WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of October 4

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one, and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. —Ephesians 2:14

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE: THE LEGACY OF OUR PATRON SAINT

Today, October 4, is the feast day of our beloved patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. Although it has been 800 years since his death, he is a vibrant and vital example to us today. In his humility and devotion, he lived a life of joy, gratitude, and wonder at God's creation.

Francis, it must be said, was very human, throwing himself into life with abandon and enthusiasm. Sometimes he made mistakes, sometimes he got into trouble—yet time and again, he turned back to Christ and found forgiveness, mercy, and compassion. And he kept going in his endeavor to follow his Lord in the paths of life here on earth.

It is good for us to celebrate St. Francis and try to be more like him, because he worked so hard to be like our Lord Jesus.

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.

Celebrating Culture at St. Francis

Across all divisions, we have been exploring the richness and vibrancy of Hispanic heritage in many different ways: food, dance, music, stories, and more.

On Thursday, October 8, St. Francis's Piney Point Campus will be filled with violins, trumpets, and a few instruments you may not recognize. We're welcoming Mariachi Calmecac Jalisciense to campus to help us celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Where did this music come from? Why do the musicians dress the way they do? And what exactly is a guitarrón? **Watch this video** to catch a glimpse of what students will experience here. You may recognize students and adults from our own community who have come together to share a little about this beautiful culture and one of its many musical contributions. ¡Bienvenidos, Mariachi!

Couper Campus Closed on October 9

On Friday, October 9, St. Francis will host an emergency preparedness exercise at the Couper Campus. The exercise, conducted in partnership with HPD, MVPD, and other local first responders, will test response plans and strengthen coordination among participating agencies.

The Couper Campus will be closed to anyone not participating from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The community should expect a significant police and fire department presence, helicopters, emergency vehicles, and possible traffic disruptions. This is a planned training exercise; there is no threat to the campus or the surrounding community.

Festival Merchandise Bags Are on the Way

Festival merchandise orders will be sent home this week. Timing will depend on your child's teacher, so be on the lookout. If you have not received your ordered items by Friday, October 9, please check with your child's teacher first. If they do not have it, please reach out to the Advancement Office or **email Donna Cropper**, Director of Special Events & Parent Groups, for assistance.

- Primary and Lower School orders will be distributed in Homeroom.
- Middle and Upper School orders will be distributed in Advisory.

MISSED BUYING MERCHANDISE?

Limited inventory will be available at the pop-up sale on Wednesday, October 14, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the People Place on Piney Point Campus.

VOLUNTEER FUN FEST CREW: STUDENTS AND DADS NEEDED

- Does your SFE student need volunteer hours?
  - Parents and Middle School students, **sign up here**.
  - Upper School students, **sign up here**.
- **Dads!** The Dads' Club needs you. **Sign up to help at the grill.**

From the Nurses' Desk: Tips for Staying Healthy When the Flu Is Spreading

During the flu and cold season, the nurses want to do everything possible to keep our St. Francis students healthy. Please **click here to learn more about the flu** and ways to help prevent it from spreading. **If your child is diagnosed with the flu, please email the nurse on your child's campus (Abigayle Harrington, Madeleine Tiemann, or Fay Gant).**

Reminder: St. Francis Teacher Gifts and Celebrations

This is a friendly reminder about the St. Francis Gifts and Celebrations Policy that can be found in the school handbook. Please see below:

> *We ask that school families refrain from giving gifts to faculty and staff, including soliciting money for teacher gifts or birthdays. Instead, we encourage families to donate to the SFPO Faculty/Staff Gift Collection.*
>
> *The SFPO Faculty/Staff Gift Collection is collected twice a year. The SFPO collects donations from parents/guardians that go directly to faculty and staff as a cash gift. This allows any family, regardless of resources, to show their appreciation while maintaining equity for our hardworking teachers and employees. Please note that these donations are not tax-deductible.*

We love to celebrate our faculty and staff and are blessed to have such generous families in our community, but this collection format has proven the best way to serve our community. Please be on the lookout for Christmas Collection details in November.

Lost and Found Reminder: Please Label Everything

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

- Lost items that **are** clearly labeled will be returned to the student's homeroom or advisory.
- Lost items that **are not** labeled will remain in the Lost and Found closet for one month before being donated to Uniform Resale or 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 on Piney Point Campus.

