

News for the Week of September 21

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. —Matthew 5:7

Prayer and Other Support

Use the **Care and Compassion Support Request form** to submit confidential prayer requests directly to the chaplains. There is also a section on the form to request specific tangible support for yourself or others, beyond prayer, if needed.

Homecoming Is This Friday, September 26

We have fun planned for the entire week of Homecoming! More information about all the festivities can be found in the **all-school email** sent on September 12.

Last Chance! Order Homecoming Meals Before Midnight

Pre-order your meals from The Pit Room BBQ to enjoy at the Varsity Football game on Friday, September 26. Pre-order sales will close at 11:59 p.m. TODAY—Sunday, September 21. **Limited meals will be available for purchase the day of the event, so place your order now to reserve yours. View meal options** and information on other Homecoming food offerings.

It Takes a Village: Homecoming Volunteers Still Needed

Booster Club needs your help! During Homecoming week, we have volunteer opportunities for all parents (and a few specific ones for Dads' Club!). What's your fancy? Hanging team banners or serving concessions and popcorn? Come meet some new people and have fun pitching in! **Click here to see volunteer opportunities and sign up.**

The Fest Is Yet to Come … But T-shirt Sales End September 22!

Don’t miss your last chance to snag your Festival swag. We’ve extended the deadline: T-shirt sales now close tomorrow—Monday, September 22—at 11:59 p.m. Be ready to celebrate at the St. Francis Festival on Sunday, October 19, from noon to 4:00 p.m. **Get all the details here.**

Last Spirit Store Sale of 2025 Is at Homecoming

Swing by the final Spirit Store Pop-up of 2025 at the Homecoming football game on Friday, September 26. Sales will begin at 5:30 p.m. and run through halftime. Stock up on T-shirts, accessories, and outerwear to support your Wolves! All current inventory will be available.

- Volunteers needed! Please **sign up here** for one of the Spirit Store shifts.
- Please **email Courtney Schilling** for more information.

FoFA Needs Volunteers: Help Prepare for *Shrek*

Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) needs help getting ready for the upcoming Shrek production. Volunteers are needed to put together makeup kits for actors, as well as to clean out and organize the dressing rooms backstage. All are welcome. Come meet new people and learn more about St. Francis's fabulous theater program!

- There are afternoon opportunities to help in the Fine Arts Center on both Monday, September 29, and Friday, October 3. Please **sign up to volunteer**.
- Questions? Please **email FoFA**.

Picture Day Is September 29

Individual student pictures for all divisions will be taken on Monday, September 29. Pre-order is available. You will also receive unedited photos of your child(ren) with a unique order code after Picture Day, if you'd prefer to see the photos first. Please be on the lookout for emails directly from our photography vendor, Inter-State Studio.

Primary School

Homecoming Is This Friday, September 26

We have fun planned for the entire week of Homecoming! More information about all the festivities can be found in the **all-school email** sent on September 12. In case you missed it, here are a few highlights:

- **Spirit Ribbons:** All Primary School students will receive a spirit ribbon at school on Friday, September 26, to wear throughout the day. Show extra HOCO spirit and wear it to the Varsity Football game that evening!

- **Primary School Pre-Game Fun:** Arrive at the Homecoming game by 6:30 p.m. so your Primary School students can run through the spirit tunnel onto the field and take photos with the cheer team!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 22

- *Homecoming Week:* Dress in Spirit Wear or uniform
- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23

- *Homecoming Week:* Dress in Spirit Wear or uniform
- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, September 24

- *Homecoming Week:* Dress in Spirit Wear or uniform
- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend

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Thursday, September 25

- *Homecoming Week:* Dress in Spirit Wear or uniform
- *ISACS Parent Series Webinar ("School Skills: Setting Kids Up for Success"):* 5:30–6:30 p.m.; **register now for the ISACS Parent Series**

