

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of August 25

### All School

#### **This Week's Bible Verse: 'The Lord Is My Strength and My Shield'**

"The LORD is my strength and my shield. My heart trusts in Him, and I have been helped; therefore my heart dances for joy, and in my song I will praise Him." —Psalm 28:7

#### **From the Chaplains: Chapel and Holy Eucharist**

Dear St. Francis Families,

We are so excited that the new school year has begun! In addition to classes, athletics, and extracurricular activities, the school year brings another beloved tradition of St. Francis Episcopal School—Chapel. Each division attends Chapel twice per week, and students in Lower, Middle, and Upper School also attend Holy Eucharist once per month. Services, required dress, and messages during Chapel are age-appropriate per division.

Our Opening Eucharist services are this Thursday, August 29, for students in Lower and Middle School and this Friday, August 30, for students in Upper School. We will be discussing this special celebration with students in detail. You may [click here](#) to learn more about Holy Eucharist—including this year's dates by division.

We hope that Chapel will help all students grow in their understanding of themselves as beloved children of God in ways that complement the faith traditions of their families.

In faith,

Father Wismer, Reverend Gould, and Mother Hylden

### **Be Sure to Update Your Child's Health Information!**

For the health and safety of all our students, please take a moment to ensure you have provided the Nurse's Office with the following:

- The most current information regarding your child's health, including **details regarding allergies, medical conditions, and medications.**
- **Any medication your child requires during school hours.** This must be delivered directly to the clinic by a parent or guardian (**not** by the student); be in its original, labeled container; and be accompanied by a completed and signed medication permission form.
- With questions, please call the Nurse's Office at 713.458.6128 (Piney Point Campus) or 713.458.6167 (Couper Campus).

### **Child Safety in Hot Weather: A Note From the School Nurses**

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

### **Explore and Extend: Program Updates + Sign Up Now for Enrichment Classes**

Explore and Extend (E&E) is St. Francis's after-school service, providing daily care, enrichment classes, and School of Music classes.

- **We have made some updates to the program this year**, so whether you are new to St. Francis or a returning family, we encourage you to [read our FAQs here](#).
- **Enrichment Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 3.** Please [log into our registration portal](#) to view available classes and to sign up.

### **PSA: Label Your Child's Belongings**

The Lost and Found team would like to remind parents to label all items—including accessories, school materials, athletic gear and, especially, water bottles—with your student's full name.

- **When a lost item is labeled clearly, it will be delivered to a student's locker or pod.** [Avery No-Iron Fabric Labels](#) paired with [Sharpie Rub-a-Dub Laundry Markers](#) are reliable in a pinch. If you order personalized labels from Name Bubbles, please [search for a partnership with St. Francis Episcopal School](#) before loading your cart, as you will be supporting the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) if you do so.
- **When the owner of a lost item cannot be identified, the item will remain in the Lost and Found Closet for one month before it is donated** to Uniform Resale or given to charity.
- Students are encouraged to search for their own lost items, but parents are also welcome to look in the **Lost and Found Closet, which is located under the stairs**

**next to Crum Library.** Items from the locker rooms will be brought to this location weekly.

### **St. Francis Festival Is October 20 + Be a Sponsor!**

The St. Francis Festival will be held on Sunday, October 20, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join us this fall for fun, faith, and friendship (plus lots of good food and a chance to win a fish)! Fun sponsorships are still available. For more information about the St. Francis Festival, [click here](#).

## **Primary School**

### **Important Carpool Reminders: Please Review**

We had a great first three days of school and are looking forward to our first full week! Here are a few helpful reminders to help carpool run smoothly:

- If you have children in Pre-Primary **and** Primary I or II, you will drop them off and pick them up at the Pre-Primary Cottage **daily**, even if your Pre-Primary student only attends school three days a week.
- Have your child remain buckled in their car seat until your car is ready to be unloaded. Our campus traffic flow is constant in the mornings, and our students' safety is our top priority.
- Remain in your vehicle during drop-off and pickup—our faculty members will get the children in and out of the car.
- If you arrive on campus after 8:15 a.m., you will be directed to drop your child off at the Primary School Office.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, August 26**

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
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#### **Tuesday, August 27**

- *Chapel:* Primary II students only
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## **Wednesday, August 28**

- *Chapel:* Primary I students only
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## **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school

## **Lower School**

### **Join Us Wednesday: LS Parent Information Night**

The Lower School invites all parents to attend our Lower School Parent Information Night this Wednesday, August 28, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We will begin in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) and then disperse to classrooms to learn about the exciting things that are in store for your child this year.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

