

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of September 15

All School

This Week's Bible Verse: 'I Will Give You Rest'

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. —Matthew 11:28

Admissions Is on the Hunt for New Wolves!

The Admissions Office is ready to begin receiving new student applications for the 2024–25 school year. Admissions tours are starting soon, so please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. ([Click here for the tour dates.](#)) Current families with an additional student applying do not need to attend an Admissions tour, but are welcome to do so.

Homecoming News: Preorder Your Meal + Volunteers Needed

PREORDER FROM THE PIT ROOM BBQ BY SEPTEMBER 22

Preorder your meal for Homecoming at Couper Campus on Friday, September 27, by [clicking here](#). **Sales will close at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 22.**

- Limited meals will be available for purchase the day of the event, so buy in advance now!
- [Click here](#) for information on meal options and other food offerings at Homecoming events.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Booster Club needs volunteers from all grade levels to help make Homecoming a success!

- There are many opportunities to help both in preparation for Homecoming and on the day itself. What's your fancy? Hanging team banners, distributing mums, serving concessions and popcorn?
- Come meet some new people and have fun pitching in—[click here](#) to sign up today!

The ISACS Parent Series: You Have Special Access!

Learn from leading experts in the fields of education, parenting, and child development through the 2024–25 ISACS Parent Series, a yearlong program offering six webinars designed to help you support and guide your child in all areas of their development. As a St. Francis community member, you have special access to this series! [Click here to preregister](#) for all webinars at one time—and be sure to mark your calendar for the first session on Wednesday, September 25!

Wednesday: Spirit Store Will Be Open

Missed the back-to-school Spirit Wear sale? Join us this Wednesday, September 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Spirit Store Cottage on Couper Campus. Please note: We are very low on stock for youth sizes S–L. We will be receiving brand new outerwear items, as well as a restock of our most popular T-shirts, in the coming weeks.

Last Call for Festival T-shirts: Order This Week

[Click here now to order](#) St. Francis Festival T-shirts—sales close THIS Friday, September 20, at 11:59 p.m. Note: We encourage students to wear their Festival T-shirts on Friday, October 18, as well as on any other Spirit Wear Friday. We can't wait to see everyone at the St. Francis Festival on Sunday, October 20!

FoFA Meets This Friday: Join Us!

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) for the first meeting of the 2024–25 school year this Friday, September 20, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in Nau Dining Hall (Student Life Center) on Couper Campus.

- All are welcome to attend and learn about the amazing support FoFA provides St. Francis's students, faculty, and staff.
- FoFA is an inclusive group of parents who support all aspects of the school's fine arts programming.

We are thrilled to welcome St. Francis's artists and actors back to the stage, and sincerely hope you will join them to volunteer at student productions, art exhibits, and musical performances this year!

SFPO Volunteer Coffee Is September 23

Come learn more about the St. Francis Parent Organization (SFPO) and volunteer

opportunities big and small at the SFPO Kickoff Volunteer Coffee on **Monday, September 23**. Join the new SFPO committee leads for the 2024–25 school year in the **Dining Hall on Piney Point Campus from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

- Feel free to stay and chat, or just drop in after Lower School Chapel and sign up! Coffee and pastries generously donated by Common Bond Bakery.
- If you plan to attend, please [email SFPO President Alison Plumhoff](mailto:alison.plumhoff@sfpo.org).

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

- *PS Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, September 18

- *PS Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, September 23

- *Spirit Wear for PS*
 - *Open Library*: 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, September 24

- *Spirit Wear for PS*
 - *PS Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, September 25

- *Spirit Wear for PS*
 - *PS Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*
-

Thursday, September 26

- *Spirit Wear for PS*
-

Friday, September 27

- *Spirit Wear for PS*
 - *PS Admissions Tour: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Monday, September 30

- *PS Picture Day*
- *Open Library: 3:00 p.m.*

Lower School

Register Now: Varsity Cheer Clinic for K–4

The St. Francis Varsity Cheer Clinic will be held on **Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Crum Gym on Couper Campus**. Students in kindergarten through fourth grade will learn how to cheer just like a member of the Varsity team!

- The squad will teach participants a chant, a dance, and everything else they need to know to cheer on our Wolves. Those who attend the clinic will perform at halftime at the Varsity football game on Friday, November 1.
- [Click here to register](#). The \$100 registration fee includes a T-shirt and a snack.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 16

- *LS Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*

Thursday, September 19

- *LS Chapel*: 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Monday, September 23

- *LS Honor Code Chapel*: 8:20–8:50 a.m.; students only

Thursday, September 26

- *LS See You at the Pole Chapel*: 8:20–8:50 a.m. in the Piney Point Courtyard

Friday, September 27

- *LS Fall Pep Rally*: 2:00–2:30 p.m. in the Piney Point Gym

Middle School

October 3: Coffee and Conversation With the Upper School

On the morning of Thursday, October 3, parents of eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to visit the Upper School. Be on the lookout for an invitation with more details soon!