Friday, September 26

- *Homecoming Week:* Dress in Spirit Wear or uniform
- *Primary II/Upper School Pep Rally:* 1:45 p.m.; student-only event

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Monday, September 29

- *PS Individual Photos*
- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, October 1

- *Parent Conference Day (No School)*

Lower School

Homecoming Is This Friday, September 26

We have fun planned for the entire week of Homecoming! More information about all the festivities can be found in the **all-school email** sent on September 12. In case you missed it, here are a few highlights:

- **Spirit Ribbons:** All Lower School students will receive a spirit ribbon at school on Friday, September 26, to wear throughout the day. Show extra HOCO spirit and wear it to the Varsity Football game that evening!
- **Lower School Pre-Game Fun:** Arrive at the Homecoming game by 6:30 p.m. so your Lower School students can run through the spirit tunnel onto the field and take photos with the cheer team!

Please Update Grandparent Information in Veracross by September 28

The week of September 29, we will be sending invitations for Lower School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days. Please help us by adding or updating grandparent contact information in Veracross by **Sunday, September 28, at midnight**. Please log in to the Parent Portal, and click "My Household" in the top left corner. Click "Update Family Profile," then scroll down to the “Grandparents” section. Thank you!

Save the Dates: LS Grandparents and Grandfriends Days Are November 19–21

Grandparents and Grandfriends Days will be held in November according to the following schedule:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- **Fourth Grade:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- **Third Grade:** 8:45–10:45 a.m.
- **Second Grade:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- **First Grade:** 8:45–10:45 a.m.
- **Kindergarten:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

Sign Up Now: Parent Lunches With Students Start Soon

We're thrilled to let you know that we will kick off our parent lunches with students soon! Please use the links below to sign up for lunch with your child:

- **Kindergarten Lunch Sign-up (10:45 a.m.)**
- **First Grade Lunch Sign-up (11:15 a.m.)**
- **Second Grade Lunch Sign-up (11:40 a.m.)**
- **Third Grade Lunch Sign-up (10:55 a.m.)**
- **Fourth Grade Lunch Sign-up (11:20 a.m.)**

GUIDELINES FOR LUNCH VISITORS

Due to space and safety concerns, lunch visitors are subject to important guidelines:

- All lunch visitors must follow established check-in/checkout procedures and will receive a name tag upon arrival, which must be worn at all times while on campus.
- Lunch visitors are asked to follow the dining procedures in our Lower School Handbook, as follows: "Parent/guardian lunches for students in Kindergarten through grade 4 will be scheduled from **October through April** using the grade-level link available in the Parent Portal. (The links will also be sent in September.) Each family will be allotted three lunch dates within the school year. (Note: The lunch count is per family and not per child.) Please be aware that some dates may not be available due to previously scheduled events on campus. The school will limit the number of reservations per day to avoid congestion in the parking lot and within the school building."
- St. Francis uses Veracross for scheduling family lunch dates to ensure efficient organization of highly attended dates when limited space is available.
- Students are not allowed to invite their friends to eat with their parents and them.
- No outside food is allowed.

October 6–9: Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings

From Monday, October 6, through Thursday, October 9, St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for **all students in kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and for any NEW students in second and fourth grades**. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services this past spring.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Screenings will be held during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems of which we should be aware, please send a note to school with them.
- 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 them 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, September 22

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Tuesday, September 23

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *Digital Wellness Series With Dr. Crystal Collier:* 8:30 a.m.; **register here**

Thursday, September 25

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *LS See You at the Pole Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m. in the Piney Point Courtyard
- *ISACS Parent Series Webinar ("School Skills: Setting Kids Up for Success"):* 5:30–6:30 p.m.; **register now for the ISACS Parent Series**

Friday, September 26

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *LS Fall Pep Rally:* 2:00–2:45 p.m. in the Piney Point Gym

Monday, September 29

- *LS Individual Pictures*
- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *New Parent Blessing and Coffee:* 8:50–9:45 a.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus

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Wednesday, October 1

- *Parent Teacher Conferences (No School)*

Thursday, October 2

- *Blessing of the Animals Eucharist Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.; fourth grade only

Middle School

Homecoming Is This Friday, September 26

We have fun planned for the entire week of Homecoming! More information about all the festivities can be found in the **all-school email** sent on September 12. All Middle School students will receive a spirit ribbon at school on Friday, September 26, to wear throughout the day. Show extra HOCO spirit and wear it to the Varsity Football game that evening!

