



RED RAIDER REVIEW

July 11, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mr. Michael Messoro

Dear St. Francis Families,

People have been asking me if it's nice to have things slow down a bit now that summer is here, but I would say that things are ramping up for the 2025-2026 school year rather than slowing down. When I was hired as principal last August, plans were already in motion and staffing was mostly completed. I hit the ground sprinting, but made plenty of observations and gained experience during the year to evaluate the operation of our school from an administrative perspective. I've been looking forward to

the opportunity to address needs regarding policy, curriculum, facilities, and staffing. Since mid-June, we've been hustling to add to our team and strategize for success in the upcoming year. Winning programs use the offseason to prepare for success during the regular season. That's been our mindset on campus for the last month. Our Admissions Office is busy with late applicants and transfer students thanks to the efforts of our dynamic team of newly appointed **Director of Enrollment, Nate Suchyna '00** and his classmate and current **Assistant Director of Admissions, Joe Coniglio '00**. With the Cornerstone celebration happening this weekend, we are in the spirit of looking forward to our 100 year anniversary in 2027. We've been busy working toward excellence and the future, growing our staff and our enrollment.

A series of official releases will be coming out regarding our new hires. We already announced this week that **Mr. Kyle Anderson '11** will serve as our new **Dean of Students**. The release is included in today's *Red Raider Review* as well. After working with Mr. Anderson this week, Mr. Monahan and I know that he will be a valuable member of our administrative team and an invaluable asset to St. Francis High School moving forward.

Be on the lookout for more official press releases in the coming weeks, but here is a preview of a few major staffing updates:

Ms. Amanda Anderson (no relation to Kyle) will be our new **Director of Counseling Services and College Counseling**. Ms. Anderson most recently served as the Executive Director of Admissions at the University of Miami (FL) and held various administrative roles in college admissions at Drexel University prior to that. Her 15+ years of expertise, experience, and leadership in counseling students through the college admissions process will give our students a distinct advantage with career exploration and the college selection/application process.

Mr. Seth Weidl '99 will join our Physical Education Department as a teacher and will serve as our **Strength and Conditioning Coach**. Mr. Weidl, previously taught phys. ed. in Arizona, where he also owned his own business as a fitness trainer and wellness coach. Another alumnus returning to his alma mater, Mr. Weidl will be developing training and lifting programs for all of our athletic teams and individuals throughout the year. He will oversee and create programming for our newly renovated fitness center next year.

Fr. Emmanuel (Manny) Wenke, OFM Conv. will be arriving in August to join our Religion Department and will serve as our new **Campus Minister**. Fr. Manny most recently was assigned at our brother school in Baltimore, Archbishop Curley, where he taught religion class and assisted the Dean of Students. He is also one of the vocation directors for the Our Lady of Angels Province. A native of Olean, NY, Fr. Manny is yet another WNY expat, returning home and joining our staff at St. Francis High School.

As we continue to add dual-enrollment opportunities for our students to earn college credits, we are also addressing some of our offerings from within. **Mr. Ben Kujawinski '94** who joined our Science Department last year will utilize his many years of experience as a civil engineer to introduce **Engineering Essentials** as a course offering for freshmen and sophomores. The engineering curriculum will be designed and implemented through Project Lead the Way, a nationally renowned STEM program. We are running two sections, and they are nearly full, with only a few seats available. If interested, contact Mr. Monahan monahant@stfrancishigh.org.

In conjunction with the increasing STEM opportunities in engineering and robotics, we are dedicating space to a STEM lab on the top floor of Friar's Hall, joining our science labs, our WSTF TV Film Studio, and our Esports Room to create a dynamic set of curricular and extracurricular offerings. To help students get the most out of these opportunities, another area we are addressing is our need for a computer science teacher. This person would assist with the STEM Lab and teach courses in applications, programming, and design. Ideally, this content would crossover to enrich the experience of our students in the Business Academy and support our visual arts students interested in design. We are currently accepting applications. Feel free to share the opportunity with any qualified individuals who may be interested.

