuable insights into each child's unique personality and needs. This allows for a more personalized and responsive approach to learning, tailored to the child's individual characteristics.
- **Strengthening the Home-School Connection:** In the Reggio Emilia approach, the school is viewed as an extension of the child's home and community. This seamless connection between home and school fosters a sense of continuity in a child's life, making the transition from one environment to another smoother. When parents are actively engaged in their child's education, they can reinforce the values, skills, and concepts learned in school at home, creating a reinforcing loop of learning.
- **Encouraging Lifelong Learning:** Parents play a vital role in modeling a love for learning. When they actively participate in their child's educational experiences, they demonstrate the importance of curiosity, exploration, and inquiry. This sets a powerful example for their children, instilling a lifelong passion for learning and discovery.

- **Building a Strong Sense of Community:** The Reggio Emilia approach values the community as an integral part of the learning process. Parents actively involved in school activities and projects strengthen the sense of community and belonging. Parents become not only partners in education but also active participants in the larger educational community, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for the well-being and development of all children.

In the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education, parents are not mere spectators, but essential contributors to their child's learning journey. Their involvement enhances the educational experience, creating a holistic and child-centered approach that recognizes the importance of family, community, and collaboration. By recognizing parents as active partners, the Reggio Emilia approach empowers children to flourish in a supportive and nurturing environment where their voices are heard, their interests are valued, and their potential is limitless.

To learn more about the role parents play in a Reggio-inspired school, please **join us on Monday, October 2, at 9:00 a.m. for our first Coffee and Conversation** (Caffè e Conversazione). This event is being hosted by our Reggio Parent Group and will feature two of our teachers.

Thank you for being partners in this exciting educational journey!

Best regards,

Ryan Kochel
Head of Primary School

Primary School Homecoming Dress Days + Primary II Pep Rally

In honor of Homecoming, Primary School students may dress in St. Francis Spirit Wear any day this week! On Friday, September 29, Primary II students will also visit Crum Gym for a special students-only pep rally alongside their Upper School friends.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 25

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

Tuesday, September 26

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend

Wednesday, September 27

- *Chapel*: Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, October 2

- *Primary School Picture Day*
 - *Reggio Coffee and Conversations (Caffè e Conversazione)*: 9:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library
 - *Open Library*: 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, October 3

- *Primary II Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel*: Primary II parents may attend
 - *Primary II Furry Friends Picnic*: Students only
-

Wednesday, October 4

- *No Chapel Today for Primary I*: Moved to Friday, October 6
-

Thursday, October 5

- *Primary II Field Trip*
-

Friday, October 6

- *Primary I Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel*: Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, October 9

- *Fall Break*: No school

Tuesday, October 10

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend

Wednesday, October 11

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend

Monday, October 16

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

Tuesday, October 17

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
- *Primary II Sings:* Classes TBD

Wednesday, October 18

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend

Friday, October 20

- *Sporting Clays Classic:* At the Greater Houston Sports Club; [click here to register](#)

Monday, October 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
 - *Primary II Sings:* Classes TBD
-

Wednesday, October 25

- *Primary School Parent Conference Day:* Student holiday
-

Monday, October 30

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

Tuesday, October 31

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, November 1

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend

Lower School

From the Third-Grade Teachers

Lower School teachers work to instill independence and agency in their students. Below, we take a closer look at how third grade strategically approaches this goal.

WHY IS STUDENT INDEPENDENCE IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY?

Student independence is a skill that grows and develops much like academic knowledge. While students are in third grade, their independence is stretched and developed. In all classes, students follow established routines and read the daily agenda to know what materials are needed for the day. Student choice is important in developing independence, whether choosing a book to read, a country to study, or a coding site to practice problem-solving and critical thinking skills. These choices allow students to have ownership of their learning.

HOW DOES STUDENT OWNERSHIP IN THEIR LEARNING CONNECT TO INDEPENDENCE?