Update: Community Service Hours

Service hours in the Middle School are now being documented electronically through MobileServe. To submit service hours, students must accept the invitation sent to them in their school email from MobileServe on Wednesday morning. Parental permissions must also be given. Once the student sends the parental permission request, and that request is approved, students will be able to enter their hours

electronically. The program is very intuitive; just select the most appropriate category of service and answer the questions. Once you have submitted your hours, Rev. Mitchell will be able to approve them.

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. During the 2025–26 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

The deadline to submit volunteer hours for the 2025–26 school year remains Saturday, May 2, 2026.

You're Invited to a New Parent Coffee Monday Morning

Join us in the Gay Foyer tomorrow—Monday, September 22—from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m., just before Chapel. Come meet other new families and discover how you can get involved in the St. Francis community. **Register for the New Parent Coffee now!**

Please Update Grandparent Information in Veracross by September 28

The week of September 29, we will be sending invitations to Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Middle School students in sixth and eighth grades. Please help us by adding or updating grandparent contact information in Veracross by **Sunday, September 28, at midnight**. Log in to the Parent Portal, then click "My Household" in the top left corner. Click "Update Family Profile," and scroll down to the "Grandparents" section. Thank you!

Grades 6 and 8: Grandparents and Grandfriends Day Is November 19

Save the date! Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Middle School students in grades 6 and 8 will be held on **Wednesday, November 19, from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m.**

Individual Photos on September 29: Wear Dress Uniform

On Monday, September 29, students will take individual photos for the yearbook and for families to purchase. Please remember to wear the dress uniform on this day. Fifth-grade students will take pictures before participating in PE, so they should arrive at school in their dress uniforms.

Eighth-Grade Parents, Join Us October 2 for an Upper School Preview

On Thursday, October 2, eighth-grade parents are invited to visit the Upper School from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. You will hear from Alexis Reyes, Head of Upper School, and other Upper School leadership; take a tour of campus with current parents and students; and learn about how your child will thrive in our exceptional Upper School. An email invitation has been sent. **Please RSVP here.**

Sign Up for Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 1. No classes will meet on this day. Please sign up for a time slot for you and your child(ren) to meet with your advisor(s). Follow these steps to sign up:

- Log in to the Parent Portal.
- Click the green "Parent Conferences Sign-Up" button.
- Follow the prompts from there.

Please note that Conference Day is reserved exclusively for meetings with advisors. If you need to meet with your child's other teachers to discuss specific classes or performance questions, those meetings will need to be scheduled for a different day.

Link Sent: Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony Photos

Dr. Williams sent an email last week to all eighth-grade families with a link to the photo gallery for the Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony on September 8. Please reach out to Sarah Flores Long if you are unable to locate the email.

Carpool Adjustment on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 3:45 p.m.

Each Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, the Joyful Sounds Choir for grades 3 and 4 ends their rehearsal at 3:45 p.m. Those Lower School choir students will be picked up at the blue awning in the back of the school.

Middle School carpool will continue as normal, but we do ask that families who arrive between 3:45 and 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays use the right lanes to navigate around the Joyful Sounds families, who will use the left lane. There will be signs indicating which lanes to use on these days.

