

SEPTEMBER - *Welcome* - NEWSLETTER



WOW! We had a very smooth transition to our school year, it was an exciting day for students, staff and of course parents. We opened our doors and welcomed 724 students today. Thank you for all the work you did to support the transition back to school. We are looking forward to a fantastic year together and meeting you at our upcoming Meet the Staff Open House. We will be continuing to send a week at a glance this year, which you will see being sent out on Fridays starting Friday, September 1st. This is a fantastic way to get updated information about what is happening at STF.

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 an excellent 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. Our Wolves gear will be on display for sizing and order forms will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

HOT LUNCH - starting Tuesday, September 5th - Order Now!




The cafeteria staff have been working hard to get set up and ready to go for Tuesday. For menu and ordering information visit our Cafeteria [Quick link](#) on our school website.

- Please consider pre-ordering your child's lunch. When lunches are pre-ordered, your student's lunch will be ready for them when they are done recess.

COMMUNICATION - Stay Informed & Connected

Communication is important 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 posted 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](#).

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- PowerSchool - [LINK](#)
- Registrations/School Engage - [LINK](#)
- Schoology - [LINK](#)
- Rycor - school fees [LINK](#)

SCHOOL INFORMATION - School Hours / Student Entry

- Office Hours - open 8:00 - 4:00 pm on school days
- Bell Schedule -
 - First block starts @ 8:50 AM
 - Lunch 12:07 - 1:07 PM
 - Last block ends @ 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.

PARKING - Drop off and pick up

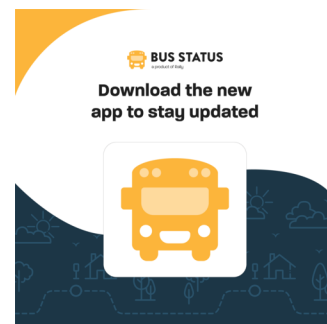
- We have limited parking in front of the school. The parking lot is primarily reserved for staff with 2 visitor spots assigned. With over 700 students in the school drop off and pick up can be a challenge. We encourage parents to drop off and pick up on the streets closest to the assigned door
 - Front loop - this is a one-way only entering from Lancaster Drive Is intended for a drop and go please pull up along the curb and safely drop off/pick up and exit onto Lindsay Avenue.

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

- Welcome to our Idle-Free Zone- signs are posted to encourage the reduction of unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions is 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 - Bus Status Gets a New App

- Please click [here](#) to access the Division's Transportation Information or call 403-309-8801,
- Payments for busing can be made online starting in October.
- Bus Status has a new App, just in time for the new school year! Ensure you download the new App from the App Store or Google Play Store and select your preferences before September 29 to continue to receive notifications.
- The new App has improved speed and reliability. It will look and function the same as the current Bus Status app.
- The Bus Status app currently installed on your phone will not update automatically to the new version of the app. You must go to the App Store or Google Play to download the new app to receive notifications after September 29.
- Don't know how to download the app? Step-by-step instructions can be found [here](#)!



SCHOOLGY - Teacher Reporting and Communication

- Schoology will continue to be the primary platform used for communication and sharing of information. You will use the same information to log in that you established last year if you were in attendance at STF or were in attendance at an RDCRS elementary school for 2022/23 (i.e. Holy Family, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Martin de Porres, etc.)
- For students that are new to STF and RDCRS please know that TAG teachers will be sending a unique (specific to your child only) QR code home in the coming days providing you the information to sign up for Schoology.

POWERSCHOOL - Student updates

- All parents are required to have a PowerSchool account. This program allows parents to access information about attendance, and school fees and update student information in the fall & spring.
- Student Update Forms will be accessible in PowerSchool in the coming weeks.
 - Once your Student Update Form is available in PowerSchool (you will receive an email notification) forms are **DUE SEPTEMBER 30th**.
 - Please log in to your account to update your records. Even if you have NO CHANGES a form must be submitted.
- School Staff will assist new families with creating PowerSchool accounts early in the school year. Remember to save your username and password.
- Don't hesitate to contact the school if you have difficulty accessing the parent portal.
- The PowerSchool site is accessed at: <https://powerschool.rdcrcs.ca/public/home.html>

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

MUSICAL PRODUCTION - 2023-2024

- We are excited to share that our musical production this year will be the Disney Frozen Jr., we will all be singing *Let it Go* around the school
- All students who are interested in becoming involved will be invited to attend an important meeting on Tuesday, September 5th at lunchtime



SCHOOL COUNCIL - All are welcome

- A huge thank you goes out to all our parents who actively support the School Council. Our School Council is a great way to be informed about what is happening in the school, give your input, ask questions, and help make the school a better place.
- Please consider joining this year, all are welcome to attend. Our Annual General Meeting will be on September 18th @ 7:00 PM, Our Executive Positions are filled but we love to have parents join and become part of this amazing community.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your calendars

- September 4 - Labour Day (No School)
- September 6 - Meet the Staff Open House @ 6:30 - 8:00 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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