

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 8

All School

A New Chapter Begins: Dr. Collins Formally Takes the Reins at SFES

Last Sunday, the St. Francis Community gathered to honor Episcopal School Sunday and to officially install Dr. Chelsea Pope Collins as our new Head of School. [Read the news story here.](#)

US Choir and Varsity Cheer Team to Perform at Rockets' Game This Tuesday

Come out and support your Upper School Choir and Varsity Cheer Team at the Rockets vs. Pacers basketball game this Tuesday, October 10! St. Francis's Upper School Choir will sing the national anthem, while the Varsity Cheer Team will perform during halftime.

[Click here to purchase your tickets.](#) (Promo Code: SFES)

Please Update Grandparent Information!

In the upcoming weeks, we will be sending multiple communications specifically to grandparents via email. They will receive our grandparent newsletter and invitations to Grandparents Days. Please help us by updating your household information! If you would like to add grandparents to your record so they receive future invitations and communications, please [log in to the portal](#), click "My Household" in the top left corner, and click "Update Family Profile." Thank you!

Sporting Clays Classic: Last Week to Register!

We will be holding our Sporting Clays Classic on Friday, October 20, at the Greater Houston Sports Club. The last day to register is this Friday, October 13. [Click here!](#)

'Get to Know the Gala' for Upper School, Primary School, and New Parents

As the St. Francis Gala is a biennial event, some in our community may be unfamiliar with the Gala and its surrounding events. To familiarize you with our Gala traditions, there will be a "Get to Know the Gala" coffee on Monday, October 16, at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center on Couper Campus. Please join us after drop-off for an overview of all the fun events offered throughout a Gala year. The 2024 Gala will be held on Saturday, February 24, at the Post Oak Hotel.

Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest

Our popular Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest will be held on Monday, October 30.

- We have added an additional pumpkin drop-off option, due to parking and carpool limitations. Please drop off during one of the following times:
 - **Sunday, October 29:** 3:00–5:00 p.m. by the Dining Hall
 - **Monday, October 30:** 7:15–8:15 a.m. by the Dining Hall
- Pumpkins must be picked up by 5:00 p.m. on October 30, or they will be thrown away.
- School administration will be judging the contest.
- Online entry forms will be sent out as we get closer to the event.
- Here are the winning categories: Best in Your Grade, Best Pumpkin Overall, Best "Collab" Pumpkin (Family, Friends, or Class Pumpkin), School Spirit Award, Best Book Character, Most Detailed, Most Unique, Most Adorable, Best TV/Movie Character, Best Food, Best Person, Best Animal, Silliest, Grossest, Spookiest, Best Sports Theme, and Best Carved Pumpkin
- Please contact Lauren Wuertz or Jacqui Mackel with any questions.

Booster Club General Meeting Is Wednesday

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Homecoming such a success! The Booster Club will have its next general meeting of the school year this Wednesday, October 11, at 11:00 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!

Primary School

From the Division Head

An atelier, in the context of the Reggio Emilia approach, is not just a room filled with art supplies; it's a dedicated workshop where young children are encouraged to explore their creativity and imagination through myriad artistic and creative activities. It's a place where paintbrushes meet curiosity, and clay becomes a canvas for young minds. It is a central component of the Reggio Emilia approach and plays a significant role in fostering children's holistic development and learning.

The atelier is a pivotal component of the Reggio Emilia approach for several compelling reasons:

- **Creative Expression:** An atelier is a place where children are encouraged to explore their creativity and express themselves through various art forms, such as painting, drawing, sculpting, and more. It is seen as a space where children can use their imagination and creativity to make sense of the world around them.
- **Collaboration and Communication:** In the atelier, children often work in small groups or pairs, promoting collaboration and communication skills. They learn to share ideas, negotiate, and work together on projects, which are essential social and cognitive skills.
- **Documentation:** The atelier is not just about creating art, but also about documenting the learning process. Teachers and educators observe and document children's interactions, thoughts, and discoveries during their creative activities. This documentation helps in understanding children's interests and development, and the evolution of their ideas.
- **Long-Term Projects:** The atelier often hosts long-term projects that allow children to delve deeply into a subject or theme. These projects can span several weeks or even months and involve extensive research, exploration, and creative expression. They help children develop patience, persistence, and a sense of accomplishment.
- **Materials and Resources:** Ateliers are stocked with a wide variety of materials and resources, including natural materials, art supplies, and tools. This abundance of materials encourages children to experiment and make choices about how they want to use them, fostering their decision-making skills and independence.
- **Emergent Curriculum:** The Reggio Emilia approach values an emergent curriculum, where the direction of learning is influenced by children's interests and questions. The atelier supports this approach by allowing children to initiate and guide their own projects based on their interests and curiosities.
- **Teacher as a Co-Learner:** In the Reggio Emilia approach, teachers are viewed as co-learners alongside children. They support and facilitate children's learning experiences in the atelier, guiding them when needed, but also respecting their autonomy and choices.

The atelier is a pivotal element in the Reggio Emilia approach because it promotes creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking in young children. It provides a nurturing environment for children to explore their interests and ideas, while fostering a deep sense of engagement and ownership over their learning experiences.

Through the atelier, children are empowered to be active participants in their own education, and it is considered a cornerstone of the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

Best regards,

Ryan Kochel
Head of Primary School

An Important Note About Carpool

Below are a few reminders that will help keep our Primary School carpool running smoothly and safely:

- Please drive cautiously on campus and be mindful of the 10 MPH speed limit.
- Refrain from using cell phones while driving on campus.
- Remain in the car when dropping off and picking up and, if at all possible, place the car seat of the youngest student on the passenger side for easy loading and unloading.

Mark Your Calendar

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

- *Get to Know the Gala (for PS, US, and New Parents):* 8:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center on Couper Campus
 - *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
-

Monday, November 6

- *Primary II Students Step Forward to Lower School (Hughes and Capasso)*: Students only
 - *Open Library*: 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, November 7

- *Chapel*: Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, November 8

- *Chapel*: Primary I parents may attend
-

Friday, November 10

- *Primary II Students Step Forward to Lower School (Owens and Wiener)*: Students only

Lower School

A Note About Reading From the First-Grade Faculty

At school, students are engaged in reading throughout the day. During Reader's Workshop, students practice reading independently, with a partner, and in small groups. Students also participate in shared reading activities where the whole class reads a text together and concludes with a class discussion. Creating a reading environment at home and fostering a love for reading in your children is a great way to support their development. Here are some steps to achieve this: Set an example, be consistent, and read together.

There are different ways you and your child can read together—for example, parents reading a book, the child reading a book, or the parent and child reading together. If you find that the

book is too challenging for your child to read, take over and continue the story. It's important for students, especially in third and fourth grades, to practice their reading on their own, as well as to have good reading modeled to them. Modeling reading with expression and voices helps children both incorporate that into their independent reading and build fluency.

Each grade level in Lower School has accountability checks for at-home reading:

- Kindergarten requires students to read for 20 minutes a day.
- At the beginning of the week, first graders take home a book bag containing self-selected books. In their reading log folder, they tally the books they read in a 20-minute time frame and write the title of their favorite book read that day. On Fridays, they return their bags, and the teacher checks the reading log.
- Second-grade students have a reading log in which students record their 20 minutes of nightly reading Monday through Thursday. Teachers check the reading logs on Friday.
- Third graders are responsible for reading for about 20 minutes each night. They mostly read chapter books independently at this point, and they write the book title in a reading log each night before getting a parent to sign the log sheet each day. Third-grade teachers check student reading logs at the end of each week and have conversations with individual students about reading “just right” books or, if appropriate, branching out to different genres.
- Fourth-grade students use the reading log section in their planner to track their reading each night, and parents sign it each night. Teachers check student reading logs at the end of each week and have conversations with individual students about possibly branching out to different genres, if appropriate, or reading more books at a level appropriate for the individual student.