## **Monday, August 26**

- *Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
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## **Wednesday, August 28**

- *Lower School Parent Information Night:* 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
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## **Thursday, August 29**

- *Opening Eucharist Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
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## **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school

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## Tuesday, September 3

- *Late-Start Day*: Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
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## Thursday, September 5

- *Chapel*: 8:20–8:50 a.m.
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## Friday, September 6

- *Lower School Night—Upper School Varsity Football vs. St. Andrew’s Episcopal School (Austin)*: 7:00 p.m. at Couper Turf Field on Couper Campus

## Middle School

### **Join Us Thursday: MS Parent Information Night**

Parents, please join us for Middle School Parent Information Night this Thursday, August 29, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. **We will begin the evening in the Fine Arts Center (FAC).** From there, you will head off on an adventure to meet teachers and follow a student schedule—which will take you from the science labs near the gym to the Spanish and math classrooms on the second floor to the Villas for history and English. (The campus is big, so please wear comfortable shoes.)

### **Grades 6–8: Grand Canyon Trip Parent Meeting Is Wednesday**

Calling all students in grades 6–8: The St. Francis Grand Canyon fall adventure is officially on the books! After a multiyear break, this extremely popular trip will return on November 23–27. [Click here for all the details](#), including the link to the Zoom parent information session that will be held this Wednesday, August 28, at 11:30 a.m.

### **Teaching Effective and Healthy Use of Technology**

As part of an initiative to help students use technology in effective and healthy ways, the St. Francis Middle School has made some changes to how we manage student use of laptops.

- **Strengthening Time Management**: For the first weeks of school, fifth graders will leave their laptops in advisory at the end of each day instead of taking them home. All

assignments requiring laptops should be completed during the school day during this time, and teachers will continue collaborating with students to help them manage their assignments and time using a printed planner. Later in the semester, students will begin taking their laptops home to complete work. All assignments will continue to be visible to both students and parents in Veracross.

- **Ensuring Accountability Online:** To help students make the most of their time on laptops, teachers have access to a program that enables them to see what students are doing in class. Fifth grade tested this program last year and found that it had very positive results in helping students stay focused during online activities.
- **Staying Focused on Academics:** Last year, the technology team took steps to prevent nonacademic sites and games from being installed or accessed from the web. Our goal is to ensure that students are focused on academics while in class and are learning how to make the most of their time online.

With questions, please [email Steve Johnson](#), director of instructional technology.

### **New Device Policy: 'Car Door to Car Door'**

As part of our initiative to help students use technology in healthy ways, we have instituted a new device policy called "Car Door to Car Door."

1. We are asking that students' phones and smartwatches remain in backpacks once they exit the car each morning. We encourage students to use this time to connect with their friends in conversation.
2. Students will then stow those devices in their advisory classes for the duration of the school day.
3. At the end of the day, devices will be retrieved from advisory and returned to students' backpacks, where they will remain until students enter their cars after PE or athletics practice.

If a student needs to connect with a parent using a personal device, they simply need to seek permission from the nearest teacher.

### **Walk-in Tech Support for MS Students: Daily at 7:30 a.m.**

Student Walk-In Technology Support is now located in the hallway by the Crum Library. Technicians are available to help with technical issues from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on school days. If students have technical trouble during class, they should let their teacher know. Teachers will then [email the Service Desk](#) or call 713.458.6400.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

*Note: Opening Eucharist Chapel is this Thursday, August 29. Dress uniform is required.*

## **Monday, August 26**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Regular Class Schedule*
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## **Tuesday, August 27**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Regular Class Schedule*
  - *First Middle School Chapel*
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## **Wednesday, August 28**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Regular Class Schedule*
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## **Thursday, August 29**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Opening Eucharist Chapel: 9:40–10:25 a.m.; full dress uniform required*
  - *Middle School Parent Information Night: 6:00 p.m.; event kicks off in the Fine Arts Center*
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## **Friday, August 30**

- *“B” Day*
  - *St. Francis Spirit Wear: St. Francis Spirit Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or St. Francis uniform bottoms*
  - *Regular Class Schedule*
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## **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day Holiday*: No school
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## **Tuesday, September 3**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Late-Start Day*: Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
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## **Wednesday, September 4**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Regular Class Schedule*
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## **Thursday, September 5**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel*
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## **Friday, September 6**

- *“B” Day*
  - *St. Francis Spirit Wear*: St. Francis Spirit Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or St. Francis uniform bottoms
  - *Regular Class Schedule*
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## **Monday, September 9**

- *Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony*: 9:40–10:25 a.m.