At the beginning of each trimester, students set goals for each academic class with an additional focus on work habits. As a class, we discuss the terminology students see on report cards and what it means to receive indicators that measure how students are doing academically and socially in each class. (The indicators are MS for Meets Standards, PS for Progressing with Support, and AS for Area of Strength.) These goals are placed in portfolios for students to reflect on at the end of each trimester.

Students are supported throughout the day with a variety of instruction methods. Through whole-group instruction, small-group instruction, and independent application, students take more ownership of their learning. The goal, eventually, is for students to become more independent intrinsically.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO AT HOME TO SUPPORT DEVELOPING STUDENT INDEPENDENCE AND OWNERSHIP?

Parents can put their child in charge of anything they need for the day. For example, they pack their backpack the night before with materials for the day ahead. In the morning, third graders can pack snacks and fill their water bottle themselves. Helping out around the house is another simple way to build independence and responsibility. Daily or weekly chores appropriate for third graders include setting and clearing the table for meals, rinsing dishes, and loading the dishwasher. Another way to support independence is to allow your child to take responsibility for completing homework and turning it in the next day.

Although it looks slightly different from grade level to grade level, student independence and ownership of work is a shared goal for all Lower School students. We, as teachers, appreciate your support as parents in helping students accomplish these goals.

Warmest regards,

Christina Gonzales, Third-Grade Math
Alison Johnston, Third-Grade Humanities
Charlotte Morales, Third-Grade Humanities
Linden Womack, Third-Grade STEAM

Parent Lunches With Students Begin October 2

We're thrilled to let you know that, beginning Monday, October 2, we will kick off our parent lunches with students! Tomorrow—Monday, September 25—we will send out the link you'll use to sign up for lunch with your child.

Due to space and safety concerns, lunch visitors are subject to important guidelines:

- All lunch visitors must follow established check-in/checkout procedures and will receive a name tag upon arrival, which must be worn at all times while on campus.

- Lunch visitors are asked to follow the dining procedures on pages 30–31 of our *Lower School Handbook*, as follows: *"Parent/guardian lunches for students in kindergarten through grade 4 will be scheduled from October through April using Veracross. (The link will be sent in September and will also be accessible via the Parent Portal.) Each family will be allotted three lunch dates within the school year. (Note: The lunch count is per family and not per child.) Please be aware that some dates may not be available due to previously scheduled events on campus. The school will limit the number of reservations per day to avoid congestion in the parking lot and within the school building."*
- **St. Francis uses Veracross for scheduling family lunch dates** to ensure efficient organization of highly attended dates when limited space is available. (Please note that lunch times for each grade level will be listed at the top of the sign-up page.)

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 25

- *Homecoming Week—Superhero Day*
 - *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, September 26

- *Homecoming Week—Color Clash Day*
 - Kindergarten = Orange
 - First Grade = Green
 - Second Grade = Red
 - Third Grade = White
 - Fourth Grade = Blue
-

Wednesday, September 27

- *Homecoming Week—Sports Jersey Day*
-

Thursday, September 28

- *Homecoming Week—Western Day*
 - *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 Fall Pep Rally: 2:00–2:30 p.m.; students only*
-

Friday, September 29

- *Homecoming Week—Neon Day*
-

Monday, October 2

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

Tuesday, October 3

- *Lower School Individual Student Photos*
-

Wednesday, October 4

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

Friday, October 6

- *Lower School Parent/Teacher Conferences: Student holiday*
-

Monday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* No school
-

Thursday, October 12

- *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

A Note From Fr. Wismer About See You at the Pole

Faith is such a strong foundation to our life as a community at St. Francis. But sometimes we forget what a wonderful gift we have been blessed with, having the freedom to pray, to discuss, to sing and shout about our faith in God. In public schools, students simply do not have that privilege and opportunity, and it helps us to appreciate this gift we have when we remember those who don't have it.