October 14–16: Hearing and Vision Screenings for NEW Students in Grades 6 and 8

From Tuesday, October 14, through Thursday, October 16, St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for **all students in fifth grade and seventh grade, plus any NEW sixth and eighth graders**. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services this past spring.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Screenings will be held during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems of which we should be aware, please send a note with them.
- 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 them 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.

Summer Travel 2026—Greece Registration Is Open

Register now for a trip of a lifetime to beautiful Greece! The summer 2026 travel planning season is upon us, and the Greece trip is open for applications. Our travel partner, ACIS, is offering reduced pricing from now until the end of September, so act fast!

GREECE (ENROLLMENT OPEN—DISCOUNT IN PLACE UNTIL OCTOBER 1)

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Dates:** June 1–10, 2026
- **Cost:** $6,422 + $350 St. Francis Travel Fee
- **Trip Leaders:** Ted Lakoski, Director of Counseling/Director of Experiential Travel, and Marion Tolon (Coach T), PE Teacher/Student Transition Liaison
- **Parent Information Session:** **Watch the recording of the Parent Info Session on Zoom.**
- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:**
  - **View the trip flyer** for more details.
  - Please register with our travel vendor at the **ACIS Educational Tours trip website**.
  - Print, sign, and return the **SFE Travel application for Greece**.
  - **Email Ted Lakoski** with any questions.
- **Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance may be available. **Apply to the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund.**

WASHINGTON, DC

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled sixth graders
- **Dates:** May 31–June 4, 2026
- **Trip Leader:** Maria Cruzalegui, Middle School Spanish Faculty

- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:** Sign-ups and more info coming to *Wolf Watch* later this month

COSTA RICA

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled eighth graders
- **Dates:** May 31–June 13, 2026
- **Trip Leader:** Liz Ward, Middle School Spanish Faculty
- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:** Sign-ups and more info coming to *Wolf Watch* later this month

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 22

- *"A" Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *New MS Parent Blessing and Coffee:* 9:00–9:50 a.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Tuesday, September 23

- *"B" Day (Special Schedule)*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *Parent Digital Wellness Series With Dr. Crystal Collier:* 8:30 a.m.; **register here**
- *Dr. Crystal Collier Presents to All MS Students:* 9:40 a.m.

Wednesday, September 24

- *"A" Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms

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Thursday, September 25

- *"B" Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *See You at the Pole Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m.; students only

- *ISACS Parent Series Webinar ("School Skills: Setting Kids Up for Success"):* 5:30–6:30 p.m.; **register now for the ISACS Parent Series**

Friday, September 26

- *"A" Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *MS/LS Fall Pep Rally:* 2:00–2:45 p.m. in Piney Point Gym
- *Homecoming Games at Couper Campus:* See the All School section for details

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Monday, September 29

- *"B" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform (MS Individual Pictures)***
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Tuesday, September 30

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

Wednesday, October 1

- *Parent-Teacher-Student Conference Day:* No school for students

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Thursday, October 2

- *"B" Day (Special Schedule)*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Councils (Instead of Chapel)*

Friday, October 3

- *"A" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Combined Eucharist With US:* 10:05–11:05 a.m. in St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary; students only

Upper School

The Social Institute Kicks Off

St. Francis Upper School partners with The Social Institute to run social-emotional learning lessons that equip students to make positive, healthy, and high-character choices. In the past weeks, your student's advisory ran a kickoff lesson on **Taking Control of Our Health, Happiness, and Success This School Year**. Please click on the link for further information on the curriculum and for resources to help you continue the conversation at home.

Senior Rings: Balfour Representative on Campus September 29

Get ready, seniors! On Monday, September 29, a Balfour representative will be on campus at lunch to talk about school rings. They'll be here with ring catalogs for seniors to browse through for the perfect senior ring. Plus, you can figure out your ring size (no commitment needed—this is just the fun exploration phase). All ring purchases will be made through the Balfour website, but the representative will be here to answer all your questions.