It is important for your child to engage in reading a variety of genres at school and home. This helps children build experience and develop their comprehension, vocabulary, and background knowledge. Reading a variety of genres also broadens your child's worldview and boosts their self-esteem.

Thank you in advance for your support at home with reading, no matter what grade level your child is currently in.

Warmest regards,

Courtney Breeding, Laretta DuByne-Wetekamp, Stephanie Hitchcock, and Kim Wiley-Jules
First-Grade Faculty

Reminders About Parent Lunch Sign-ups

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.
- 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.
- **We discourage parents or visitors from bringing fast food or any other commercially prepared food for their child.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* No school
-

Thursday, October 12

- *Chapel for Grades K–4 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.
-

Monday, October 16

- *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 17

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing*

Wednesday, October 18

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing*
-

Thursday, October 19

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

Friday, October 20

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

Saturday, October 21

- *Lower School Open House: 12:00–2:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, October 23

- *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 24

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings*
-

Wednesday, October 25

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings*
-

Thursday, October 26

- *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 Makeup Picture Day: Only for students who were absent on Picture Day*
-

Friday, October 27

- *Lower School Joyful Sounds Field Trip: 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.*

Middle School

From the Spanish Department Head

As I ponder what National Hispanic Heritage Month represents to someone like me, I can't help but think about all those who came before me and fought for this special monthlong celebration. I am a proud Puerto Rican, and with that pride comes happiness, colors, music, and a don't-worry-be-happy (remember that song?) state of mind. But these festivities also bring a moment of reflection and pause. As a Puerto Rican and an American (all Puerto Ricans are born US citizens), I see these celebrations through a different prism.

The influence of the mother country, Spain, is not only tattooed all over these great countries, but also here in our own backyard. Well before the pilgrims, there were "Los Conquistadores"—who may not have traveled this great nation with the best intentions at heart, but who did travel with valor and resilience. So, we celebrate a rich history of contributions and governance that makes all of us, Hispanic or not, unique and special.

In our classrooms, your children are learning about the rich history and great contributions of those with Hispanic heritage. They are researching their projects, and they are choosing—many times based on life experiences—what project to work on. They will display their projects in the FAC for your enjoyment; sixth-grade dancers will do their Peruvian Dance during lunch time; and students will enjoy back-to-back performances of *Flamenco Olé* with renowned Puerto Rican Flamenco Dancer Ana María Barceló.

During this month, as I have for many years, I will be showing the movie *McFarland, USA*. It's a wonderful movie that allows me to teach about the history and plight of immigrants and how important they are to our daily lives. Yes, the almonds, fruit, and vegetables we eat are picked by them. I have shown this movie so many times, and I still cry at different moments every single time. It is a wonderful movie that leads to the debate of how certain minority groups live and how one rises above adversity and finds success in America.

When Columbus landed on the shores of a town called Aguada, Puerto Rico, the saga began. Spain, albeit a wonderful nation today, was brutal in its conquest. Despite the real effect of this level of dominance by Spain, we don't celebrate the atrocities and injustices, but we do celebrate the victories and successes despite the adversity. Great nations emerged, and the sons and daughters of those nations have made significant contributions to academia, arts, government, and sciences.

So many men and women from all walks of life have, at times, been the silent heroes behind our daily lives, and I would like to tell you about just a few of those sons and daughters I have known in my lifetime. In 1993, I had the privilege of starting the MD Anderson International Patients Assistance Office, which was led by Barbara Flannigan, a wonderful Chilean philanthropist and cancer survivor who eventually succumbed to the disease years later. During that time, I was also honored to meet Dr. Fernando Cabanillas, a world-renowned oncologist who has saved countless lives.

And then there was the Venezuelan young man at Burger King in Katy. My wife and I used to go regularly to a Burger King where this amazing man greeted everyone with the biggest of smiles and the best attitude. One day, we complimented him on his infectious personality. He had a slight accent and, as usual, I guessed his nationality. He had been in the US for only six months and was already speaking great English. I asked what he was looking to do, and he said, "I am going to become the president of Burger King because I am in the US, the land of opportunities." To this day, that story makes me emotional. He stole our hearts!

