

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 22

All School

Wear Your 'Stros Jersey Tomorrow!

Let's go, Astros! Whether the Astros clinch the ALCS Championship tonight or go to Game 7 tomorrow, students are invited to wear their Astros jerseys with uniform bottoms tomorrow—Monday, October 23.

Tuesday: Join Us for 'Rethinking Our Story About Failure and Why It Matters for Parents'

Can negative experiences foster positive change? Join us on Piney Point Campus for a conversation with **Dr. Becca North**, a researcher, teacher, and author in the field of psychology. During her talk, she will guide us in rethinking our view of failure and reflecting on how that view affects how we live, lead, decide, imagine, innovate, grow, connect, and dare.

In her book, ***Your Hidden Superpowers: How the Whole Truth of Failure Can Change Our Lives***, Dr. North investigates the relationship between failure and success and challenges the prevailing view of failure.

- **RSVP here** to join us for coffee and light bites this **Tuesday, October 24, at 8:30 a.m.** in the Fine Arts Center.
- **Attendees should park in the Ecclesia lot.**
- If you have specific questions about this subject, please **email them to this address**.
- Please note that we will not livestream this presentation, but a recording will be available on the Parent Portal.
- **Dr. North's book will be available for purchase at the event, with payment accepted via cash, check, or Venmo.**

Key Scripture Verses From the Leadership Team

Last week, I shared my own personal favorite verse from the Bible that has guided and encouraged me. This week, we are sharing special verses from some members of our Leadership Team:

- **Chelsea Collins, Head of School:** “Be still, and know that I am God.” —Psalms 46:10
- **Amy Whitley, Assistant Head of School:** “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” —1 John 3:1
- **Mark Kelly, Interim Head of Upper School:** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.” —Matthew 5:8–9
- **Byron Williams, Head of Middle School:** “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” —Psalm 46:1
- **Clifton Walker, Head of Lower School:** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” —Philippians 4:13
- **Ryan Kochel, Head of Primary School:** “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” —Romans 12:10
- **Justin Doran, Director of Fine Arts:** “Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” —Matthew 5:14-16
- **Alan Hunt, Chief Financial Officer:** “Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.” —Deuteronomy 31:6
- **Lorin Crater, Head of Institutional Advancement:** “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” —Hebrews 11:1
- **Jennifer Glover, Head of Admissions and Enrollment Management:** “But He said, ‘The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.’” —Luke 18:27

We want each of our students to be digging into the Scriptures to find verses that speak to them. Next week, look for verses from our Athletics staff and coaches.

God bless,

Father Wismer
Senior Chaplain

Newspapers Needed

Middle School Art needs your newspapers for a student project! Please drop off your used newspapers to the Middle School art room (FA 104). Thank you!

October Is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a global effort to help everyone stay safe and

protected while using technology—whenever and however you connect. There are all kinds of ways to stay safe and secure online. Just practicing these cybersecurity basics can make a huge difference:

- Use strong passwords. (Student passwords issued by St. Francis Technology are strong.)
- Recognize and report phishing.
- Update your software.
- Do not share passwords or account information with others.

Volunteer Opportunity: Annual Ornament Prep on Wednesday

Volunteers are needed this Wednesday, October 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to help us get materials ready for the annual K–8 Christmas ornament–making project!

- Volunteers will help the art teachers with assembling supplies into kits for each grade level.
- Please meet in the area outside the Fine Arts Center at Piney Point Campus.
- All are welcome to help, for any portion of time that you can!
- [Click here to sign up.](#)

This Thursday and Friday: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Volunteers Needed

The St. Francis Parents Organization Teacher Appreciation Committee is hosting Fall Luncheons for our wonderful teachers—and we need your help! The luncheons are this Thursday, October 26, at Piney Point Campus and this Friday, October 27, at Couper Campus. The teachers really enjoy these luncheons, so please help us make them extra special!

- [Click here](#) to sign up for the Piney Point Campus luncheon this Thursday, October 26.
- [Click here](#) to sign up for the Couper Campus luncheon this Friday, October 27.
- If you have any questions, please contact [Alicyn Gawryliuk](#).

Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest Is October 30

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 on one of the following:
 - 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.
- [Click here](#) to download the entry form.