Sign Up for Student-Led Conferences

On Wednesday, October 1, students will lead a conference with their advisors and parents. These conferences will help students and parents set personal and academic goals for the school year. Conference sign-ups are already open on the Parent Portal. Look for the green button that says "Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up."

October 15 Is a Half Day

On Monday, October 15, our tenth and eleventh graders will be taking the PSAT on campus. The ninth and twelfth graders will be engaged in community service. This is a half day. Students will be released at noon. (More information about the PSAT will be coming soon.)

You're Invited to a New Parent Coffee Tuesday Morning

Join us in the Nau Dining Hall in the Student Life Center (SLC) this Tuesday, September 23, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., just before Chapel. Come meet other new families and

discover how you can get involved in the St. Francis community. **Register for the New Parent Coffee now!**

Mum/Garter Pickup Is Wednesday

Homecoming mums and garters will be available for pickup this Wednesday, September 24, from 3:50 to 5:00 p.m. in the SLC. Feel free to bling them up more to make yours unique! Questions? **Email Ashley Grigsby.**

Themed Dress-Up Days for Homecoming Week

- **Monday, September 22:** Mathletes vs. Athletes (Dress up as Team Brains or Team Brawn)
- **Tuesday, September 23:** Rhyme Without Reason (Grab a friend or even a group of friends and dress up in outfits that rhyme but make no sense together)
- **Wednesday, September 24:** Western Wednesday (Wear Western-themed outfits—no fake weapons)
- **Thursday, September 25:** Color Clash Day (Go all out with your class color)
    - **Freshmen:** Green
    - **Sophomores:** Red
    - **Juniors:** White
    - **Seniors:** Blue
- **Friday, September 26:** Disney Dress Out (Dress up as your favorite Disney character)
    - US Pep Rally at 1:45 p.m.

Homecoming Football Game Is September 26: It's a White Out

Get ready to unleash your school spirit at the Homecoming football game this Friday, September 26! We're going **all white** for our epic White Out theme at the game. Kickoff is at 7:00 p.m. Don your brightest whites and join the Wolf Pack for an unforgettable night under the lights. Let's show our team what St. Francis spirit looks like when we come together as one pack. See you there!

Summer Travel 2026—Greece Registration Is Open

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- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Dates:** June 1–10, 2026
- **Cost:** $6,422 + $350 St. Francis Travel Fee

- **Trip Leaders:** Ted Lakoski, Director of Counseling/Director of Experiential Travel, and Marion Tolon (Coach T), PE Teacher/Student Transition Liaison
- **Parent Information Session:** **View the recording of the Parent Info Session on Zoom.**
- **Additional Trip Information and Registration Requirements:**
  - **View the trip flyer** for more details.
  - Please register with our travel vendor at the **ACIS Educational Tours trip website**.
  - Print, sign, and return the **SFE Travel application for Greece**.
  - **Email Ted Lakoski** with any questions.
- **Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance may be available. **Apply to the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund.**

AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL (FRINGE FESTIVAL)

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Dates:** August 1–14, 2026
- **Trip Leaders:** Lorna Jordan, Director of Fine Arts, and Kristina Revaz, Associate Director of Fine Arts/Dance Program Coordinator
- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:** The St. Francis Fine Arts Department is offering an incredible opportunity to travel to the American High School Theatre Festival (aka "The Fringe") in Edinburgh, Scotland—with two days in London! The Fringe features plays, musical theater, improv, sketches, musicians, and so much more.
  - All of our returning Upper School student artists are encouraged to join us for this adventure.
  - For additional information, **view the trip flyer** and the **presentation for families**.
  - If you haven't signed up yet or have any questions about this Fine Arts Department trip, **email Lorna Jordan**.
- **Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance may be available. **Apply to the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund.**

October 21–24: Hearing and Vision Screenings for NEW Upper School Students

From Tuesday, October 21, through Friday, October 24, St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for all Upper School students who are **new to St. Francis**. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services this past spring.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Screenings will be held during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems of which we should be aware, please send a note with them.