UNIFORMS DONATIONS: ONLY ONE BRAND NOW ACCEPTED

Moving forward, Lost and Found will **only** accept gently used **FlynnO'Hara** uniforms. We have reached our maximum donation capacity for DENNIS and other old uniform brands.

- All items can be dropped off at the front desk.
- We hope to have enough inventory for a spring sale and will have more information soon.
- If you are dropping off used **FlynnO'Hara** uniforms, please make sure you have not included other used clothing items from your closet. We greatly appreciate it!

Moms in Prayer: Fall Meeting Dates

Please mark your calendars and join the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Moms in Prayer on the Fridays listed below at 8:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus. (The Chapel doors remain locked, so please enter through the front of the school and sign in at the security desk.)

2026 MEETING DATES

- October 16
- November 6
- November 20
- December 4
- December 18

For questions or to submit prayer requests, please **email Jasmine Fleece**.

Spirit Store: Restock and New Item Alert

RESTOCK ALERT

The navy Wolves sweatshirts, adult white mocknecks, and youth hoodies are back in stock. We also have blue Texas T-shirts in adult sizes and gray quarter-zip sweatshirts in youth sizes. Keep an eye out for YM, YL, and YXL mocknecks very soon.

NEW ITEM ALERT

We have new crew socks in youth sizes, new reversible bracelets, and new baseball hats.

Visit the store Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., or **shop online at the Spirit Store**. **Orders placed this weekend may not be ready for pickup until Monday, October 12. You will receive an email when your order is ready.**

Primary School

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Register by Sunday, November 15, for the St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) basketball season. SFSA is open to students in Primary II (age 4) through fifth grade.

- **Click here to register for the basketball season.**
- Please **email Liz Ward**, SFSA Registrar, if you have any questions or concerns.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 5

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

- *Primary II Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
- *Primary II Furry Friends Picnic:* Students only

Wednesday, October 7

- *Primary I Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

- *Primary II Field Trip to Nature Discovery Center in Bellaire*

Friday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
- *Couper Campus Closed for Emergency Preparedness Exercise:* 6:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday

Tuesday, October 13

- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, October 14

- *Primary School (PS) Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Friday, October 16

- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus

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Sunday, October 18

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
- *St. Francis Festival*

Monday, October 19

- *All-School Late Start*
  - Carpool runs from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
  - No Early Birds

Tuesday, October 20

- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, October 21

- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Lower School

October 5–8: Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings

From Monday, October 5, through Thursday, October 8, St. Francis will be conducting hearing and vision screenings for all students in kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and for any NEW students in second and fourth grade. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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 email the nurse.
- 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.

Volunteers Needed to Assist With Hearing and Vision Screenings

Our campus nurses are looking for parent volunteers to serve as our student walkers during Lower School hearing and vision screenings on Monday, October 5, through Thursday, October 8. Your assistance makes the process flow smoothly. If you'd like to help, please **sign up to volunteer**. We appreciate your help!

Please Update Grandparent Information by October 18

This week, 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, October 18, 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 18–20

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- **Fourth Grade:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Is October 29

St. Francis's Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest for all Lower and Middle School Wolves will be held on Thursday, October 29.

- This beloved tradition returns with categories that include Best in Your Grade, Best "Collab" Pumpkin, School Spirit Award, Most Adorable, Spookiest, and more.
- Pumpkins do not need to be real or carved, so families are welcome to decorate a faux pumpkin.
- Mark your calendars, and check *Wolf Watch* soon for a full list of categories and entry details. For any question, **email Claire de Roode** or **Ashley Kingham**.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Register by Sunday, November 15, for the St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) basketball season. SFSA is open to students in Primary II (age 4) through fifth grade.