- 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.

November 8: Volunteers Needed for Art Refresh at PPC

Help us change out the art display on Piney Point Campus! We need several people to help us put up new student artwork in the frames that are in the People Place and outside the Fine Arts Center.

- Please plan to come by anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 8**.
- A group of volunteers may also help Middle School advisories make their Christmas ornaments during this time.
- Anyone can join us—no experience needed.
- To sign up to volunteer, please [click here](#).

Primary School

From the Assistant Division Head

One of the most wonderful things about our Primary School is seeing how our students grow socially and emotionally each school year. Our Reggio-inspired approach provides our students with daily opportunities to engage in deep play, which is one of the most meaningful ways for young children to build their social-emotional skills. The importance of these skills cannot be understated; they are the skills that will help our students navigate social dynamics and build healthy friendships and connections as they move through their educational journey.

Some of the social skills our students build throughout their time in Primary School include the following:

- Naming and understanding different feelings
- Learning to take turns and share
- Dealing with disappointment and frustration
- Navigating differences of opinion
- Developing compassion and empathy
- Learning to regulate emotions

As faculty, one of our most important jobs is nurturing each child's social-emotional development and well-being. Part of our professional development work this year is studying

the book *No-Drama Discipline: The Whole-Brain Way to Calm the Chaos and Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind* by Daniel Siegel, MD, and Tina Payne Bryson, PhD. The authors, both of whom I have been fortunate to hear speak several times, wrote this book as a way for parents, teachers, and caregivers to view discipline as an opportunity for growth and learning, creating a safe and supportive environment for all children.

They begin the book with a reminder about the origin of the word "discipline," which often receives a negative connotation. It comes from the Latin word *disciplina*, which means "to teach." When you think of discipline in this light, you realize that it comes from a place of skill-building and teaching, which ultimately comes from a place of care and emotional connection.

The principles in this book have provided us with tools we can use to continue fostering compassion, improving communication, and empowering our students to regulate their behavior and emotions. In our discussions about the book, we've also considered how the ideas from the book can help us redirect behavior, set clear boundaries, and cultivate positive classroom dynamics. If you're curious about how any of the ideas above could be helpful at home—especially in those moments when everyone is in the midst of a meltdown and you're unsure what to do—you might also enjoy reading the book! The writing style is highly approachable and filled with real-life anecdotes.

During parent conferences this Wednesday, you'll have the opportunity to discuss your child's social-emotional growth throughout the first months of school. Having these conversations during parent conferences is a wonderful way to foster collaboration and connection between home and school. If you haven't yet scheduled your parent conference, you can do so through the link in the Parent Portal.

In partnership,

Ashley Stephenson
Assistant Head of Primary School

Primary School Hearing and Vision Screenings

St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for **students who turned four years old by September 1, 2023**. Screenings will be provided by Pine Woods Screening Services tomorrow—**Monday, October 23**. [Click here to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services.](#)

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners will conduct the screenings during school hours.
- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses should bring them to school.

- We do not refer to the screening as a “test.” Please help us by doing the same. The teachers will explain the process to our students, and they will discover that they are playing two games with the screeners.
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Tamria Matondo, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 23

- *Open Library*: 3:00 p.m.
 - *Primary School Hearing and Vision Screening*: For students who turned four years old by September 1, 2023
-

Tuesday, October 24

- *Chapel*: Primary II parents may attend
 - *Primary II Sings (Hughes and Capasso)*
-

Wednesday, October 25

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

Monday, October 30

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

Tuesday, October 31

- *Students May Wear Halloween Attire (No Costumes, Please)*
 - *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
-

Monday, November 13

- *Pre-Primary Parent Step Forward:* 10:45 a.m.
 - *Pre-Primary Lunch on the Lawn:* 11:00 a.m. at the playscapes
 - *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, November 14

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend

- *Primary II Parent Step Forward*: 9:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on Piney Point Campus
 - *Primary II Lunch on the Lawn*: 11:00 a.m. at the large playscape
-

Wednesday, November 15

- *Chapel*: Primary I parents may attend
 - *Primary I Parent Step Forward*: 10:45 a.m.
 - *Primary I Lunch on the Lawn*: 11:00 a.m. at the large playscape
-

Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*: School closed
-

Monday, November 27

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

Tuesday, November 28

- *Chapel*: Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, November 29

- *Chapel*: Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, December 4

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

Tuesday, December 5

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, December 6

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, December 11

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

Tuesday, December 12

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, December 13

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, December 18

- *Primary I Christmas Parties:* 1:30 p.m.
 - *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, December 19

- *Chapel:* No parents in Chapel—students only
 - *Primary II Nativities and Parties:* Time TBD
-

Wednesday, December 20

- *Chapel*: No parents in Chapel—students only
 - *Pre-Primary Christmas Parties*: 1:45 p.m.
-

Thursday, December 21

- *Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.*
 - *No Explore and Extend*
-

Friday, December 22–Friday, January 5

- *Christmas Holiday*: School closed

Lower School

From the Division Head

The month of October is off to a great start, and we are excitedly looking forward to the fun that happens at the end of the month. Lower School Storybook Character Day is on Tuesday, October 31. This day is a wonderful way to celebrate our love of reading and good books! Lower School students and teachers are encouraged to dress as their favorite storybook character and to use their imagination and creativity when deciding what to wear—feel free to use what you already have at home.

Please see the storybook character dress guidelines below:

- Be sure to bring tennis shoes for PE and recess.
- Characters should not be violent or scary. Make sure your child's outfit is age-appropriate.
- Leave weapons and toys at home.
- Outfits should not include masks, hair coloring, or face painting, as these can become a distraction in the classroom.
- Students should bring a copy of the book featuring their storybook character to school. Please be sure your child's name is in the book if it is a book from home.

All grade levels will participate in our Lower School Storybook Character Parade. This is a student-only event, but rest assured, we will take plenty of photos to share via Seesaw!

We can't wait to see our Lower School favorite storybook characters come to life!

Kind regards,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Lower School

Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings

Lower School hearing and vision screenings are this **Tuesday, October 24**. Screenings will be provided by Pine Woods Screening Services. This is for **kindergarteners, first graders, third graders, and any new second and fourth graders**. [Click here to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services.](#)

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners will conduct the screenings during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her.
- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6128.

Mark Your Calendar

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:* For kindergarteners, first graders, third graders, and any new second and fourth graders
-

Wednesday, October 25

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings:* For kindergarteners, first graders, third graders, and any new second and fourth graders
-

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.
-

Monday, October 30

- *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 31

- *Lower School Favorite Book Character Day*
 - *All Saints' Class Parties*
-

Wednesday, November 1

- *Late-Start Day:* School starts at 10:00 a.m.
-

Thursday, November 2

- *All Saints' Eucharist 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, November 6

- *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.
 - *Third-Grade ERB Testing*
-

Tuesday, November 7

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing*
-

Wednesday, November 8

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing*
-

Thursday, November 9

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

Middle School

From the Seventh-Grade Dean

It's class trip season! Middle Schoolers have the opportunity to take a class trip all four years of Middle School. These trips range from Outdoor Learning Experiences (OLEs) that are an hour-and-a-half bus ride away to interstate journeys that require three-hour plane rides.

As an advisor for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades over the years, I've had the chance to enjoy many of these trips. Whether the trip was just for the day, we were spending a night or two in cabins, or we were in a hotel, here are a few things that rang true for all of these trips:

- Students talked to each other. Old friendships were strengthened, and many new friendships were created.
- Students played outside. While at Carolina Creek, students spent the days maneuvering through a high ropes course, playing nine square, working through team-building challenges, swimming, and just enjoying the time outside together. One of my favorite memories from last year's Boston trip was the day we took our boxed lunches to the shore next to *the* Plymouth Rock. Some students were watching fish from the rocky shore, others were focused on trying to find the oldest dated graffiti mark on Plymouth Rock, and others were learning how to fly the kites they just bought from a nearby souvenir shop.
- Students discovered new interests, curiosities, and skills. During the seventh-grade OLE last month, students learned how to use a bow and arrow, throw a tomahawk, kayak, and work together as a team to accomplish a shared goal.

I hope the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades appreciated the time together at Carolina Creek, and I am excited to hear all about the eighth grade's trip to Boston when they return next week.