So, here is my challenge to all of you. Say "gracias" to the busboys that pick up the dishes at your table when you go out to eat. As one who worked as a busboy many moons ago, I know they are working hard to support their families and/or to acquire an education to better themselves. I assure you that a smile and "muchas gracias" will go a very long way. You never know—one day he or she may be a hero performing surgery on you, your kids, or your grandkids.

I am so happy that this amazing nation allows us to celebrate and show you who we are. It has not come easy. The journey continues to have its challenges and pitfalls, but here we are, stronger than ever. Proud to celebrate our heritage. Proud to be an American with Hispanic heritage. Thank you, America!

LET'S PARTY!!!!!!

¡¡¡¡¡A CELEBRAR Y A BAILAR!!!!!!

Joey Serralta
Middle School Spanish Department Chair

Prepare Your Laptops for ERB Testing and Printing

In preparation for taking the ERB, please have your student plug in his or her laptop, restart it, and run all system updates. These updates will enable them to print and are necessary for taking the ERB online. Students who have questions or issues running updates should bring their laptop to the tech suite during walk-in support hours (7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in Room A150 on Piney Point Campus).

Updates on the St. Francis Travel Program

[Click here](#) for the latest news on the St. Francis Travel Program.

Eighth-Grade Boston Trip: Parent Meeting Is Tuesday

The eighth-grade trip to Boston will take place Monday, October 23–Thursday, October 26. [Click here](#) to view the tentative itinerary.

- We will have a parent meeting this Tuesday, October 10, at 10:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room. The meeting will also be streamed live via Zoom.
- If you have any questions, please [email Marion Tolon](#).

Important Info About OLEs for Grades 5 and 6

Fifth- and sixth-grade students will go to Carolina Creek for their Outdoor Learning Experiences, which are required trips. Students need to wear athletic clothes to school for their OLE trip.

FIFTH-GRADE OLE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Fifth graders should arrive to school on Friday, October 20, at 6:45 a.m. and will return the same day around 5:30 p.m.

SIXTH-GRADE OLE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19–FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Sixth graders should arrive to school at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, and will return on Friday, October 20, around 3:30 p.m. Medications must be turned in to Coach T the morning of October 19 before your child gets on the bus. [Click here](#) to see the packing list for sixth grade.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* No school

Tuesday, October 10

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Eighth-Grade Parent Meeting About Boston Trip: 10:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room; in person and via Zoom*
- *Seventh-Grade Girls Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*

Wednesday, October 11

- *“B” 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 12

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
- *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, October 13

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*

Monday, October 16

- *“A” Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
- *Eighth-Grade Boys Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*

Tuesday, October 17

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

Wednesday, October 18

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

Thursday, October 19

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip: Students should arrive to school at 8:45 a.m.*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
- *Sixth-Grade Boys and Girls Bible Study: 12:30 p.m.; boys and girls meet separately, in either the Mac Lab or the MakerSpace*

Friday, October 20

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
- *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
 - *Students should arrive to school at 6:45 a.m.*
 - *Students will return to school around 5:30 p.m. (You will receive a text message when they are 30 minutes away from campus.)*
- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip Returns Around 3:30 p.m.: You will receive a text message when they are 30 minutes away from campus.*

Upper School

From the Division Head

Something was not right. Hunched over her homework a few seats down the row from me, she was muttering to herself and banging on her notebook in frustration. Quietly moving down the row, I slid into the seat next to her and asked what was wrong.

“It’s this geometry. I CAN’T GET IT. I have a test tomorrow, and if I fail it, I won’t graduate.”

Being a senior and cast as the lead in the Upper School play, she was feeling pressure. Slumping down in exasperation and defeat, she wiped away a tear. I told her to put the geometry away for now, and we would look at it after play rehearsal.