Summer 2025 Travel Destinations and Dates

The following trips 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:** Ted Lakoski

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

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.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

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

Wednesday, September 18

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

Thursday, September 19

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
 - *MS Honor Code Chapel*
-

Friday, September 20

- *“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 23–Friday, September 27

- *Homecoming Week*
 - *Themed Spirit Dress Options for Each Day*
 - Please review page 33 of the *Middle School Handbook* for guidelines as to the length of shorts or skirts.
 - Leggings are permitted with a long T-shirt.
 - Any school-appropriate T-shirt is acceptable. Images or references to political views, drugs, weapons, or violence are not acceptable.
 - No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or basketball jerseys may be worn, except over a T-shirt.
 - For safety, students must still wear closed-toed shoes.
-

Monday, September 23

- *“A” Day*
 - *HOCO Spirit Dress:* Music Genre Monday (Country, pop, rock, blues, R & B, hip-hop, etc.)
-

Tuesday, September 24

- *“B” Day*
 - *HOCO Spirit Dress:* Twin Tuesday (Twin groups may be more than two people.)
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
-

Wednesday, September 25

- “A” Day
 - *HOCO Spirit Dress*: Walt Disney Wednesday
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
-

Thursday, September 26

- “B” Day
 - *HOCO Spirit Dress*: Grade-Level Colors
 - **Fifth Grade**: Green
 - **Sixth Grade**: Red
 - **Seventh Grade**: White
 - **Eighth Grade**: Blue
 - *MS Chapel*: 9:50–10:20 a.m.
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
-

Friday, September 27

- “A” Day
- *HOCO Spirit Dress*: St. Francis Wear (St. Francis Spirit Wear tops or St. Francis team jersey; non-uniform bottoms are allowed)
- *Special Schedule*
- *Pep Rally/Eighth Grade vs. Staff Volleyball Game*: 2:00 p.m.

Upper School

New Attendance Line: How to Report Student Absences and Appointments

HOW TO REPORT UNPLANNED ABSENCES

When your child will be absent due to illness or for other unexpected reasons:

1. Notify us by emailing the new [Upper School Attendance Line](#), or submit an absence via your Parent Portal.
2. Please always provide the reason for the absence.
3. Report each day your child will be out of school; otherwise, your student will be counted as Absent Unexcused.

Please note: Letting teachers know of an absence is helpful; however, the US Attendance Line is monitored and is considered the “official” way to notify administration.

HOW TO REPORT APPOINTMENTS OR EARLY DEPARTURES

When your student needs to leave campus during the school day:

1. Please let us know in advance that your child has permission to leave campus by emailing USAttendance@StFrancisHouston.org or by notifying us through the Parent Portal.
2. When it's time for the student to leave, they should sign out with Upper School Office Manager Lydia Urbanek, and sign in with Ms. Urbanek upon their return to campus. (Parents do not need to sign for their students as long as parental permission has been given.)
3. If a student is attending a doctor's appointment, please provide a doctor's note.

Grades 10–12: College Representatives Are Visiting SFES This Fall

College representatives visit our school each fall. Students in grades 10–12 can view the list of visiting colleges via their Scoir accounts. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are encouraged to attend these informational meetings with college representatives to learn more about different colleges, major programs, and personal goals.

- College representatives visit during the advisory period.
- [View the list of college representative visits in September.](#)
- For further information, please contact [Claudia Mejia](#), Director of College Counseling.

Themed Dress-up Days for Homecoming Week

Students are invited to wear themed dress each day during Homecoming Week! (Students may also opt to wear the regular St. Francis uniform on Monday through Thursday, and St. Francis Spirit Wear on Friday.)

- **Monday, September 23:** Music Genre Day (Your choice—country, pop, rock, blues, etc.)
- **Tuesday, September 24:** Twin Tuesday (Dress to match someone else! Groups can be larger than two students.)
- **Wednesday, September 25:** Walt Disney Wednesday (Any character or T-shirt)
- **Thursday, September 26:** Color Clash Day (Wear your grade-level color.)
 - *Freshmen:* Green
 - *Sophomores:* Red
 - *Juniors:* White
 - *Seniors:* Blue
- **Friday, September 27:** Celebrity Dress-up Day (Dress like your favorite celebrity or movie character, or wear a T-shirt that pays homage to them.)
 - *Upper School Pep Rally:* 1:45 p.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday: Deadline to Order Homecoming Mums and Garters

Show your support for the Wolves at the big Homecoming game with a custom mum or

garter! Mums (\$100) and garters (\$75) can be personalized with a student's name, year, and/or sport.