Have a great week!

Halie Berrigan
Seventh-Grade Dean
Pre-Algebra Teacher

Tomorrow: Fifth Grade Begins New Elective Rotation

Please note that fifth grade will start a new elective rotation tomorrow—Monday, October 23.

November 1 Is a Late-Start Day

St. Francis's next Late-Start Day is Wednesday, November 1. School will begin at 10:00 a.m. on this day.

Middle School ERB Testing: What to Expect and How to Prepare

All Middle School students will take the ERB test online on Thursday, November 9; Friday, November 10; and Monday, November 13. There will be a practice session during advisory on Tuesday, October 31, in order to familiarize students with test-taking procedures, ensure the ERB app on their laptops is up-to-date, and resolve any technical issues.

Please see below for a few reminders for you and your child:

- Before October 31, students should plug in laptops and run software updates as needed.
- **For both the practice session and the ERB testing, students should bring a fully charged computer and charging cord to school each day.**
- While at school, students should make sure they are using the SFE_Wifi.
- With technology issues or questions, students should bring their device to the Tech Suite.

ERB results are one of the factors St. Francis uses in determining placement in Middle School Advanced Academics courses. Some schools request ERB scores in their admissions process. Internally, teachers use ERBs to identify gaps and areas of strength in students' academic skills and content knowledge.

This assessment is only as useful as the amount of focus and effort that students put into it. Encourage them to give their best effort!

Summer Travel: New Information Available

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the exciting opportunities for Middle School students to travel the globe in the summer of 2024! **Note: This includes new pricing info and a link for the Costa Rica trip parent Zoom session on Monday, October 30.** Sign-ups are due Wednesday, November 15.

MS Winter Sports Begin Tomorrow

Winter sports will begin tomorrow—Monday, October 23—for all students who are not on a school trip.

- **Sport-Change Requests:** Students previously completed a survey that reconfirmed or updated their winter sport selection, and rosters have been updated in Veracross. Sport participation will be finalized after the second day of practice, and sport-change requests will not be accepted after this time. Sport changes will also not be accepted after teams are split.
- **This Season's Options:** Winter offerings are Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Coed Swimming, Wrestling, and Physical Education. Students in grades 6–8 are required either to participate on a team or to enroll in a Middle School Physical Education class each season.
- **Practice Schedule:** With the exception of Coed Swimming, which will have a modified practice schedule, teams will practice or play every day after school.
- **Forming Teams:** Teams will be split by grade level when possible. If roster numbers do not allow for this, teams will be formed with mixed grade levels, as needed. For sports that have enough students for multiple teams, coaches will split rosters into separate teams after the first few days of practice and evaluations. Students may participate on a basketball or soccer team and swim as a secondary sport if they are interested in doing so and if they are able to meet the practice requirements on their own outside of school.

PRACTICE CLOTHING AND GEAR

Students should bring athletic clothing and appropriate footwear for practice each day. Basketball shoes, soccer cleats/shin guards, and wrestling shoes/headgear (if owned already) will be worn and used daily. Coaches can provide more details on practice needs on the first day.

CONTACT INFORMATION

With questions, please reach out to the contact listed below:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Physical Education	Jamie Platt	JPlatt@StFrancisHouston.org
Boys Basketball	Harold Baber	HBaber@StFrancisHouston.org
Girls Basketball	Mary Gleason	MGleason@StFrancisHouston.org
Boys Soccer	Ryan Roussett	RRoussett@StFrancisHouston.org
Girls Soccer	T Riley	TRiley@StFrancisHouston.org
Swimming	Doug Durkee	DDurkee@StFrancisHouston.org
Wrestling	Charles McMillian	ChMcMillian@StFrancisHouston.org

PRACTICE TIMES AND CARPOOL LOCATIONS

Some teams will rotate practice locations between Piney Point Campus (PPC) and Couper Campus (CC), and some teams will practice at one campus throughout the season. Coaches will communicate practice locations each week.