Meeting with her in a classroom later in the afternoon, I asked about her math difficulties to get a better idea of why she was stuck. *Do you see the teacher for extra help?* Yes, all the time. She is very nice about that. *Is it helpful?* To be truthful . . . not really. *Why not?* Well, the main problem is that the teacher understands geometry, but she doesn’t understand why I don’t. So, we go over and over it, but I just don’t connect with it.

That was a revelation—she wasn’t connecting to it. So, asking her to explain what she did know and understand, I discovered that she had a better grasp of the process than she thought. There was, however, one significant gap. **Although she knew what steps to take, she didn’t really understand what she was trying to do—what the point was.**

Plus, she was angry at geometry. After talking through why it was important and how it might apply to her life, her anger subsided. Then we tackled her understanding of what she was trying to do.

She seemed to be especially vulnerable to word problems that did not present the information in terms she knew; thus, she was unable to automatically plug them into formulas. She could not seem to take what was there and convert it to terms she could apply.

So, we worked on that. **In geometry as in life, I told her, you must go with what you are given.** There must be enough information for you to answer the question. What do you have in front of you, and what can you do with it? How can you convert it to terms you know or understand? “Go with what you are given” became the theme of the next hour as she wrestled with word problems. Finally, when her comprehension seemed to have improved, we wrapped up the session.

Returning to my office after lunch the following day, I found a note on my desk:

*“Go with what you are given.”
I got an 81. I am going to graduate.
Thank you.*

This is a common tale of students who struggle. When they are stuck, they often don't understand the bigger picture of a concept, and they usually don't have the confidence to overcome any obstacles by themselves. When an answer is correct, it is as if they have been wandering through a maze and suddenly stumbled upon the way out; they find a solution, but they don't know how they arrived at it. They feel "stupid," and, as many have told me, they feel like they are disappointments to the adults in their lives—parents, teachers, and tutors.

Often, however, **the reality is that despite good intentions, we adults may be part of the problem.** We assume they are not working hard enough, or they do not care, or they can't do it, or we are preoccupied with grades. We panic and immediately call upon tutors to solve the problem. Certainly, there may be learning issues that need to be addressed, and specialized tutors may, indeed, be required. But even then, that may only be part of the story.

By mirroring ourselves in assumptions and the anticipation of quick solutions, we adults often miss a few key elements:

- First, **the problem cannot be fixed overnight.** It is a set of circumstances that requires time and a process; it is one where we look for improvement and progress—not a quick fix.
- Second, **we need to see the struggle through the student's eyes.** A method for solving a problem that makes sense to us may not make sense to the child.
- Third, **self-confidence plays a crucial role in a student's progress.** We should believe in the student to encourage the student to believe in herself. When our instant reaction is to procure the services of a tutor, we may be inadvertently telling the child we don't believe he can succeed on his own. Even if that is not the intended message, that may be the message that is received.

True learning is a four-component process of challenge, exploration, discovery, and connection.

1. It begins with **challenge**—not rigor, as many people think. Challenge, which is a test or a trial, is something presented to the student that the student must work through to find an answer. Rigor, which we usually see as hard work, actually means harshness or inflexibility, and it has a negative connotation with regard to learning.
2. **Exploration** is the exercise of looking at the challenge from several different angles. Because it requires trial and error, we must give the student the time necessary to be successful.
3. **Discovery**, of course, is the moment when a solution is found.
4. **Connection**, however, is perhaps the most important element. When a student connects with a concept, that concept becomes part of the student, and, like learning to ride a bicycle, that learning is never forgotten.

Recently, after 15 years, I was able to get together with my former student. Now a successful singer in New Orleans, she regularly plays several venues in town. During our conversation, I mentioned that I have often told her geometry story to students who have struggled with

math, including how much her story has helped them. I asked if she remembered that day after play rehearsal.

Smiling, she said, “Go with what you are given.”