Thank you again to those of you who completed our survey and provided feedback to assist us in shaping our cell phone policies at St. Francis. Nearly 200 surveys were completed by parents and guardians over the last couple of weeks. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Monahan, and I have reviewed all of the data so far from families and from our faculty & staff. On July 15th, I will email a draft of the policy and context on the policy to all families. Please take the survey if you have not already so your responses can be included.

Here is the link:

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/kGwvzX4WHqkvEkuG9>

Have a great weekend! Go Red Raiders!

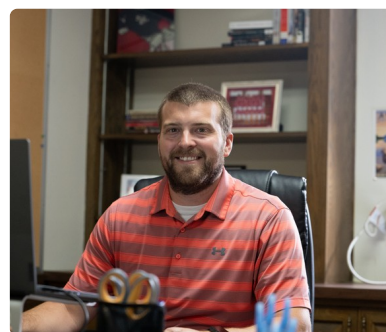
Sincerely,

Mike Messoré '91
Principal

KYLE ANDERSON, '11 - NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS

St. Francis High School is proud to announce the appointment of **Kyle Anderson**, a 2011 graduate, as the school's new Dean of Students.

Mr. Michael Messoré '91, Principal of St. Francis High School, shared the news earlier this week, noting Kyle's deep connection to the school and his strong record of educational leadership.



Kyle Anderson has remained involved with the St. Francis community over the years, previously serving as both a coach and the Assistant Director of the school's Summer Enrichment Program. For the past decade, he has taught Social Studies at the Charter School for Applied Technologies, where he has developed curricula for five different courses, contributed to the Instructional Leadership Team, and played a key role on the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Team. His work focused on creating positive student relationships and building a strong, inclusive school culture. Anderson holds a New York State teaching certification in Social Studies for grades 7–12.

Reflecting on his new role, Anderson said:

"I am extremely excited to be returning to St. Francis. This school and community hold a special place in my heart, and the lessons I learned at St. Francis shaped who I am today. As an alumnus of St. Francis, I am deeply committed to upholding the traditions of academic excellence and community service that have always defined our school. As Dean of Students, I will dedicate myself to fostering a supportive environment where every student can thrive academically, spiritually, and personally. I am excited to work with Mr. Messoré and Mr. Monahan to build an even brighter future for St. Francis."

We welcome Kyle Anderson back with enthusiasm and look forward to the leadership he will bring to the Dean's Office.

CAMPUS CALENDAR



JULY 14 - 17

- Office Hours 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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FINE ARTS

On Thursday, July 3rd, the Erie County Fair Pepsi All-Star Band participated in their first parade of the season at the Annual East Aurora 3rd of July Parade. The band consists of selected middle school and high school students all across Western New York after completing an online audition.

This year, six students from St. Francis High School are members of the band - Nathan Klimtzak '26, Connor Flood '26, Carter Druzvik '27, Jack Sobkowiak '26, Jack Griffin '26, and Donavin Wittschack '27. The band is also now under the direction of Mr. August Vitale, St. Francis's Instrumental Music Director.

The band will be performing at the Williamsville Old Home Days parade on Tuesday, July 15th; a Buffalo Bisons pre-game concert and the National Anthems on Friday, July 18th; and will be performing every evening at the Erie County Fair from August 6 -17th. Be sure to follow the Fair's social media to follow along with all the band's doings!



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS ASSISI EXPERIENCE

Eight students from St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, N.Y., were among a group with Friar Max who departed July 9th for Italy, partaking in Our Lady of the Angel's "Assisi Experience."

The excitement was evident as parents and other adults offered well-wishes to all. The pilgrims are looking forward to immersing themselves more deeply into the Franciscan charism, enjoying time together, praying, developing a deeper connection with God, creating memories which last a lifetime.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

From June 22-28, six students spent a week of their summer learning about Catholic Social Teaching and providing service (mostly housing rehabilitation) to the rural poor of West Virginia. Mr. Brody Krombach '22 and Mr. Rory Reichenberg led the service trip and Mr. James Giallella '23 surprised the group with his presence, as he is one of the volunteer staff this summer at Nazareth Farm. It was a formative week, without any technology (no cell phones or internet) and all food eaten during the week was prepared and served by fellow students.