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>ARRIVAL TIME</u>	<u>STAR T TIME</u>	<u>END TIME</u>	<u>CARPOOL PICKUP</u>	<u>CARPOOL LOCATION</u>	<u>PRACTICE LOCATION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
PE Exempt	N/A	N/A	N/A	2:40 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	Off Campus	
MS Swimming	N/A	N/A	N/A	2:40 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	Off Campus	
MSPE	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	Same location all season (field)
Boys Basketball — Grade 6	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	Same practice location all season
Boys Basketball—	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	Practice location

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>ARRIVAL TIME</u>	<u>START TIME</u>	<u>END TIME</u>	<u>CARPOOL PICKUP</u>	<u>CARPOOL LOCATION</u>	<u>PRACTICE LOCATION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Grades 7 & 8 (PPC Practice Weeks)							rotates between campuses each week.
Boys Basketball— Grades 7 & 8 (CC Practice Weeks)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Crum Gym	CC	Practice location rotates between campuses each week.
Girls Basketball— Grades 6–8 (PPC Practice Weeks)	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	Practice location rotates between campuses each week.
Girls Basketball— Grades 6–8 (CC Practice Weeks)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Crum Gym	CC	Practice location rotates between campuses each week.
Boys Soccer— Grades 6–8	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	Same practice location all season
Girls Soccer— Grade 6	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	Same practice location all season
Girls Soccer— Grades 7 & 8	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	CC—Primary I Cottage	CC	Same practice location all season
Wrestling— Grades 6–8	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	PPC—Dining Hall	PPC	End time subject to change once roster numbers are finalized.

BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL PRACTICE LOCATIONS THROUGH THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

PPC=Piney Point Campus; CC=Couper Campus

DATES	BOYS—GRADE 6	BOYS—GRADES 7 & 8	GIRLS— GRADES 6–8
October 23–27	PPC	PPC (Grade 7 Only)	CC (Grades 6 & 7 Only)
October 30–November 3	PPC	CC	PPC
November 6–10	PPC	PPC	CC
November 13–17	PPC	CC	PPC

Eighth-Grade Boston Trip: Important Details

Our eighth graders will leave for their Boston trip tomorrow—Monday, October 23—returning this Thursday, October 26.

- **Drop students off on campus at 2:30 a.m. on Monday morning.** Buses will take the students to the airport.
- [Click here](#) to view the tentative itinerary.
- View information from the Boston Parent Meeting, including [packing suggestions](#), plus [additional information](#) from Grand Classroom.
- View [flight information](#).
- If you have any questions, please [email Marion Tolon](#).

Middle School Hearing and Vision Screenings

Middle School hearing and vision screenings are this **Tuesday, October 24**, and **Wednesday, October 25**. This is for **fifth graders, seventh graders, and any new eighth graders**. [Click here to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services.](#)

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners will conduct the screenings during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her.
- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via **email** or at 713.458.6128.

Fall Social Is Friday: Theme Is Neon Lights!

All students in grades 5–8 will have their fall social this Friday, October 27, from 6:30 to 8:30

p.m. at the Couper Campus fields and gym. There will be lots to do, including an inflatable obstacle course; a “toxic meltdown”; and classic games like bowling, ping-pong, board games, card games, and more. Several sports balls will be available for students to play with on the field. We’ll also have food at the event and, of course, music!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 23

- *“B” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
 - *Eighth Graders Leave for Boston: Students must be dropped off on campus at 2:30 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 24

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Hearing and Vision Screening: Only for fifth and seventh graders and new students*
 - *Seventh-Grade Girls Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the MakerSpace*
-

Wednesday, October 25

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Hearing and Vision Screening: Only for fifth and seventh graders and new students*
 - *Seventh-Grade Boys Bible Study: 12:05 p.m. in the Mac Lab*
-

Thursday, October 26

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Middle School Individual Picture Makeup Day: 8:00–10:00 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*
- *Eighth Graders Return From Boston: Students will be picked up at St. Francis*

Friday, October 27

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
- *Middle School Fall Social: 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Couper Campus*

Monday, October 30

- *“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 31

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

Wednesday, November 1

- *Late-Start Day: School starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- *“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, November 2

- *“B” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School All Saints' Day Eucharist Chapel: 9:35 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Friday, November 3

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

Upper School

From the Division Head

Several years ago, I learned an important lesson about the importance of self-confidence as part of the experience of taking standardized tests. This particular year was the first year the testing company sent us the results of how every student performed on every question in order on every section. I soon found out how valuable this information could be.

