

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 1

All School

This Week's Bible Verse: 'Be Strong and Courageous'

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:9

Don't Miss These! 2 Expert-Led Talks About Raising Kids in the Tech Age

UNVEILING THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- **Speaker:** Dr. Crystal Collier
- **When:** Friday, September 20, at 9:00 a.m.
- **Where:** Piney Point Campus
- **[Click Here to RSVP.](#)**

As part of our focus on the effective and healthy use of technology, St. Francis welcomes Dr. Crystal Collier to speak to parents about the impact of technology on the developing brain. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) to learn more about Dr. Collier's research on how technology use impacts academic, emotional, and relational functioning.

GROWING UP IN PUBLIC: COMING OF AGE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

- **Speaker:** Dr. Devorah Heitner
- **When:** Wednesday, October 23, at 6:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Holy Spirit Episcopal School
- **[Click Here for Tickets.](#)**

Join Dr. Devorah Heitner, author of the national bestseller *Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World*, as she shares advice and tips on helping children navigate today's

world of technology and social media.

Donate Your 'Unique Junk' to the Art Department!

Are you cleaning out your garage, closet, or workspace? The St. Francis art rooms want your unique junk as inspiration to draw, paint, and make art. Please drop the following items off at the front desk through Friday, September 20.

- Large seashells
- Mannequins
- Toy airplanes
- Horns and bones
- Broken clocks
- Broken instruments
- Birdcages
- Dolls and small figurines
- Fake flowers
- Plastic fruit
- Cowboy boots
- Duck decoys
- Other great still-life items

IMPORTANT: 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).

Explore and Extend: Enrichment Classes Start Tuesday

Explore and Extend (E&E) After-School Enrichment Classes begin this Tuesday, September 3. Please [log into our registration portal](#) to view available classes and to sign up. To learn more about E&E, [read our FAQs here](#).

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.
- 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.

Primary School

Helpful Primary School Reminders

- Primary School does not have a late start this Tuesday, September 3. We will follow regular school hours.
- Please mark your calendar for our upcoming Parent Information Nights. These are a beautiful opportunity to hear from your child's teachers about what to expect during the school year and to connect with other families in your child's class. **Pre-Primary Parent Information Night** is Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m., and **Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night** is Thursday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school
-

Tuesday, September 3

- *Regular Start Time for Primary School:* Classes begin at 8:15 a.m.
 - *Chapel:* Primary II parents are invited to attend
 - *Explore and Extend After-School Enrichment Classes Begin*
-

Wednesday, September 4

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, September 9

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

Tuesday, September 10

- *Chapel:* Primary II parents are invited to attend
 - *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room
-

Wednesday, September 11

- *Chapel:* Primary I parents may attend
-

Thursday, September 12

- *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m. in classrooms

Lower School

Late-Start Reminder: Classes Start at 10:00 a.m. This Tuesday

Our first Late-Start Day of the school year is this Tuesday, September 3. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. Carpool through the normal Lower School route begins at 9:20 a.m. Staff and faculty use the morning hours for professional development. For more information, [click here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school
-

Tuesday, September 3

- *Late-Start Day:* Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 5

- *Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*
-

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*
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Monday, September 9

- *Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*
-

Thursday, September 12

- *Lower School Leadership Induction Chapel: 8:20–9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC); fourth-grade parents only invited to attend*

Middle School

Late-Start Reminder: Classes Start at 10:00 a.m. This Tuesday

Our first Late-Start Day of the school year is this Tuesday, September 3. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. Carpool through the normal Middle School route begins at 9:20 a.m. Staff and faculty use the morning hours for professional development. For more information, [click here](#).

Afternoon Pickup Reminders

Thank you for your patience as we fine-tune our carpool pickup line this year. Please use the following schedule to plan your arrival on campus in order to keep the line moving:

- **3:00–3:30 p.m. for Lower School students only** (Note: Please arrive at 3:30 p.m. if picking up a combination of Lower School and Middle School students who are not on sports teams.)
- **3:30–3:50 p.m. for Middle School students, along with Lower School siblings** (Fifth grade and PE classes)

FALL ATHLETICS PICKUP TIMES

Pickup times for fall student-athletes are as follows:

- 3:45 p.m. for Cross-Country
- 4:05 p.m. for Field Hockey (Couper Campus)
- 4:15 p.m. for Volleyball
- 4:30 p.m. for Football

Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony: One Car Per Family, Please

Parents, please join us for the Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony on Monday, September 9, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Limited parking is available on the Piney Point Campus, so we are asking family members to ride together so that everyone may enjoy this event with their children. (One car per family, please.)

