

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

AUGUST - Back to School- NEWSLETTER



It is with great pleasure that we welcome all our students and families to St. Francis of Assisi Middle School for the 2023 – 2024 school year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our returning students and all our new families who will be joining our St. Francis of Assisi Middle School community. We are so delighted to have you as part of our school! We are excited to work in a learning partnership with you and it is our hope that our students and families will experience a year of spiritual, academic, and personal growth.

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School is a very special place where staff, parents and parish work together to provide a high-quality Catholic education for our students through a framework of mutual respect and participation. We strive to foster a warm, welcoming, and inclusive culture, where all students are valued and feel they belong, while at the same time maintaining a high standard for student learning and conduct.

The staff and administration are looking forward to all the teaching and learning opportunities and possibilities that this year holds for our students. Together this will be a great year!

DIVISION FAITH THEME - *Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.*

Our Division faith theme is "Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve." We are entering the second of a three-year cycle with this theme. We will continue to be guided by these words and will focus on the word Nurture this year. May we be inspired by our encounters with Jesus Christ and nurture them as we, spread our love for him to others around us, and bear witness to the good works of others as we give glory to our Father in heaven. We are truly filled with a renewed sense of hope and love as we return to school this year. [#togetherweinspire](#)

SCHOOL TOURS - *New student registrations and their parents*

Students who have recently been accepted at St. Francis of Assisi are welcome to attend a school tour with their parent/guardian on one of the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, August 29th @ 1:00 PM or
- Wednesday, August 30th @ 10:30 AM

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

FIRST STUDENT DAY - Thursday, August 31st

You will receive an email from your child's TAG teacher on Wednesday, August 30th at 4:00 PM introducing themselves and any helpful information for their first day including which entrance to use. We ask all students to enter through these assigned grade doors. [Assigned Grade Doors LINK](#)

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT - Open House

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 6th anytime from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** for our annual Meet the Staff Open House. This is a great opportunity for students to tour their parents/guardians and introduce them to their teachers. This event is on a drop-in basis only. We will not be gathering as a group in the gym this evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

COMMUNICATION - Stay Informed & Connected

Communication is essential to our community, we make every effort to keep parents informed. Important information that needs to be sent immediately is shared with parents via email and/or text messages and telephone calls via our SwiftK12 messaging system. We make every effort to keep email communication from school administration to a minimum.

- Teachers this year will be using Schoology and teachers at times will communicate with parents via email as well. Please help us by ensuring that we have current email addresses on file.
- A Week at a Glance will be posted on social media accounts, sent to parents via K12 Swift and assigned to the school website dashboard.
 - [STF Week at a Glance Link](#)
- We also have a School Event Calendar posted on our website dashboard.
 - [School Event Calendar Link](#)
- Stay Connected (Social Media/Website)
 - Remember to follow us on   
 - Also, take time to visit our [website](#)

SCHOOL HANDBOOK- Important Information

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the philosophy, major practices, and regulations that guide the daily operations at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School. Please take time to read this helpful information. [Handbook Link](#)

- **Please be sure to review the cell phone policy with your child**

GENERAL INFORMATION - Division Calendar

School Division calendars for the 2023 - 2024 school year, please click [here](#).

SCHOOL INFORMATION - School Hours / Student Entry

- [Office Hours](#) - open 8:00 - 4:00 pm on school days
- [Bell Schedule](#) - First Bell 8:45 AM/ LUNCH 12:07 - 1:07 PM/ Dismissal Bell 3:25 PM
- [Student Entry/Exit](#)- As in previous years, we will continue the practice of having students enter and exit from their respective grade doors. We found that this practice made for safe and smooth transitions for our students in the mornings and afternoons.
 - [Grade Level Entry/Exit Doors Link](#)
 - Student Doors - Open at 8:30 a.m.

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

PARKING - Drop off and pick up

- We have limited parking in front of the school. The parking lot is primarily reserved for staff with 6 visitor spots assigned. With over 730 students in the school drop off and pick up can be a challenge. We encourage parents to drop off and pick up on the streets closest to the assigned door
 - Front loop - this is a one-way only entering from Lancaster Dr. Is intended for a drop and please pull up along the curb and safely drop off/pick up and exit onto Lindsay Ave.
 - Welcome to our Idle-Free Zone- signs are posted to encourage the reduction of unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions as a reminder for all motorists to turn off their engine when waiting or not moving.
 - Bus Zone - the school busses approach the school going east and drop off on Lancaster Drive close to the grade 8 doors, this area needs to remain clear at the start and end of the day

BUSING - Contact transportation

- Notification: school bus operators will be attending a start-up meeting on Monday, August 28 where they will receive their maps and student lists.
They will call families about their bus route prior to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30.
Until then, we ask that parents please ensure your correct contact phone number is entered on PowerSchool so that our drivers can reach you.
- Please click [here](#) to access the Division's Transportation Information,
- Payments for busing can be made online starting in October.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your calendars

- August 31- First Day of School for all students
- September 4 - Labour Day (No School)
- September 6 - Meet the Staff Open House @ 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- September 12 - Valerie Brosseau School-Wide Student Presentation
- September 18 - School Council AGM @ 7:00 PM
- September 19- St.Patrick's/Dawe Run
- September 21 - Welcome Back / Opening Mass @ STF 10:30 AM
- September 22 - Professional Development (No school for students)
- September 25- Rainout day for St. Pat's/Dawe Run
- September 28 - Legacy One Student School-Wide Presentation
- September 29- Orange Shirt Day/Indigenous Appreciation Activities
- September 30- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

We thank you for your support and are so grateful to work together with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions on how to enhance our school community.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson - Vice Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson - Vice Principal

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