



Welcome St. Francis families!

We are very excited to begin the 2025–2026 school year together. This fall, we are blessed to welcome over 700 students into our school community, including many new families. For those who may be new or feeling a little nervous, we invite you to join us for our **Open House on Wednesday, August 27th from 5:00–6:00 pm** to get some SF information, tour the school, and see what makes St. Francis such a special place.

This year, we are thrilled to welcome several new staff members to our team:

- **Zachary Baker** – Grade 9 Math/Science, Math 7, PE
- **Tahlia Bloor** – ELA 7 & 8, Religion, Health, Options
- **Eliza Easthope** – ELA 7 & 8, Social 7 & 9, Health 7
- **Harmony Lloyd** – Science 9, ELA 9, Foods
- **Rebecca Maier** – Grade 8 Math, Science 7 & 8, Social 7, ELA 8, Religion
- **Sarah Mucha** – Math 8, Health, Religion, Options
- **Landon Veluw** – Math 7, Science 7, Health, Options
- **Ken Fox** – FNMI Family Facilitator

We are excited to have Ken join us as our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Family Facilitator, bringing a wealth of knowledge in Blackfoot language and culture to our community.

This year also marks the beginning of our new **Holy Spirit Faith Plan: *Open Wide the Doors – Sent to Share Christ's Love***. As Scripture reminds us, “*Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation*” (Mark 16:15). Together, we will focus on sharing God’s love in our school, parish, and greater community.

We are also excited to share a number of program highlights:

- **Fine Arts** – Our talented students will be performing the musical *Cinderella* this year. In addition, our **Visual Arts, Band, Choir, and Guitar programs** continue to thrive, offering creative opportunities for students to explore and share their gifts.
- **French Immersion** – Our program continues to grow, with increasing enrollment and a strong tradition of excellence.

- **STEM & Trades** – Our STEM program is expanding with new technology, including a laser system, and increased cross-curricular opportunities in trades such as construction, agriculture, culinary arts, and metalwork.
- **Sport Academies** – We are proud to welcome the U15AAA Golden Hawks team and expand our partnership with Lethbridge Minor Hockey with the addition of this new daytime hockey program to St. Francis. This will work alongside our strong and growing academies of Dance, Hockey, Soccer, Baseball, and Elite Athlete.
- **Athletics & Wellness:**
With Daily PE for all students, we know the importance of movement in enhancing learning, wellness, and focus. We are also excited to continue our **E-Sports** program as a class and team after school hours, building teamwork, strategy, and digital skills in a competitive and collaborative environment. In addition, St. Francis will continue to offer a full range of school sports and proudly participate in the LSAA league, giving students the opportunity to develop their skills, teamwork, and school spirit.

This year we are also implementing a new **student phone/device policy**. Students will not be permitted to use smartphones, smartwatches, or AirPods during the school day (8:00 am–3:00 pm). If you need to reach your child, please call the school office or email **sfoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca** and we will gladly assist.

St. Francis continues to be a busy, vibrant school full of innovative programs and opportunities for all learners. We are grateful for the partnership we share with our families and parish community as we work together to support student learning and growth.

Please know that our doors are always open. We encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns, and we look forward to a year filled with faith, learning, and community.

Jackie Kraemer

Principal, St. Francis Junior High

Please review the important information below...

- **First Day back for all students is Tuesday, September 2, 2025...**

We will welcome our Grade 7 students in the morning, and our Grade 8/9

students in the afternoon. ❖ Grade 7s will come between 8:00am – 11:35am

❖ Grade 8/9s will come between 12:15pm – 3:00pm

- This year's full-year (2025-2026) school calendar can be found here:

<https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/calendar>.

- Important Dates: <https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/important-dates-2025-2026>

- For athletic events, please visit the [SF Athletic Calendar](#)

- St. Francis bell times for the 2025-2026 school year which can be found here: <https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/bell-times->

- St. Francis uses PowerSchool as its student information system. Students will be able to access their timetables for the 2025-2026 school year (go to "Dashboard" and use the "Class Overview" to select full year or by quarter) through PowerSchool.