- **Click here to register for the basketball season.**
- Please **email Liz Ward**, SFSA Registrar, if you have any questions or concerns.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 5

- *Dress Uniform*
- *Lower School (LS) Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *LS Hearing and Vision Screening:* In the Pods
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

- *LS Hearing and Vision Screening:* In the Pods

Wednesday, October 7

- *LS Hearing and Vision Screening:* In the Pods
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *LS Hearing and Vision Screening:* In the Pods

Friday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
- *Faculty and Staff Inservice*
- *LS Mid-Trimester 1 Progress Reports Published*

Monday, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday

Wednesday, October 14

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 15

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, October 16

- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus

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Sunday, October 18

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
- *St. Francis Festival*

Middle School

Read the Monthly Update Email

The September monthly email was sent on Tuesday, September 29. This email includes details about October events and a preview of November, including the ERB testing dates. Parents should check their inboxes or **click here to view the information**.

October 14–16: Hearing and Vision Screenings for ALL Students in Grades 5 and 7 and for NEW Students in Grades 6 and 8

Wednesday, October 14, through Friday, October 16, St. Francis will be conducting 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.

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 email the nurse.
- 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

Please Update Grandparent Information in Veracross by October 18

The week of October 5, 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, October 18, 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 18

Save the date! Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Middle School students in grades 6 and 8 will be held on Wednesday, November 18, from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m.

Next Table Talk With the Chaplain Is October 26

Parents are invited to the next Middle School Table Talk With the Chaplain, "From Borrowed Faith, to Owned Faith," on Monday, October 26. We will meet in the Bride's Room on Piney Point Campus from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. (Enter through the front office of the school and follow the signage to the Bride's Room.)

When middle schoolers start questioning their faith, doubt can be a doorway rather than an exit. We'll talk about meeting our kids' questions with curiosity instead of alarm, and share a few simple spiritual practices that fit a middle schooler's life.

All parents welcome—come as you are.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Is October 29

St. Francis's Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest for all Lower and Middle School Wolves will be held on Thursday, October 29.

- This beloved tradition returns with categories that include Best in Your Grade, Best "Collab" Pumpkin, School Spirit Award, Most Adorable, Spookiest, and more.
- Pumpkins do not need to be real or carved, so families are welcome to decorate a faux pumpkin.
- Mark your calendars and check *Wolf Watch* soon for a full list of categories and entry details. For any question, **email Claire de Roode** or **Ashley Kingham**.

Parent Presentation on October 5: What Our Teenagers Are Carrying

St. Francis is pleased to welcome Dr. Thomson Ivins, Licensed Professional Counselor and Director of Clinical and Community Engagement from The Council on Recovery, to campus tomorrow—Monday, October 5—to speak with parents at 8:00 a.m. in the Black Box on Couper Campus. Student-only presentations will follow.

ABOUT DR. IVINS

With nearly three decades of experience and over 200 presentations delivered to audiences ranging from major universities to leading health care institutions, Dr. Ivins is a trusted voice on substance use, wellness, and youth well-being.

This fall, he brings findings from a listening study conducted with Houston high schoolers—in their own words, exploring the pressures they face daily, the substances in their world, and what they most need from the adults who love them. In this parent session, Dr. Ivins will share what teenagers themselves say actually works—practical, concrete tools to strengthen connection, open closed doors, and know when and where to reach for help—so that every parent leaves not just with insight, but with a real playbook in hand.

Parent Presentation on October 21: Nutrition and How to Help Your Child Live a Healthy Lifestyle

We are excited to welcome Roberta Anding to campus for Middle School student and parent presentations on nutrition on Wednesday, October 21. A lecturer in the Kinesiology Department at Rice University, Ms. Anding is a nationally recognized sport dietitian who has spent over two decades working with Houston's top sports organizations, including the Houston Texans, Houston Astros, and Houston Ballet.

- Please join us for our parent presentation on October 21 from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on Piney Point Campus. Kindly **RSVP here** by Sunday, October 18.
- Student-only presentations will follow.

We look forward to having Ms. Anding share her expertise on building healthy habits, the importance of a balanced diet, and how to champion your child in living a healthy lifestyle.

Handbook Corner: Uniform Reminders

Uniform expectations are outlined in the *Middle School Handbook* on page 33. We need assistance from home to ensure that students are arriving at school in properly worn uniform attire each day.

- **Please check the length of skirts or shorts. Skirts and shorts should be index-finger length.** Undergarments or black spandex privacy shorts should not extend below the length of shorts or skirts.
- **Only FlynnO'Hara Uniform bottoms should be worn.** Khaki shorts or pants that are not Flynn O'Hara brand are considered out of dress code.