Summer 2025 Travel Destinations and Dates

There is no time like the start of school to begin planning for next summer! Below are the trips that will be offered to Middle School students in summer 2025. Specific information on each trip, including how to sign up, will be included in future editions of *Wolf Watch*. With questions, please reach out to Ted Lakoski, director of experiential travel, at 713.458.6157 or via [email](#).

- Washington, DC
 - **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled sixth graders
 - **Date:** June 1–5, 2025
 - **Trip Leader:** Maria Cruzalegui
- Costa Rica
 - **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled eighth graders
 - **Date:** June 1–14, 2025
 - Trip Leader: Liz Ward
- London, Paris, Italy, Lucerne, and More!
 - **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (grades 9–12)
 - **Date:** June 2–13, 2025
 - **Trip Leader:** Marion Tolon

A Note About Community Service Hours

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. During the 2024–25 school year, students in each grade level are required to participate in completing a minimum number of service hours, as follows:

- Fifth Grade: 10 hours
- Sixth Grade: 10 hours
- Seventh Grade: 15 hours
- Eighth Grade: 20 hours

At the Recognition and Awards Ceremony in the spring, students in any grade level who have completed 20, 30, 50, or 100+ service hours during the school term will receive a certificate recognizing their achievements. In addition, one graduating student will be recognized for exemplifying and representing the quality of being a “person for others.”

To submit your service hours, complete the [Community Service Hours Request Form](#) and drop it off in the Middle School Office or email a PDF to [Sarah Flores](#). The deadline to submit volunteer hours for the 2024-25 school year is Friday, May 2, 2025.

Grand Canyon Trip: Sign-ups Due September 9

Calling all students in grades 6–8: After a multiyear break, the St. Francis Grand Canyon fall adventure is officially on the books!

- **When:** November 23–27, 2024 (Students will return early on the 27th to allow for Thanksgiving travel.)
- **Where:** Bryce Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Horseshoe Bend Overlook, Antelope Canyon, South Kaibab Trail, and more!
- **For More Information:** [Click here for all the details](#), an application, a link to Grand Classroom to register, and a link to the recording of this week's Zoom parent information session.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school
-

Tuesday, September 3

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Late-Start Day:* Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 4

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Class Schedule*

Thursday, September 5

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

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*

Monday, September 9

- *"A" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony:* 9:20–10:25 a.m.

Tuesday, September 10

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Class Schedule*

Wednesday, September 11

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
-

Thursday, September 12

- “B” Day
 - Regular Uniform
 - Regular Class Schedule
 - Chapel: 9:50–10:20 a.m.
-

Friday, September 13

- “A” Day
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear*: St. Francis Spirit Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or St. Francis uniform bottoms
- Regular Class Schedule

Upper School

Late-Start Reminder: Classes Start at 10:00 a.m. This Tuesday

Our first Late-Start Day of the school year is this Tuesday, September 3. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. Staff and faculty use the morning hours for professional development. For more information, [click here](#).

Add/Drop Period Closes Soon

The Add/Drop period is still open! Students can add classes until this Friday, September 6. The last date to drop a class is Friday, September 13. It is best to make any necessary schedule changes as soon as possible. After September 13, any student who needs to be removed from a class will receive a Withdraw on their transcript.

On-Campus Tutoring Available This Year

We are happy to be initiating on-campus tutoring with Academic Independence this year. Parents can enroll their students in tutoring during their student’s study hall. Academic Independence offers a range of services from subject-area tutoring to assistance with executive-functioning skills. For more information (including their pricing), please [visit the Academic Independence website](#).

Summer 2025 Travel Opportunity to Europe

This summer, St. Francis is offering our Upper School students the trip of a lifetime! All rising/re-enrolled students in grades 9–12 are eligible to join us as we travel to London, Paris, Assisi, Lucerne, Florence, and Rome! Marion Tolon (Coach T) will be leading this European adventure, and more information will be provided via *Wolf Watch* this fall. With

questions, please reach out to Ted Lakoski, director of experiential travel, at 713.458.6157 or via [email](#).