- 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 them to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Madeleine Tiemann, RN, via **email** or at 713.458.6445.

College Representative Visits Continue at St. Francis

Each year, college representatives from across the country visit our school to connect with our students and share insights about their institutions.

- Students in grades 10–12 may **sign up for these visits through Scoir**.
- **View the list of colleges scheduled to visit SFE.**

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, up to and including Friday, December 19, for Semester 1 and Friday, May 22, 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.

Follow-Up on Student Absences and Appointments

As a friendly reminder:

- Missing more than twenty minutes of a class will be considered an absence in that class.
- Being tardy to a class nine times will be considered an absence in that class.
- Students who miss three sessions of a class will receive a written warning.
- Students who miss six sessions of a class will be issued a behavior consequence (Saturday detention).
- Students who miss nine sessions of a class will lose credit for that class and may be presented with credit recovery options or retaking the course to progress to the next level in that academic discipline.
- These numbers reset each semester. Absences accumulate for a semester, but not the whole year.

Absences from a class for school-sanctioned activities, like participating on a sports team, do not count toward a student's total absences in a class. All other absences, for any reason, do count toward the absence total in a class.

When your student needs to miss school, arrive late, or leave early, please notify us at **USAttendance@stfrancishouston.org**.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 22–Saturday, September 27

- *Homecoming Week*

Monday, September 22

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Themed Dress-Up Days:* Mathletes vs. Athletes (Dress up as Team Brains or Team Brawn!)

Tuesday, September 23

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Themed Dress-Up Day:* Rhyme Without Reason (Grab a friend or even a group of friends and dress up in outfits that rhyme but make no sense together)
- *US New Parent Coffee:* 9:00–10:00 a.m. in Nau Dining Hall (SLC)
- *Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, September 24

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Themed Dress-Up Day:* Western Wednesday (Wear Western-themed outfits; no fake weapons)
- *Student College Rep Visit (Drake University and Boston University):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the SLC Conference Room

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Thursday, September 25

- *"B" Day*

- *Regular Uniform or Themed Dress-Up Day:* Color Clash Day (Go all out with your class color)
    - *Freshmen:* Green
    - *Sophomores:* Red
    - *Juniors:* White
    - *Seniors*: Blue
- *ISACS Parent Series Webinar ("School Skills: Setting Kids Up for Success"):* 5:30–6:30 p.m.; **register now for the ISACS Parent Series**

Friday, September 26

- *"A" Day (Special Schedule)*
- *SFE Spirit Dress or Themed Dress-Up Day:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms or Disney Dress Out (Dress up as your favorite Disney character)
- *No Chapel*
- *PS/US Pep Rally:* 1:45 p.m. in Crum Gym
- *Homecoming Football Game:* 7:00 p.m. in Couper Turf Field; wear white for a White Out

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Saturday, September 27

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

Monday, September 29

- *"B" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Individual and Senior Pictures:* 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in Crum Gym
- *Student College Rep Visit (High Point University and Louisiana State University):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the SLC Conference Room
- *Student Senior Ring Purchase:* 12:00–1:00 p.m. at the SLC Monumental Stairs

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Tuesday, September 30

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

Wednesday, October 1

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School for Students):* Sign-up is available on the Parent Portal

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Thursday, October 2

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visit (Northwestern University and Rollins University):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the SLC Conference Room
- *Student College Bites on College Athletic Recruitment:* 12:30–12:55 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre

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Friday, October 3

- *"A" Day (Special Schedule)*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Feast of St. Francis Eucharist Chapel:* 10:05–11:05 a.m. on the Piney Point Campus

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship and Family-Focused Events

- **Sunday Family Worship Service:** 9:00 a.m. in the church
- **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.
- **Lighthouse Children's Art:** 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall
- **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

October 19: Episcopal Schools Sunday and St. Francis Festival

Join us on October 19 for Episcopal Schools Sunday, when we will celebrate St. Francis

Episcopal School (SFES) at both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Our Chalice Bearers, Readers, Ushers, Acolytes, and choir members will all be students, staff, and faculty of SFES. Many alumni will be in attendance, as well as present-day students and faculty. Come and show your support for our much-loved school.