- Parents/ guardians who have NOT completed the re-registration form through SchoolEngage, this process MUST be completed before your child(ren) is provided with a timetable. Please go here to complete your child's re-registration form <https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/registration>

- **Picture Day:** School pictures will be on September 19, 2025

- **Transportation Info:** To access information about Transportation for students within Holy Spirit Catholic School Division please visit the link below:

<https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/transportation>
- **School supplies:** <https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/supply-list-BYOD>
- **CELL PHONE POLICY:** St. Francis has implemented a new **PHONE-FREE POLICY**, and students are NOT permitted to use their devices at any time during school day. Devices (mobile phones, smartwatches and wireless earbuds) must be stored in their lockers from 8:00am - 3:00pm, and they are not allowed to access them at any point during the day. Devices must be kept out of the classroom, & use is not permitted at any time during the school day. If any device is seen or heard in class, students will be required to take their items to the office, including devices tucked in clothing, bags, or binders. Devices taken to the office will be stored securely in lock boxes and returned to students at the end of the day for the first and second offenses. On the third offense, a parent or guardian will be contacted to collect the device from the school.

Parents and guardians should contact their children during the designated times and may always reach out to the office directly as needed. Staff members are encouraged to use their professional judgment in applying this policy. If a teacher deems it necessary for students to use devices during class time for a learning activity, this is permitted, but the usage will be closely monitored. This policy aligns with provincial guidelines and offers us an opportunity to consistently enforce it across our school.

Yearbook:

- The 2024/2025 Yearbooks should be available for pick up mid-September

Canteen

The canteen offers regular menu items including hamburgers, chicken burgers & wraps, pizza subs, hot dogs, nachos, muffins, cookies, chips and various beverages. There are also exciting daily specials such as cheezy garlic fingers on Monday, mini pizza on Tuesday, etc. The daily special menus are posted on the daily announcements. Payment can be by cash, debit tap, or through buying prepaid canteen cards on [School Cash Online](#). Canteen cards can be purchased in increments of \$20.00. Your student can then purchase items at the canteen by just telling the canteen staff their name and that they have canteen funds. The staff will keep track of your student's spending and will let them know when funds are getting low.

CANTEEN news

Canteen Specials

To Be Announced: Please check our **Daily Announcements** For Details.

Regular canteen menu items can be purchased starting the week of Sept 8th

Upcoming Weekly Specials

To Be Announced:
Please check our Daily
Announcements For Details.



Wildcat Athletics News

All practices and games are on the [St. Francis Athletic Calendar](#) (clickable link).
Refer to it often for up to date changes.



Volleyball Tryouts: SR Girls & Boys (Grade 9s) Sept 2 & 3
JR Girls & Boys (Grade 8s) Sept 4 & 8
DV Girls & Boys (Grade 7s) Sept 10 & 11

Cross Country Practices: Beginning Sept 8th

School Fees

School Cash Online

Holy Spirit School Division uses [School Cash Online](#) for the payment of all school items such as fees, canteen cards, club/athletic fees and spirit wear.

Additional fees for upcoming option classes and co-curricular activities will be added as they are applicable.

If you have already registered for School Cash Online at another school in the Holy Spirit School Division, you will see the 2025-2026 St. Francis school fees in September.

If you are new to Holy Spirit, you will need your student's ASN to register which can be found in PowerSchool. If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque you can always do so by coming into the office. (Credit and debit cards are no longer accepted.)



St. Francis Junior High uses [PowerSchool](#) as its student information system. It provides parent and student portals which gives users access to real-time information including attendance, grades and assignment descriptions and report cards. Be sure to log in to your Parent PowerSchool portal often to monitor your student's academic progress. **Use District Code: RHZW**
If you are unsure of how to access PowerSchool please contact the school at 403-327-3402.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHECK OUT THE [SF SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| Sept 2 | - First Day of Classes | Semester 1/Quarter 1 Starts |
| Sept 19 | - Lifetouch Picture Day | |
| Sept 29 | - PD Day (No School For Students) | |
| Sept 30 | - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School) | |

Registration & Transportation Information

Please complete your registration forms for the 2025/2026 school year. Transportation forms were sent out early May 2025. More information can be accessed through the school website & registration can be done through School Engage.

For more information please contact the school office, 403-327-3402

Please inform the office of any address changes as soon as possible!

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION



TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

2025/2026



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division partners with Southland Transportation Ltd. and Lethbridge School Division to provide school bus transportation services for students travelling to our Lethbridge schools.

We are currently working to implement the recent changes announced by the Government of Alberta regarding eligibility, distances, and funding for September 2, 2025. For the 2025/2026 school year, the school division will not be charging transportation fees for government-funded eligible riders.

To assist with planning and ensure sufficient space on busses, riders will be **REQUIRED TO REGISTER** in order to access transportation services for the 2025/2026 school year. If registration is not received prior to the end of the school year, there may not be space available.