Across America this Wednesday, September 27, students in public schools will gather around their flagpole to celebrate what has become known as **See You at the Pole**. In the early hours on that day, before the school day begins, they will pray to God for their school. They will pray that God will help and bless the students, the teachers, the administrators, and the support staff. And they will pray for God's blessing and protection. They will pray for God's grace to be the salt and light. You might see them on your way, as you bring your students to St. Francis. Watch for them.

We don't have to get to school before the start of our school day to pray. Nevertheless we will have a special Chapel, outside, around our own flagpole, to express our solidarity with them—and to help us appreciate and be aware of the gift of freedom that we have.

So, if the weather cooperates, and you happen to be at St. Francis when we are having Chapel around the flagpole, do join us.

- **Lower School:** Monday, September 25, at 8:20 a.m.
- **Middle School:** Monday, September 25, at 9:55 am
- **Upper School:** Wednesday, September 27, at 10:00 a.m.

When we appreciate the gift that we have in sending our children to a school that celebrates and encourages faith, I think that we will be more likely to live out our faith more regularly and in more creative ways. We have the freedom to pray—so pray! We have the freedom to worship—so worship! See you at the pole.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Wismer
Senior Chaplain

#WinAtSocial: What's Next in Middle School Advisory

During the month of September, the Middle School successfully launched the #WinAtSocial platform in our advisories. (See the September 10 *Wolf Watch*, available in the “Wolf Watch Archives” section below, for more details on the program.) At a time when students spend many hours a day on digital devices, and cyberbullying and reputation-damaging posts run rampant, this program equips students to make positive, healthy, and high-character choices that fuel their health, happiness, and future success.

Students will be participating in two to three lessons per month during their advisory time. In the Middle School section of *Wolf Watch*, we will be providing regular updates on upcoming lessons—geared toward helping you drive conversations at home.

For more information on #WinAtSocial, including a sneak peek at next week's lesson, [click here!](#)

Eighth-Grade Parents, Submit Photos by Friday

The eighth-grade video is in progress, and we need photos! Parents, please submit the following pictures of your eighth grader by Friday, September 29. Email photos to SFESClassOf2028@gmail.com.

WHAT PHOTOS SHOULD YOU SUBMIT?

- ALL eighth-grade parents, please submit the following photos of your eighth grader:
 - **One baby photo (age 6 months to 3 years)**; front view; REQUIRED
 - **One recent photo (current within last 6 to 9 months)**; front view; REQUIRED
- If your eighth grader joined St. Francis in fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, please **also submit three photos of your child from his or her years in elementary school** (kindergarten through fifth grade).

DIGITAL PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

Pictures must be digital, and in one of the following file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG, or TIFF. If your files are in HEIC format, please convert them to JPEGs before submitting. Please make sure the image size is at least 1200x720 pixels.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please give us a shout!

- Julianna Moorad via [email](#) or via text at 713.906.0678

- Missy Glass via [email](#) or via text at 832.928.0783

MS Individual Picture Day Is October 2

Individual picture day for Middle School is Monday, October 2, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Please be sure your student wears the dress uniform.

Mark Your Calendars: OLEs for Grades 5 & 6

Fifth- and sixth-grade students will go to Carolina Creek for their Outdoor Learning Experiences. OLEs are required trips, and will take place on the following dates:

- **Fifth Grade:** Friday, October 20
- **Sixth Grade:** Thursday, October 19–Friday, October 20

Summer 2024 Travel: Washington, DC, and France/Spain Parent Info Session Recordings Now Available

This past week, we held Parent Information Sessions via Zoom for the **Spain/France** trip for Upper and Middle School students and for our **Washington, DC**, trip for current fifth graders. Please [click here](#) to access the links to these recordings. (Information will be coming soon regarding the seventh-grade trip to **Costa Rica**.)

MS Bible Studies: Upcoming Schedule

Middle School Bible studies have begun. Students will meet in either the Mac Lab or the MakerSpace, both of which are right off of the Crum Library.