While working with an eighth-grade student who was preparing to apply to high schools, I asked her about the results she tended to earn on her tests. Although she was a smart girl, the scores of her testing were always well lower than what they should have been. Given her grades and how articulate she was, one would expect her stanines to be in the 7 or 8 range as opposed to the 2's, 3's, and 4's she routinely received.

“I HATE those tests,” she exclaimed. The tests made her nervous, and her scores seemed to be more a reflection of her test-taking skills than of her academic abilities. As I looked at her results more closely, a pattern emerged.

I noticed that on her first section on verbal ability, she got six or seven of the first eight or nine wrong. Then the results smoothed out for a while so that nearly all answers were correct, and then the pattern from the front end of the section repeated itself on the back end with six of eight questions wrong. So, despite the middle being very clean, the two ends combined to drop her score considerably.

Looking at the results of the second section on math, I saw the same pattern—several wrong at the beginning and end, but clean in between. The same was true with the third section and the fourth. Suddenly realizing what was going on, I said, “Let me share with you what I see about you. You begin the test with a bad attitude, hating that you have to take it, and nervous enough so that you can't think. Most questions are incorrect as a result. But then you settle down, and you are able to perform consistently well for a while. As you approach the end, however, you start worrying about time. That distraction gets in the way, and you don't perform well at the end of the section, just like you did at the beginning.”

“That is correct,” she said with disbelief.

I continued. “Look at this,” I said. “This middle section where you are settled and calm is clean. If you were to receive a score for just that part, you would probably have a stanine of 7 or 8. However, the results of the beginning and end of the section drag you down and cause

you to earn a 3 or 4 instead. The two ends are your junk, but the middle is what you can do.” She left without saying anything.

A few weeks later, she took her eighth-grade standardized tests, but the results were different this time. Instead of a 3 on her verbal test, she received an 8. I called her in and told her that I had never seen anyone improve that much from one test to the next, and I asked her if she knew why she improved so dramatically.

“Yes, I know why,” she said. Pausing for a second, she finally relayed the following: “You people have been telling me all my life I’m smart. Well, you’re supposed to. It’s your job. It’s my parents’ job. But when you sat down and proved it to me, that changed everything.” Whirling around, she left my office, leaving me in her wake.

Warmly,

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of School

US Travel Leadership Program: Apply by November 3

Students in grades 9–11 will have the opportunity to apply to serve as a student leader on the St. Francis Travel Program’s Middle School Washington, DC, or Middle School Costa Rica trips in summer 2024.

- Please [click here](#) to learn more about this incredible opportunity to travel, serve others, and grow as a leader.
- Students who would like to be considered for this unique program must apply by **Friday, November 3**.
- Spaces are limited.

Summer 2024 Travel Program: Sign Up by November 15

Please [click here](#) for more information about the Summer 2024 Travel Program offerings. The November 15 sign-up deadline is fast approaching.

Volunteers Needed for the Upper School Musical

Friends of Fine Arts is coordinating volunteer opportunities for the Upper School musical, *Grease*. To help provide snacks for rehearsals, [click here](#) to sign up for the *Grease* Food Crew. Volunteers will also be needed for the *Grease* Volunteer Crew, and the link to sign up will be available soon.

Hearing and Vision for New Upper School Students

Upper School hearing and vision screenings are tomorrow—**Monday, October 23**. This is for

any **NEW** Upper School students. [Click here to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services.](#)

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners will conduct the screenings during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her.
- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Tamria Matondo, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

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

Wednesday, October 25

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, October 26

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

Friday, October 27

- *"A" 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 Crum Gym
-

Monday, October 30

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

Tuesday, October 31

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Picture Makeup Day*: 9:00–11:00 a.m. in Crum Gym
-

Wednesday, November 1

- *Late-Start Day*: School starts at 10:00 a.m.; special schedule
 - *"B" Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *All Saints' Eucharist Chapel*: 1:05–1:40 p.m. in Crum Gym
-

Thursday, November 2

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

Friday, November 3

- “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 Crum Gym

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.
- **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 November 14.**)
 - **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.