- What are mums and garters? Who are they for? [Click here for FAQs and photos.](#)
- [Click here](#) to order yours!
- All mums and garters will be delivered to students the week of Homecoming.
- Questions? [Email Charity Todd.](#)
- The deadline to order is this Wednesday, September 18.

Parents of Juniors: College Info Meeting Is Wednesday

Parents of juniors, please join us for a college counseling meeting this Wednesday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall (Student Life Center) on Couper Campus. We'll review junior year expectations, the college admissions timeline, and other important information for junior families. Students are not required to attend.

Note About Midterm and Final Exam Schedule

This is a reminder that students will have midterm and final exams through the entire last week of both semesters, including on December 20 for Semester 1 and on May 23 for Semester 2. Students are expected to be on campus during the week of their exams. We will release full exam schedules for midterms within the next month and for finals in the spring.

On-Campus Tutoring Available This Year

We are happy to be initiating on-campus tutoring with Academic Independence this year. Parents may 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, 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! For more information, please reach out to Ted Lakoski, director of experiential travel, at 713.458.6157 or via [email](#).

- **Where:** London, Paris, Italy, Lucerne, and more!
- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (grades 9–12)
- **Date:** June 2–13, 2025
- **Trip Leader:** Ted Lakoski
- [View the travel details.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 16

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, September 17

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

Wednesday, September 18

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Junior Parent College Information Night: 6:30–8:30 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall (Student Life Center)*
-

Thursday, September 19

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, September 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 Crum Gym*
-

Monday, September 23–Friday, September 27

- *Homecoming Week*
 - *Themed Dress Days (See Below)*
-

Monday, September 23

- *"A" Day*
 - *Music Genre Day*: Student choice of country, pop, rock, blues, etc.; students may opt to wear the regular St. Francis uniform
-

Tuesday, September 24

- *"B" Day*
 - *Twin Tuesday*: Dress to match someone else. Groups can be larger than two students. Students may opt to wear the regular St. Francis uniform.
 - *Chapel*: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
-

Wednesday, September 25

- *"A" Day*
 - *Walt Disney Wednesday*: Any character or T-shirt; students may opt to wear the regular St. Francis uniform
-

Thursday, September 26

- *"B" Day*
 - *Color Clash Day*: Dress in your grade-level color or wear the regular St. Francis uniform
 - **Freshmen**: Green
 - **Sophomores**: Red
 - **Juniors**: White
 - **Seniors**: Blue
-

Friday, September 27

- *"A" Day*
 - *Special Schedule*
 - *Celebrity Dress-up Day*: Dress like your favorite celebrity or movie character, wear a T-shirt of a celebrity, or dress in St. Francis Spirit Wear
 - *No Chapel*
 - *SFPO Booster Bash Lunch*: 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
 - *PS/US Pep Rally*: 1:45 p.m. in Crum Gym
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Saturday, September 28

- *Upper School Homecoming Dance*: 8:00–10:00 p.m. in Crum Gym
-

Wednesday, October 2

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences (Student Holiday)*: Sign-ups through the Parent Portal are available now.

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

Reading Buddies Program Returns to Woodview Elementary

The **Reading Buddies** program is returning to Woodview Elementary for the 2024–25 school year. The program starts in October, preceded by a brief training session in September.

- Our volunteers will be partnered with second-grade students who are on the cusp of success, where Spring Branch Independent School District has found that reading intervention can significantly improve outcomes.
- Volunteers will be expected to read with their assigned students for 30 minutes each week.
- For more information, contact Tim Blaine via [email](#) or at 832.247.8667.

Join Us for Lower and Middle School Book Clubs

On Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship 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 ch204 and ch207, 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](#).

This Friday: 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 this 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](#).

First Communion Classes Continue September 22

Children in second grade and up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist.

- First Communion Classes began today and will continue on Sunday, September 22; Sunday, October 6; Sunday, October 20; and Saturday, November 2. First Communion Sunday is on November 3.
- Sunday classes are held in CE206 after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service.
- For more information or to sign up, [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.

- The **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.
 - **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 19.**)
 - **Book Study:** Christian Character
 - **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.