## Upper School

### **Freshman Retreat: Form Due This Wednesday**

Our freshmen are taking a day trip to Camp Allen on **Friday, September 6, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** If you have not already done so, please complete, sign, and return the **Camp Allen Health & Release Form** by this **Wednesday, August 28**. Please note, this retreat is required. If a student is unable to attend, parents will need to provide an excuse note in advance. Otherwise, it will be considered an unexcused absence. If you have any questions about the retreat, please **email Jennifer Choi**, Upper School counselor.

### **US Parent Information Night Is September 4**

Upper School Parent Information Night is **Wednesday, September 4, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym and Student Life Center** on Couper Campus. (Packets and name tags will be available starting at 6:00 p.m.) You will meet your child's teachers and rotate through a student schedule, starting with advisory. You won't want to miss it!

### **Senior Parents: College Info Meeting Is August 28**

Parents of seniors are invited to join Claudia Mejia, director of college counseling, for a college information meeting on **Wednesday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Nau Dining Hall** (Student Life Center) on Couper Campus. Come learn about the college application process, scholarship opportunities, and how to encourage your senior this year.

### **Walk-in Tech Support for US Students: Daily at 7:30 a.m.**

Student Walk-In Technology Support is located on the second floor of the Student Life Center. Technicians are available to help with technical issues from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on school days. If you have technical trouble during class, please let your teacher know. They will then **email the Service Desk** or call 713.458.6400.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

***Note:** Opening Eucharist Chapel is this Friday, August 30. Dress uniform is required.*

### **Monday, August 26**

- *"B" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
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## **Tuesday, August 27**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
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## **Wednesday, August 28**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Senior Parent College Night: 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the Nau Dining Hall (Student Life Center)*
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## **Thursday, August 29**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
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## **Friday, August 30**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Dress Uniform*
  - *Opening Eucharist Chapel: 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Crum Gym*
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## **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day Holiday: School closed*
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## **Tuesday, September 3**

- *“A” Day*
- *Late-Start Day (Special Schedule): Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 1:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*

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## Wednesday, September 4

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School Parent Information Night: 6:30–8:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*

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## Thursday, September 5

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

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## Friday, September 6

- *“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*
- *Freshman Retreat at Camp Allen: 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; attire information will be communicated to your ninth grader*

## Church

### Join Us Each Sunday for Worship, Bible Study, and Family-Focused Events

- **Holy Eucharist Rite I Service:** 8:00 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel
- **Sunday Family Worship Service:** 9:00 a.m. (with blended music/Holy Eucharist Rite II)
- **Let It Shine Children's Bible Breakout:** On Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service, all children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to join Mrs. Devlin to learn about the Bible.
- **Adult Bible Study:** Join us to study the Gospel of Mark from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room. With questions, [email George Hippard](#).
- **Infant and Toddler Care:** Babies aged six weeks and up can enjoy playtime, music, and Bible stories in the nursery of the Wheatcroft Parish Hall building from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite II Traditional Service:** 11:00 a.m. (with choral music)
- **Holy Eucharist Rite I Service:** 5:00 p.m. in the St. Clare Chapel

### **Women's Bible Study Begins Wednesday**

Beginning this week on August 28, Women's Bible Study and Fellowship will be held every Wednesday (through November) from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. You're invited to join women of all ages and life stages for a Bible study on the Gospel of John. For more information or to sign up, [email Allison Devlin](mailto:allison.devlin@stfrancis.org).

### **First Responders' Sunday Is September 8**

Join us for First Responders' Sunday on September 8! Whether you attend the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service, be sure to stop by the 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour for breakfast with our local first responders. This is an opportunity to thank and honor the men and women who choose to serve our community as dedicated police officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, and dispatchers.

### **First Communion Classes Start September 8**

Beginning September 8, First Communion Classes will meet on Sundays in CE206 after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service. Children in second grade and up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist. Class dates are September 8, September 22, October 6, and October 20. First Communion Sunday is on November 3. For more information or to sign up, [email Allison Devlin](mailto:allison.devlin@stfrancis.org).

### **Mark Your Calendar: Blessing of the Animals Is October 6**

Plan to join us on Sunday, October 6, for St. Francis's annual Blessing of the Animals. The event will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the school courtyard. If you would like to be on the planning committee or have a Polaroid camera we could use, please call Cindy Huteson in the church office at 713.782.1270.