- Eighth-grade **boys** will meet on Monday, September 25, at 12:05 p.m.
- Eighth-grade **girls** will meet on Wednesday, September 27, at 12:05 p.m.
- Seventh-grade **boys** will meet on Wednesday, September 27, at 12:05 p.m.
- Seventh-grade **girls** will meet on Tuesday, September 26, at 12:05 p.m.
- Sixth-grade **boys** will meet on Thursday, October 5, at 12:30 p.m.
- Sixth-grade **girls** will meet on Thursday, October 5, at 12:30 p.m.
- Fifth-grade **boys** will meet on Thursday, September 28, at 12:30 p.m.
- Fifth-grade **girls** will meet on Thursday, September 28, at 12:30 p.m.

Homecoming Week: Spirit Dress-up Days

This is Homecoming Week, and students are encouraged to dress up according to a particular theme. We want our students to have fun, but please remember that all outfits must be school-appropriate. Students who opt not to dress up may wear regular school uniforms instead.

- **Monday, September 25:** Superhero Day (Dress as your favorite superhero.)
- **Tuesday, September 26:** Color Clash (Wear your grade level's assigned color.)

- Eighth Grade = Blue
- Seventh Grade = White
- Sixth Grade = Red
- Fifth Grade = Green
- **Wednesday, September 27:** Sports Jersey Day
- **Thursday, September 28:** Western Wear
- **Friday, September 29:** Neon Day

Note On Early Pickup for Students in Grades 6–8

If you are planning on picking up your sixth-, seventh-, or eighth-grade student after 2:35 p.m., you will need to go to Athletics and sign them out.

- If your student plays a sport, you will need to email the coach ahead of time and then walk to the coach and sign them out.
- If your student is in PE, you will need to sign them out with the PE instructor in the OAC or gym.
- For teams on Piney Point Campus, please remember that parking at Ecclesia is not allowed. Instead, park at the front of the school and enter through the Courtyard to go to the fields or gyms.
- Please [email Kelly Murray](#) with any questions.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 25

- *“B” Day*
- *Homecoming Week—Regular Uniform OR Dress Like Your Favorite Superhero*
- *Middle School See You at the Pole Chapel*
 - 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Weather permitting, we will start in the Chapel and move in a procession outside to the pole.
- *Eighth-Grade Boys Bible Study:* 12:05 p.m. in the Mac Lab

Tuesday, September 26

- *“A” Day*
- *Homecoming Week—Regular Uniform OR Color Clash*
 - Eighth Grade = Blue
 - Seventh Grade = White
 - Sixth Grade = Red
 - Fifth Grade = Green
- *Seventh-Grade Girls Bible Study:* 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace

Wednesday, September 27

- *“B” Day*
 - *Homecoming Week—Regular Uniform OR Sports Jersey Day*
 - *Seventh-Grade Boys Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*
 - *Eighth-Grade Girls Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the Mac Lab*
-

Thursday, September 28

- *“A” Day*
 - *Eighth Grade Visits Upper School: 8:00 a.m. to noon*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
 - *Homecoming Week—Regular Uniform OR Western Wear*
 - *Fifth-Grade Boys and Girls Bible Studies: 12:30 p.m.; boys and girls meet separately, in either the Mac Lab or the MakerSpace*
-

Friday, September 29

- *“B” Day*
 - *Homecoming Week—SFES Spirit Dress OR Neon Day*
-

Monday, October 2

- *“A” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Individual Picture Day: 8:00 a.m. to noon*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:35 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
 - *Eighth-Grade Boys Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*
-

Tuesday, October 3

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Seventh-Grade Girls Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*

Wednesday, October 4

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Seventh-Grade Boys Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the Mac Lab*
 - *Eighth-Grade Girls Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*
-

Thursday, October 5

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
 - *Sixth-Grade Bible Study: 12:30 p.m. in either the Mac Lab or the MakerSpace*
-

Friday, October 6

- *Parent/Student Conferences (No School):* To sign up for an October 6 conference, navigate to the Parent Portal. Look on the right side, and click the green notification that says “Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up.”