Students have been receiving verbal reminders from their advisors for the last month. Please **visit FlynnO'Hara** for new uniform items, if needed, to be in compliance with the dress code.

Summer Trips: View Information Session Presentations + Costa Rica Trip Details Coming Soon

Please see below for links to information presented at the recent Zoom meetings for the Washington, DC, trip and the Boston, Philadelphia, and New York City trip. More information will be available for the Costa Rica trip after October 15. If you have any questions, please reach out to the respective trip leader.

WASHINGTON, DC

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled sixth graders
- **Dates:** June 5–9, 2027
- **Trip Leader:** Maria Cruzalegui, Middle School Spanish Faculty
- **View the presentation from the Zoom information meeting.**
- **Watch the recording of the Zoom information meeting.**

BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, AND NEW YORK CITY

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled seventh graders
- **Dates:** June 5–9, 2027
- **Trip Leader:** Shannon Shrader, Middle School Academic Dean
- **View the presentation from the Zoom information meeting.**
- **View the trip flyer.**

COSTA RICA

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled eighth graders
- **Dates:** May 31–June 12, 2027
- **Trip Leader:** Liz Ward, Middle School Spanish Faculty
- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:** Sign-ups and more info coming to *Wolf Watch* after October 15.

Middle School Boys' Bible Study Meets Fridays

The SFE Boys' Bible Study offers Middle School boys a space to form meaningful relationships with one another and with the Word of God. Shepherded by Father Wismer, this group will dig into the heart of Scripture and develop a passion for God and His action in their lives.

- **When:** Fridays, during recess
- **Where:** Señora Barclay's classroom
- **Who:** All Middle School boys
- **What:** The book of Daniel

Middle School Girls Are Invited to Join Clare's Company on Fridays

The Clare's Company Bible study offers Middle School girls a welcoming space for fellowship and encouragement each week. It is a wonderful opportunity to recharge the heart and build lasting friendships before heading into the weekend. Grab your lunch and join us!

- **When:** Fridays at 12:05–1:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Picnic tables outside of the Arts hall
- **Who:** All Middle School girls
- **What:** The book of Daniel

Middle School Service Hour Requirements

As part of our commitment to community engagement, all Middle School students are required to complete service hours each year:

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

By now your students should have received an email inviting them to sign up to use MobileServe in order to track their service hours. **Here are directions for creating a new account** for all new students at the Middle School. For questions about logging or submitting service hours, **contact Rev. Katie Mitchell**.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 5

- *"B" Day/Special Schedule*
- ***Dress Uniform***

- *Middle School (MS) Chapel:* 9:40–10:00 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
- *Substance Abuse Prevention Presentation:* 10:50 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC); students only
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Faculty Meeting:* 7:30 a.m.; no tutorials available before school, except for previously scheduled assessments

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Wednesday, October 7

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
- *Faculty Inservice*

Monday, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday

Tuesday, October 13

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Rotation 2 Begins for Fifth-Grade Electives*

Wednesday, October 14

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 15

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, October 16

- *“A” Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus

Upper School

Next Table Talk With the Chaplain Is October 27

Comparison with other families, achievement culture, the constant worry about "falling behind"—the pressure on parents is real. Join us for our third Table Talk With the Chaplain parent gathering, “Growing Independence and Resisting the Status Quo,” on Tuesday, October 27, from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the Black Box on Couper Campus. We'll name that pressure honestly and talk about independence as a slow release, not a sudden cutoff, drawing on Hannah's story of entrusting Samuel to a life she could no longer oversee.

All parents welcome. Come as you are, coffee in hand.

Athletic Eligibility Reminder

Per conference requirements, we submit grades periodically to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). According to TAPPS regulations, students may not be failing more than one class or they are required to sit out from practices and games for a minimum of two weeks, or until they meet the grade requirement.

Our next grade check for eligibility will be based on grades from the Semester 1 Report Card.

PSAT Testing and Service Day Is October 14

Attention, Upper School students and parents: Wednesday, October 14, is a half day. Students in grades 10 and 11 will take the PSAT test; students in grades 9 and 12 will participate in a service activity. All tenth- and eleventh-grade students have successfully completed their exam setup and may continue preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT using the Bluebook application on their St. Francis laptops.

SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 14

- **All Students:** Arrive by 7:45 a.m. Students may leave after completing their obligations for the day.
- **Grades 9 and 12:** Service-activity buses will depart at 8:00 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m.
- **Grades 10 and 11:**
    - PSAT Exam Start Time: 8:00 a.m.
    - Exam End Time: 11:00 a.m. (standard testing) or 12:00 p.m. (testing with accommodations)

PSAT DAY PREPARATION FOR TENTH AND ELEVENTH GRADERS

- Restart and update your laptop the night before.
- Bring your fully charged SFE-supported laptop and charger.
- Bring an approved calculator.

If you have any questions, please **email Claudia Mejia**, Director of College Counseling.

Parent Presentation on October 5: What Our Teenagers Are Carrying

St. Francis is pleased to welcome Dr. Thomson Ivins, Licensed Professional Counselor and Director of Clinical and Community Engagement from The Council on Recovery, to campus tomorrow—Monday, October 5—to speak with our parents at 8:00 a.m. in the Black Box on Couper Campus. Student-only presentations will follow.

ABOUT DR. IVINS

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audiences ranging from major universities to leading health care institutions, Dr. Ivins is a trusted voice on substance use, wellness, and youth well-being.

This fall, he brings findings from a listening study conducted with Houston high schoolers—in their own words, exploring the pressures they face daily, the substances in their world, and what they most need from the adults who love them. In this parent session, Dr. Ivins will share what teenagers themselves say actually works—practical, concrete tools to strengthen connection, open closed doors, and know when and where to reach for help—so that every parent leaves not just with insight, but with a real playbook in hand.

Explore Local College Nights: October 5–7

Upper School students and families are encouraged to take advantage of several local, in-person college nights this week. These events offer valuable opportunities to meet directly with college representatives, learn more about admissions programs, and explore a range of postsecondary options.

- **Humble ISD College Night**
  Monday, October 5, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
  Humble Civic Center (8233 Will Clayton Pkwy., Humble, TX 77338)
- **Cypress-Fairbanks ISD College Night**
  Tuesday, October 6, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
  Berry Center (8877 Barker Cypress Rd., Cypress, TX 77433)
- **Bellaire High School College Night**
  Wednesday, October 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
  Bellaire High School (5100 Maple St., Bellaire, TX 77401)
- **Katy ISD College and Career Night**
  Wednesday, October 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
  Leonard E. Merrell Center (6301 S. Stadium Ln., Katy, TX 77494)

College Representative Visits at SFE

College representative visits are open to students in grades 10–12, who can **sign up for them through Scoir**.

- If a student has questions about registering for a visit, please **contact Jeff Hawthorne**, College Counselor.
- **View the list of currently scheduled college representative visits (as of September 24).**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 5

- *Gray Day/Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Substance Use Prevention Presentation:* 9:30–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Student College Rep Visits:* William & Mary College, University of the South, and Lehigh University; student registration required
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

- *Red Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School (US) Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, October 7

- *White Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Marist University, Butler University, Oklahoma State University, and Villanova University; student registration required
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

- *Blue Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Missouri S&T University and University of Tampa; student registration required

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Friday, October 9

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
- *Couper Campus Closed for Emergency Preparedness Exercise:* 6:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday

Tuesday, October 13

- *Gray Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, October 14

- *PSAT Testing (Grades 10 and 11)*
- *Service Day (Grades 9 and 12)*
- *Half Day:* Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
- *TAPPS Eligibility Grade Check*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 15

- *Red Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Washington University (St. Louis), Reed College, Gordon College, and Baylor University; student registration required

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Friday, October 16

- *White Day*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus
- *Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Trinity University; student registration required
- *Semester 1 Progress Reports Published*

Sunday, October 18

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
- *St. Francis Festival*

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship and Family-Focused Events

Please join us on Sunday, October 4, for one main service at 10:00 a.m. in honor of the Feast of St. Francis. The 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. services will be held as usual.

TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT ST. FRANCIS

- **8:00 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel:** Holy Eucharist Rite I
- **Infant and Toddler Care:** Babies six weeks and up can enjoy playtime, music, and Bible stories in the nursery of the Parish Hall building. Open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **9:00 a.m. in the Church**
  - *Worship:* Contemporary music/Holy Eucharist Rite II
  - *Let it Shine! Children's Bible Breakout:* All children Pre-K to middle school are invited.
- **10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall**
  - *Lighthouse: Expressions in Art*
  - *Children's Art/Crafts*
- **11:00 a.m. in the Church:** Holy Eucharist Rite II with Traditional Music and Choir
- **5:00 p.m. in St. Clare Chapel:** Holy Eucharist Rite I

Blessing of the Animals Is October 4

On Sunday, October 4, the annual Blessing of the Animals will take place at 4:00 p.m. in the School Courtyard. Bring an item to donate to the local Citizens for Animal Protection.

The Jesus Method Study Begins October 11

Beginning Sunday, October 11, Fr. David Price will lead a seven-week study of *The Jesus Method* by Ted Bryant. The book offers a reliable approach to navigating today's conversations on social issues, and its Bible studies show Jesus modeling how to engage others. It reminds us that how we say something matters as much as what we say.

The study meets Sundays, October 11–November 22, at 10:10 a.m. in the Parish Office Conference Room. For more information, **email Fr. Price**.

'Reeds and Keys' Concert Is October 17

On Saturday, October 17, our musical offerings continue as our Director of Music, Matthew, performs with his wife, Anne Pinkerton-Dion. The “Reeds and Keys” program features a seldom-heard but beautiful pairing of instruments—the oboe and organ—with sacred and secular selections spanning the time of Bach to the present day.

The concert begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Church.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Register by Sunday, November 15, for the St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) basketball season. SFSA is open to students in Primary II (age 4) through fifth grade.

- **Click here to register for the basketball season.**
- Please **email Liz Ward**, SFSA Registrar, if you have any questions or concerns.

Note About Holy Baptism

If you or your child would like to be baptized, please **contact Sally Jo Flores** in the church office for more information.

Join Mother Emily for Meditation Mondays

On the first Monday of each month throughout the school year, from 8:55 to 9:10 a.m., parents and staff members are warmly invited to St. Clare Chapel for 15 minutes of guided Christian meditation led by Mother Emily Hylden. Fill up with peace to carry you through the week.

Fall Women’s Bible Study Meets Wednesdays

You're invited to join other women for the Women’s Bible Study and Fellowship. The fall study meets on Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. It began September 2 and runs through November 18. We are studying the Old Testament books of Daniel and Esther using this study guide: *Life Lessons From Daniel & Esther: Faith Under Pressure* by Max Lucado. Order your book. For more information, **contact Allison Devlin**.

Men’s Fellowship and Study Meets Thursdays

The Thursday Men’s Fellowship and Study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. in the Church Conference Room (CH115) for breakfast and discussions. The group is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. Each week is a standalone discussion, so join us to

make new friends and reacquaint with old ones. For more information, **contact Jason Martinez**.

St. Francis Community Nights: Join Us for Wonderful Wednesdays

Need a jolt of inspiration? Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays, a midweek worship and fellowship that kicks off with Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Clare Chapel. Our clergy staff will rotate to celebrate, preach, and offer a short 30-minute program on "Exploring Worship" after dinner. Enjoy a simple meal from various local restaurant sources ($15 per person).

We want to foster the opportunity for sacrament, good news, fellowship, and learning. The emphasis is on the experience of community. If you would like to be included for dinner, please **RSVP to Chrissy Kana**.

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.

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 using the "Prayer Requests" link under "Connect" on the **St. Francis Episcopal Church home page**.

Bible Studies at St. Francis

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** 2 Corinthians
  - **Location:** La Madeleine (Except on second Tuesday of each month, when group meets in St. Francis Episcopal 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:** Teaching Discourses of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel
  - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact:** **Sally Jo Flores**
- Thursday Men's Fellowship and Study: Every Thursday at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Gospel of Matthew
  - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal Church Conference Room (CH115)
  - **Contact:** **Jason Martinez**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Wednesdays at 9:30–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** *Life Lessons From Daniel & Esther: Faith Under Pressure* by Max Lucado
  - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact:** **Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Isaiah
  - **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**. On the main menu, select "Worship," then "Watch Live" to go to the church's YouTube channel. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.