ATHLETICS

SUMMER WRESTLING NEWS

Results from the Milwaukee Junior Duals, June 21st

Griffin LaPlante went 8-0 in dominating fashion, defeating two nationally ranked wrestlers, Brandon Dean (Colorado) and Justus Heeg (Ohio). Heeg is currently ranked 4th in the country at 150 lbs., and is the #3 ranked recruit in the 2028 class. Griff is ranked nationally by [Matscouts.com](https://www.matscouts.com) 9th at 157 lbs. and 19th by [FloWrestling.com](https://www.flowrestling.com) at 157 lbs.

Tavio Hoose finished 6-2, defeating nationally ranked Hunter Snyder (Pa.).

Both wrestlers will be travelling and competing at the USA Junior National Tournament in Fargo starting July 14th.



LaPlante



Hoose

FARGO PREVIEW

Fargo kicks off this Saturday!

Griffin LaPlante (St. Francis) - JR 157 LBS: LaPlante is coming off a monster junior duals showing where he went undefeated and outscored his opponents 85-8. He teched Justus Heeg (IL) who was ranked 4th in the country at the time, and also beat Brandon Dean (CO) who was a top 250 graduating senior. The NC State commit is currently ranked 10th in the land at 157 lbs, and is the 84th overall recruit in the class of 2026. The Red Raider placed at both Powerade and Escape the Rock this year, while also winning his first state title. He has also placed at the Grappler Fall Classic and is a 3x NHSCA AA (8-4-1). He is a major contender for Fargo stop sign honors this week.

Tavio Hoose (St. Francis) - JR 190 LBS: The St. Francis Red Raider is coming off of a 6-2 showing at Junior Duals and looks to be ready for a run inside the Fargo Dome. Hoose is a perennial top 100 recruit nationally and has previously been in the state finals on two separate occasions, finishing with a title and runner-up honors. Hoose has also placed twice at NHSCA Nationals, and has found himself in and out of the national rankings. Hoose travelled to U23 Freestyle Nationals back in May and went 3-2 at 86kg notching notable wins over college guys. There's no doubt he's a solid contender to podium in Fargo this week.

HEALTH OFFICE

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION

The Health Office will be closed most days during the summer. Below are the days it will be open:

SUMMER HOURS:

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

August 13, 15, 16, 18

- I will not be checking voicemail, but will be responding to emails on a weekly basis. My email is mccannb@stfrancishigh.org.

- Health forms can be **faxed** to **716-627-4610** any day during the summer.
- If your son has medical concerns, please contact me ASAP to discuss prior to August. **716-627-1200**.

FALL SPORTS

- The school website has information about **fall sports** and **new entry** students under the *health office tab*.
- Please keep in mind that **all fall sport eligibility requirements must be completed and submitted by August 18th**.

WORKING PAPERS

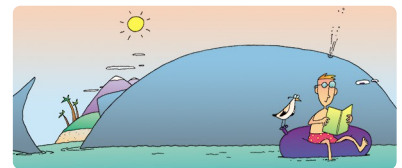
- If your son needs **working papers**, contact his **home school district** high school.

Have a safe and healthy summer!

Nurse McCann

SUMMER READING

All **sophomores, juniors and seniors** were invited to google classroom by their English teacher. Information specific to their class is contained in the classroom.



[Freshmen Summer Reading Lists & Tips](#)

[Freshman Summer Reading Journal Directions](#)

ADMISSIONS



ATHLETIC SUMMER CAMPS

Our Athletic Summer Camps focus on improving skills and knowledge in specific sports. Taught by St. Francis High School coaches, the camps take place in state-of-the-art athletic facilities. ***Click the picture to access the registration form for the following camps:***

Soccer Camp

July 14th - July 17th, \$149

Basketball Camp

July 28th - July 31st, \$199

Football Camp

July 21 - July 24th, \$115

Lacrosse Camp

August 4th - August 7th, \$115

Baseball Camp

August 4th - August 6th, \$100

XC & Track Camp

August 11th - August 14th, \$100

ONLINE STORE



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Georgette Rautenstrauch

Georgette is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

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