Upper School

From the Division Head

Now that we are a third of the way through Trimester 1 and school is beginning to gain momentum, it seems to be the right time to reflect on where we stand, and where we are headed, as an Upper School. With team sports well underway, clubs starting up, and the first important academic assessments appearing in the Upper School classes, new students no longer feel so new to the campus.

That said, we are all adjusting—adjusting to new spaces, new components of the curriculum, new teachers and, for many, a new way of life. Further changes are imminent. Within the next month or so, the renovation will be complete within the Founders Academic Building—located behind the Crum Gymnasium—and we will be able to relocate the fine arts classes out of the trailers and into the new space. When that is accomplished, the trailers will be removed from campus, opening up more room for parking and completing this phase of building out the Upper School campus.

With Upper School enrollment growing rapidly, there will be more construction to come during the next few years. Enrollment in the Upper School was 115 when the school year ended in May 2023. Currently, with our largest freshman class ever, our enrollment is 151. With a small graduating class of 27 and an expected freshman class of at least 50+ next year, we will likely open the 2024–25 school year with approximately 180 students. Moreover, the current sophomore class is the last projected small class of the Upper School. After they have graduated and the current freshmen are seniors, the Upper School enrollment in that three-year period will have doubled from the 115 students with which we closed this past school year.

There are many positive changes to come as the Upper School at St. Francis continues to mature. In the meantime, I will continue to enjoy the energy and good feeling emanating from the Couper Campus.

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of School

The Social Institute: Strike A Balance

During the month of September, the Upper School has successfully launched the #WinAtSocial platform in our advisories. At a time when students spend many hours a day on digital devices, and cyberbullying and reputation-damaging posts run rampant, this program equips students to make positive, healthy, and high-character choices that fuel their health, happiness, and future success.

This past week, each grade ran a specific lesson that explored the social standard of “Strike a Balance.” Please click on your student’s grade link below for further information on the curriculum and for resources that will help you continue the conversation at home.

- [**Ninth Grade**](#)—Debating Tech Giants’ Newest Features and the Science of Screen Time
- [**Tenth Grade**](#)—Exchanging Our Favorite Productivity Hacks and Time-Savers to Start the Year Strong
- [**Eleventh Grade**](#)—Reimagining Mental Health and Preventing Burnout in Our School Community
- [**Twelfth Grade**](#)—Assessing Representation in the Latest Media We’re Consuming

UPDATE: Digital PSAT Exams for Sophomores and Juniors

The digital PSAT exam will be administered to sophomore and junior students on Thursday, October 19, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Student Life Center on Couper Campus. Due to the digital component of this exam, students will use their SFES device.

- Beginning this week, Technology will “push” the PSAT testing application, Bluebook, to our sophomores’ and juniors’ devices.

- **Starting tomorrow—Monday, September 25—students should check their laptops for the Bluebook application.** If Bluebook is missing, students should visit Technology on the second floor of the Student Life Center.
- With questions, please [email Director of College Counseling Claudia Mejia](#).

Hispanic Heritage Month Is Here!

This year, our school's student-led JEDI council will be running some exciting initiatives in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. These include putting on a fashion show, playing Spanish music on Mondays in the cafeteria, and having a dedicated Spanish Chapel.

- **History:** Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15, the same day that many Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua—gained their independence. At first, the national observance lasted just a week, but in 1988, it was expanded to run for a full 30-day period, ending on October 15. This year's theme is "Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America," which recognizes the economic and political strides Latinos have made within our nation.
- **Local Events:** To find out more about events happening in Houston throughout the month, including dance, arts, and music festivals, [click here](#).

We look forward to the next few weeks being filled with cultural enrichment, dialogue, and celebration. Stay tuned for more details, and let's make this Hispanic Heritage Month one to remember!

Summer 2024 Travel: Recording of France/Spain Parent Info Session Now Available

This past week, we held our Parent Information Session for the **Spain/France** trip for Upper and Middle School students. Please [click here](#) to access the link to this recording, as well as to the Zoom recording for the **Japan** trip for Upper School students.