SFES Festival: From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., head over to the SFES athletic field for fun-filled events. More information to come.

Join Us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesday Mornings

Women of all ages and life stages are invited to join us for a Bible study on the Parables of Jesus. The study will be held on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We'll kick off at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and a speaker, followed at 10:00 a.m. by small-group discussion and prayer. For more information or to sign up, **email Allison Devlin**.

Blessing of the Animals Is October 5

Join us for St. Francis's Annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 5, at 4:00 p.m. in the school's Courtyard. Along with blessings and pictures, you are invited to bring a donation for Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPS). CAPS needs pet food, cat litter, bleach, towels, fleece blankets, and dog leashes. A local veterinary clinic will be in attendance to answer your pet questions.

Adult Formation Classes With Father Bates Continue October 26

Father Bates's Adult Formation classes will continue in October. Classes will meet in the church library at 10:10 a.m. on the following Sundays: October 26, November 2, December 7, and January 11 and 18. Open to all adults who have a desire to deepen their understanding and practice of their Christian faith, these classes are required for adults being confirmed on Sunday, February 22, at the 9:00 a.m. service. For more information and to sign up, **email Sally Jo Flores**.

Sunday Morning Study on Grief and Healing

Join Father Price for A Look at Loss: Tools for Grieving & Healing, with class content drawn from the book *Navigating Intense Grief: How to Recover From a Devastating Loss* by Emily Vandenberg. The final class in the study will be held at 10:10–10:50 a.m. on September 28 in Room CH115. These Sunday morning sessions will help you gain a deeper understanding of the stages of grief, and explore practical self-care techniques for physical and emotional well-being.

Join Us for Wednesday Evening Programs

On Wednesdays after the 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and dinner prepared by our wonderful Chef Alfredo ($15/person), we offer interesting programs. Father Price will

lead a program on Keeping the Fire Alive, with video presentations from Albert Haase, OFM—a course on navigating challenges in the Christian spiritual life. On selected Wednesday evenings—September 24, October 22, and December 10—Father Bates will present a program on the trip he took to Turkey this past June.

Feast of St. Francis: 75th Anniversary Family Celebration Is October 5

On Sunday, October 5, join us for one service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a celebration from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will rejoice in our fantastic community with food (both inside the Parish Hall and outside on the grassy lawn), plus lots of activities for families, including carnival games, miniature golf, a bouncy house, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon art, kid-friendly hamburgers and hot dogs, and a DonutNV food truck.

Houston Chamber Choir Concert Is October 24

Join us on Friday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. for a Houston Chamber Choir concert at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

12-Step Recovery Program at St. Francis

If you, a family member, or a friend have a problem with alcohol, help is available. Please come join one of the 12-step recovery programs being offered at St. Francis on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held weekly in Room CH207, upstairs in the Parish Hall building. For more information, please **email Joanie McLeod**.
- The Al-Anon Family Group meets weekly in Room CH211, upstairs in the Parish Hall.

All meeting rooms are ADA-accessible. Park in the north parking lot and come in through the Parish Hall doors.

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.

Now on Spotify: Sermons From St. Francis

Sermons From St. Francis are now 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!

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 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:** Acts of the Apostles
  - **Location:** La Madeleine (Except on second Tuesday of each month, when group meets in St. Francis Church Parish Hall)
  - **Contact: Fr. David Price**
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Study: Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m.
  - **Study:** Hebrews
  - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact: Sally Jo Flores**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Wednesdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Parables of Jesus
  - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact: Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** 2 Peter
  - **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.