This Wednesday: Join Us at Parent Information Night

Upper School Parent Information Night is this 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!

Freshman Retreat Is Friday

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](#) ASAP.
- 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.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day Holiday*: School closed
-

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
-

Wednesday, September 4

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

- *Upper School Parent Information Night: 6:30–8:00 p.m. in Crum Gym; pick up name badges and packets starting at 6:00 p.m.*
-

Thursday, September 5

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, September 6

- *“B” Day*
 - *SFES Spirit Dress: Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Freshman Retreat at Camp Allen (Grade 9): 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Monday, September 9

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, September 10

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

Wednesday, September 11

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, September 12

- “B” Day
 - Regular Uniform
-

Friday, September 13

- “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

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship and Family-Focused 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 and Donuts**: Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service), get a cup of coffee and enjoy a time of fellowship.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite II Traditional Service With Choral Music**: 11:00 a.m.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite I Service**: 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the St. Clare Chapel

September 8: Lower and Middle School Book Clubs Begin

After the 9:00 a.m. service, Lower and Middle School students are invited to join their friends for weekly meetings to talk about some amazing, Biblically inspired stories. Book clubs will meet in rooms 204 and 207, upstairs in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.

- **Grades 1–4**: *The Dead Sea Squirrels* by Mike Nawrocki
- **Grades 5–8**: *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

We need more high school-aged volunteers! For more information or to sign up or volunteer, please [email Allison Devlin](mailto:Allison.Devlin@stclares.org).

First Communion Classes Start September 8

Children in second grade and up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist. Beginning September 8, First Communion Classes will meet on Sundays in CE206 after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service. There will also

be one Saturday class. Class dates are Sunday, September 8; Sunday, September 22; Sunday, October 6; Sunday, October 20; and Saturday, November 2. First Communion Sunday is on November 3. For more information or to sign up, [email Allison Devlin](#).

September 15: Preschool Sunday Family Event

Parents of preschoolers, get together on Sunday, September 15, after the 9:00 a.m. service for a time of fellowship, parenting resources, and supervised snack and craft time for little ones. Meet in room 207, upstairs in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. For more information or to sign up, please [email Allison Devlin](#).

September 20: Garden Girls Workshop

Learn how to create a garden that is simple to maintain, productive, stylish, and complementary to your lifestyle! Local celebrities the Garden Girls will be hosting a workshop on Friday, September 20, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in room 209, upstairs in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. For more information or to sign up, please [email Allison Devlin](#).

September 29: High School Speaker Series

Hear from young adults about their walk with Christ and how their relationship with God has impacted their careers, life choices, and experiences. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in room 209, upstairs in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. For more information or to sign up, please [email Allison Devlin](#).

Now on Spotify: Sermons From St. Francis

St. Francis has launched [Sermons From St. Francis](#) on Spotify. You can listen on an Apple or Android device, on your desktop computer, or on your tablet. The Sunday sermons are available anytime you want to be inspired while on the go. No Spotify account is necessary. [Click here](#) to start listening today!

Outreach Ministries: Opportunities to Serve

For additional information about any of the following outreach opportunities, [visit the St. Francis Episcopal Church Outreach page](#) or contact the church's Director of Outreach **Heather Burkhart**.

- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team for baby wipes, tissues, size 6 diapers, dish soap, and spray cleaner.
- **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.
- **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and donations of non-perishable food.

Healing Prayers and Anointings Available

Healing prayers and anointings are always available after Sunday Eucharist services, or you may schedule an appointment with a priest. For more information or to schedule an appointment, [email Sally Jo Flores](mailto:SallyJoFlores@stfrancis.org) or call 832.325.2983.

Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#) by clicking on "Prayer & Worship" at the top left of the website, then clicking on the "Prayer Requests" link in the dropdown menu.

Bible Studies at St. Francis

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Gospel of John
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (except on second Tuesday of each month, when group meets in Wheatcroft Parish Hall)
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Study: Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is September 10.**)
 - **Study:** The Book of Genesis (Life of Joseph)
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Gospel of John
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
- Thursdays from 9:00–10:00 a.m. (**Meetings resume September 12.**)
 - **Book Study:** TBD
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Location:** Via Zoom (Contact Louise for passcode.)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Gospel of Mark
 - **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. Scroll down to the "Watch Our Live Stream" section. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.