Homecoming Week: Spirit Dress-up Days + Homecoming Dance

Homecoming Week starts tomorrow! [Click here for details on Spirit Dress-up Days and the Homecoming Dance!](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 25

- *"B" Day*
- *Spirit Dress-up Day—Save the Day:* Dress as your favorite superhero or, if preferred, wear the regular uniform
- *Homecoming Week*

Tuesday, September 26

- “A” Day
- *Spirit Dress-up Day—Color Clash*: Wear your grade level’s assigned color or, if preferred, wear the regular uniform
 - Seniors = Blue
 - Juniors = White
 - Sophomores = Red
 - Freshmen = Green
- *Homecoming Week*

Wednesday, September 27

- “B” Day
- *Spirit Dress-up Day—Senior Citizens vs. Infants*: Juniors and seniors dress as senior citizens. Freshmen and sophomores dress as infants. Students may wear the regular uniform, if preferred.
- *Homecoming Week*
- *See You at the Pole Chapel*: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in front of the Student Life Center

Thursday, September 28

- “A” Day
- *Spirit Dress-up Day—Country vs. Country Club*: Come to school in your choice of Western wear or preppy clothes (polos, boat shoes, etc.). Students may wear the regular uniform, if preferred.

Friday, September 29

- “B” Day: With special schedule
 - *No Chapel*
 - *Spirit Dress-up Day—Neon Disco Wear*: Wear neon-colored clothing or disco fashion. Students may wear the regular uniform, if preferred.
 - *Pep Rally*: 2:00 p.m. in Crum Gym
-

Saturday, September 30

- *Homecoming Dance: 7:30–10:30 p.m.*; [click here for details](#)
-

Monday, October 2

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, October 3

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, October 4

- *“A” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Feast of St. Francis Eucharist Chapel: 10:00–10:45 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church*
-

Thursday, October 5

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, October 6

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences: No school for students; please visit the Parent Portal for conference sign-ups*

Church

Apollo Chamber Players Perform on Wednesday

Our featured guests for the first of two fall 2023 music programs, the **Apollo Chamber Players** will perform Bach's Cantata BWV 82 at our Wednesday Evening Music Program this Wednesday, September 27. The evening will begin with Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. (\$15/person) and the program at 7:15 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals Is October 1

Join us for St. Francis's annual Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 p.m. in the school Courtyard. There will be a short liturgy in the church and individual blessings by the clergy. Pictures will be taken of you and your pet. We will be collecting donations of pet food, newspapers, paper towels, dish soap, cat litter, bleach, towels, fleece blankets, and dog leashes for animal shelters. For more information, contact Cindy Huteson via **email** or at 713.782.1270.

Outreach Ministries: New Opportunities Now Available!

For additional information about any of the following outreach opportunities, please contact the church's Director of Outreach **Heather Burkhart**.

- **Lord of the Streets** needs weekday volunteers between 8:00 a.m. and noon to serve our homeless neighbors. Over 300 hot meals are served daily. St. Francis also collects men's clothes on an ongoing basis—men's shoes are always needed.
- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team.
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and non-perishable food donations.

Reading Buddies Program Returns to Woodview Elementary

The **Reading Buddies** program is returning to Woodview Elementary for the 2023–24 school year. The program starts in October, preceded by a brief training session in September. Our volunteers will be partnered with second-grade students who are on the cusp of success, where Spring Branch Independent School District has found that reading intervention can significantly improve outcomes. Volunteers will be expected to read with their assigned students for 30 minutes each week. For more information, contact Tim Blaine at 832.247.8667.

Moms' Bible Study Meets Wednesday

- **What:** This fall, the Moms' Bible Study is centering 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 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.

- **Where:** Richmond House on the Couper Campus
- **For More Information or to Sign Up:** Contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

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:



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:** [George Hippard](mailto:GeorgeHippard@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 October 10.**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** The Book of Genesis (Life of Jacob)
 - **Location:** [The Corner Bakery](http://stfrancis.org) (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:** Nehemiah
 - **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.