



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

Principals' Report

Monday, September 22, 2025

Be Joyful----Be Loving----Be Humble----Be Forgiving

KUDOS

We've had an amazing start to the school year at St. Francis, and the collaboration between home and school has been incredible. Everyone is working hard to ensure a successful beginning and an exciting year ahead.

- A huge thank you to all of our parents for supporting a smooth transition for their child(ren) and for attending our **Meet the Staff** event on Thursday, September 4th. We were thrilled with the turnout!
- We also want to express our gratitude to our parent volunteers who helped with the **Wolves Gear** table during the evening. Your efforts made the event even more special.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS

School Focus for the 2025-26 school year:

Faith Priority: *This year, we're excited to launch our new three-year division faith theme, which will help us continue nurturing faith in both staff and students.*

- Anchored in Faith: Guided by Grace, Uplifted by Hope, Transformed by Love.
- In our first year, we will focus on Guided by Grace and bringing faith to life by showing #GraceInAction in our everyday connections.
- Our goal is to continue nurturing and fostering faith with both staff and students through intentional practices, celebrations, and lived experiences.

By focusing on living out #GraceInAction in our daily connections, we hope to make faith tangible and meaningful for our students, while continuing to grow a culture where grace, hope, and love are lived out in everyday moments.

Student Learning Priority: *Over the past two years, we've been working hard on student engagement, and this year we're excited to take the next step by exploring classroom adaptations to meet the needs of all learners."*

Goal: Create classroom environments where all students:

- Actively participate
- Engage cognitively in their learning
- Experience voice and choice in the process

Student Engagement Teams (SET):

- Collaborative groups: Safe and Caring, Numeracy, Literacy, CTF, Indigenous, and Faith
- Every staff member belongs to one team to help shape opportunities for all learners

Progress so far (past 2 years):

- Focused on instructional and assessment practices to deepen engagement
Strategies include:
 - Questioning techniques to increase discussion and participation
 - Checks for understanding to ensure all students are engaged

This year's focus:

- Build on that foundation by exploring classroom **adaptations** to meet diverse student needs
Continue to empower student **voice and choice** in learning

Highlights for 2025-26:

- Offering **30 different CTF courses (Grades 6-9)**
- New courses include: *3D Art, Agri-Futures, Hockey Extension Program*, and more
- Reflects commitment to meaningful, relevant, and diverse learning experiences

With these strategies and opportunities, we're confident that we are creating learning environments where all students can thrive, and through our wide range of CTF courses, we are ensuring that every student can find meaningful ways to connect with their learning

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September Learning Focus:

- STUDENT SUPPORT MODEL PLANNING: Know, Understand and Respond to Your Learner
 - Summit Service Dogs: introduction, information
 - Individual Support Plans (ISP): elements of a strength-based ISP & process
- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT TEAMS: developing goals and strategies to align with our overarching school goals
- DATA: Schoology and individual student planning

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2025-2026 Student Population Projection

- 635 students, Grade 6 to Grade 9 (20 fewer students than 24-25)

Grade 6 (6 classes)	Grade 7 (5 classes)	Grade 8 (5 classes)	Grade 9 (6 classes)
155	148	146	186

- Current average class sizes and ranges
 - The range is 25-32 students per class across the school
 - Grade 6 is 25.8 (compared to 24-25 @29)
 - Grades 7 to 9 are 30 (same as last year)

Staffing

- **45 staff members** in total for this school year:
 - Classroom Teacher: 25.322 FTE
 - Inclusive Lead Teacher: 1.0 FTE
 - Teacher Counsellor: 1.2 FTE
 - Faith Coach: 0.2 FTE
 - Educational Assistants: 8.0 FTE
 - Librarian: 1.25 FTE
 - Cafeteria: 2.0 FTE
 - Office Admin Assistants: 2.5 FTE
 - School Administration: 2.0 FTE
- Please join us in welcoming **new** staff members
 - Mrs. Archan Brown (EA)
 - Mrs. Annika Enslin (EA)
 - Mrs. Susan Haggas (Teacher covering Mrs. Leslie)
 - Mr. Jean Christophe Hamony (EA)
 - Miss Nicole Hobbs (EA)
 - Mrs. Mariia Khimych (Teacher)
 - Mrs. Hayley Lesle (Teacher-transfer from SGTG)
 - Mr. Ken Meraw (Teacher & Vice-Principal)
 - Mrs. Sarah Otten (EA)
 - Mr. Joel Peterman (Teacher & Vice-Principal)

Faith

School Wide Opening Mass - led by Mrs. Cote and Mrs. Haggas and 6-5 / 6-6 TAG classes; welcomed our new St. Mary's Parish Priest, Father Robert Lee

Extracurriculars

- Dungeons and Dragons
- Choir
- Cross- Country Running Team
- Volleyball - 6 teams (2 Sr. and 4 Jr.)
- Sports Development @ lunch Mon-Thurs (gr.6-8)

Upcoming

- Picture Day (09/26)
- Orange Shirt Day & National Truth and Reconciliation Day (09/29)
- National Educational Assistant Day (09/26)
- Spirit Day: Twin & Triplet Day (10/02)
- National Custodian Worker's Day (10/02)
- St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day (10/03)
- World Teachers' Day (10/05)
- Thanksgiving Liturgy led by 8-5 (10/07)
- Jeans and Jerseys Day (10/08)
- Thanksgiving Day (10/13)
- Halloween Dance (TBD)

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ADVISORY QUESTION

We know that parent involvement has a big impact on student success and helps build a strong school community. At St. Francis, we have several ways for parents to stay connected and involved, including weekly classroom and school updates, our newsletter, social media, and volunteer opportunities for events and staff appreciation. We want to make sure these opportunities are meaningful and fit the interests and availability of our families.

With that in mind, what are the most meaningful ways you'd like to engage this year to support our students, staff, and school events?

- What types of volunteer activities feel most meaningful or manageable for you?
- Are there ways we could improve communication about opportunities to get involved?
- How might we create new experiences for parents to engage with students and staff?
- Are there specific skills, passions, or interests you would like to share with the school community?

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Ask your child specific questions at the end of the day that are framed in a positive manner that promotes a growth mindset. For example:

- ☐ What was your favourite part of the day today?
- ☐ What did you do during recess?
- ☐ What made your teacher smile today? What made him/her frown?
- ☐ Who is the friendliest person in your class?
- ☐ What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- ☐ Tell me about something kind you did for someone today. Did someone do something nice for you?
- ☐ Who is someone at school who could use a friend?
- ☐ Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- ☐ What are you looking forward to tomorrow at school?

Thank you to all families for:

- Communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to teachers - in emails, on the phone and in face-to-face communications
- Supporting your child with their learning goals
- Meeting your commitments with transportation & school fees, and staying in touch with the office if you need extra time or consideration
- Supporting your child's social-emotional growth: learning the value of good manners, appreciating differences, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will be continuing with our Wolf Weekly week at a glance, which is posted on our website and emailed to parents. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the classroom teacher or school administration. Teachers welcome parents to contact them directly by calling the school or sending them a message. Please note that if they are teaching, on supervision or unable to take your call, we ask that you leave a message and they will get back to you by the next work day. In our commitment to honour family time, we will work hard not to send messages between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM unless there is an emergency.



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