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of School

Sophomores and Juniors: Digital PSAT Is Thursday

Last week, sophomores and juniors successfully logged into their Bluebook app and completed the PSAT exam setup. Now that students have access to Bluebook, they can practice on the app to better familiarize themselves with the format of the PSAT. *The official PSAT exam will be held this Thursday, October 19, starting precisely at 8:30 a.m.* With questions, please [email Director of College Counseling Claudia Mejia](#).

College Visits for Juniors and Seniors

Below is a list of colleges visiting St. Francis this week. These meetings with college representatives are for students only. Please note that students must register on Scoir and, if missing class time, need to get a permission slip signed. With questions, please [email Director of College Counseling Claudia Mejia](#).

DATE	TIME	COLLEGES
Tuesday, October 10	10:35–11:05 a.m.	University of Cincinnati
Tuesday, October 10	12:55–1:25 p.m.	Savannah College of Art and Design
Tuesday, October 10	2:25–2:55 p.m.	University of San Francisco
Wednesday, October 11	10:35–11:05 a.m.	Beacon College
Wednesday, October 11	12:55–1:25 p.m.	Indiana University (Bloomington)
Wednesday, October 11	2:25–2:55 p.m.	Ohio University

DATE	TIME	COLLEGES
Thursday, October 12	10:00–10:35 a.m.	St. John's College (Santa Fe)
Thursday, October 12	12:55–1:25 p.m.	Baylor University
Thursday, October 12	2:25–2:55 p.m.	University of Miami
Friday, October 13	8:30–9:00 a.m.	University of Connecticut

Just In! Yard Signs and Car Decals for Lettered Arts and ALL Varsity Sports

St. Francis yard signs and car decals are now available for Music, Art, Theatre, Theatre Tech, Dance, and Cheer, as well as for ALL Varsity sports, from Golf and Baseball to Soccer and Track. One sport is included with your yard sign, and more sports can be added to your yard sign via additional placards.

- [Click here to see sample yard signs and decals.](#)
- [Click here](#) to place your order today!
- Costs are as follows:
 - **Yard Signs (Varsity Sport or Lettered Arts):** \$100
 - **Additional Placards:** \$25
 - **Car Decals for Varsity/JV Sports and Lettered Arts:** \$15
- Orders will be delivered to the Upper School Office Manager in approximately one week. With questions, [email Colleen Dunlap](#).

Updates on the St. Francis Travel Program

[Click here](#) for the latest news on the St. Francis Travel Program.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* No school
-

Tuesday, October 10

- *"A" Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, October 11

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, October 12

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, October 13

- *“B” Day*
 - *SFES Spirit Dress: Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Monday, October 16

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Get to Know the Gala (For PS, US, and New Parents): 8:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center*
-

Tuesday, October 17

- *“B” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Individual and Senior Pictures: 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, October 18

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
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Thursday, October 19

- *Grade 9 Community Service at the Houston Food Bank*
 - Students arrive to school at 7:45 a.m. and return to campus at 1:00 p.m.
 - Freshmen may wear Spirit Wear.
 - A sack lunch will be provided.
 - *Grades 10 and 11 Take PSAT Test*
 - Testing begins precisely at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. (Testing ends at 12:00 p.m. for students with extended time.)
 - Wear regular uniform.
 - PSAT students will eat on campus.
 - *Grade 12 Community Service at Memorial Park*
 - Students arrive to school at 7:20 a.m. and return to campus at 12:30 p.m.
 - Seniors may wear Spirit Wear.
 - Students will have lunch on their own.
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Friday, October 20

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

Church

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](#).

- **Jeepers Creepers—We Need New Sneakers!** We are collecting new sneakers (sizes 13 youth—7 adult) for the students at Woodview Elementary through October 31. Bring your shoes to St. Francis and place them in the box.
- **The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive:** The annual Kitty Elliott Coat Drive for Memorial Assistance Ministries supports MAM by collecting new and used children's coats so

they are available to those in need before the cold temperatures hit. The children's coat drive will take place from Sunday, October 15, through Sunday, October 22. Please bring coat donations on these Sundays or to the church office during that week.

- **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.

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](#) 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:** [George Hippard](#)
 - **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](#) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
- **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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