ELIGIBILITY & FEES

Eligible - No Fee Required

The following eligible riders may access transportation for no fee:

- Kindergarten to Grade 6 students within the school division's boundaries who reside 1.6 km or more from their designated school.
- Grade 7-12 students within the school division's boundaries who reside 2 km or more from their designated school.
- Students accessing a Fine Arts Program of choice under the following circumstances:
 - K-6 students living inside the boundary of The Children of St. Martha School or Father Leonard Van Tighem School who require transportation to St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School.
 - Grade 7-9 students living in the Father Leonard Van Tighem School attendance zone, who attended Grade 6 at St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School in the prior school year, and wishes to continue with a Fine Arts Program of Choice by attending St. Francis Junior High School.

Eligible - Fee Required

Students are eligible to ride the bus for a fee under the following conditions:

- They are a Kindergarten to Grade 6 student attending Father Leonard Van Tighem School who require after-school child care at Children of St. Martha School, providing space is available on existing routes.

Fees for the 2025/2026 school year:

- \$25.00/month/student to a maximum of \$75.00/month/family.
- The school will assign fees to your School Cash Online Account once registration is complete

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION NOTES:

- *Transportation services are provided to school at the beginning of the school day and from school at the end of the day to the student's primary residence. Students are not permitted to ride the bus to a friend's or relative's house, daycare, parent's workplace, etc...*
- *The Transportation Coordinator utilizes Government approved software to calculate the distance that a student lives from their designated school. This official distance informs both eligibility and funding.*

St. Francis 2025 - Volleyball Tournaments



Grade 7 - Developmental	Grade 8 - Jr Team	Grade 9 - Senior Team
Prairie Winds- Sept 26/27	FLVT Sept 19th & 20th	Pre-Season : 13th - Winston Churchill
GPMS - Oct 17th - Boys - Oct 18th - Girls	SJFMS - Oct 17/18	Chinook - Sept 26/27th
	GS Lakie October - 24/25th	Prairie Winds Secondary - October 17/18th
		FLVT - Oct 24/25th
		Zones - Nov 12th/13th

2025-2026 INDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION LYS LEAGUE

www.lethbridgesoccer.com // 403-320-5425 (KICK)



ONLINE ONLY:

August 1 - September 8, 2025

INDOOR SOCCER SEASON STARTS: October 2025 - March 2026 ALL SESSIONS HELD AT THE SERVUS SPORTS CENTRE **INDOOR LEAGUE IS BASED ON TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS FOR THE SEASON**

Register your player in their BIRTH YEAR (all age groups are from birth dates January 1 - December 31 of specified year)

Players will remain playing in their age groups no movement up or down an age group

Player Request Fee \$40.00 - 2 PLAYERS ONLY!

If there are not enough registrants per gender in U12 age group - Will be combined CoEd

Age Group	Birthyear	Fee	# of games	Days Playing	**ESTIMATED START TIMES**
U5 CoEd	2021	\$275.00	17 (40 min. sessions)	Monday	5:00pm
U6 CoEd	2020	\$275.00	17 (40 min. sessions)	Wednesday	5:00pm
U8 Boys	2018 & 2019	\$275.00	17 (40 min. sessions)	Mondays and Saturdays	Mon 5:00pm and Sat 9:00am
U8 Girls	2018 & 2019	\$275.00	17 (40 min. sessions)	Mondays and Saturdays	Mon 5:00pm and Sat 9:00am
U10 Boys	2016 & 2017	\$325.00	21 (55 min. sessions)	Mondays and Saturdays	Mon 6:00pm* - Sat 12:00pm*
U10 Girls	2016 & 2017	\$325.00	21 (55 min. sessions)	Mondays and Saturdays	Mon 6:00pm* - Sat 12:00pm*
U12 Boys	2014 & 2015	\$400.00	27 (55 min. sessions)	Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays	Wed 6:00pm* - Fri 5:30pm* - Sat 3:00pm*
U12 Girls	2014 & 2015	\$400.00	27 (55 min. sessions)	Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays	Wed 6:00pm* - Fri 5:30pm* - Sat 3:00pm*
U14 CoEd	2012 & 2013	\$400.00	27 (55 min. sessions)	Wednesdays and Saturdays	Wed 6:00pm* - Sat 5:00pm*
U16 CoEd	2010 & 2011	\$400.00	27 (55 min. sessions)	Mondays and Saturdays	Evenings
U18 CoEd	2008 & 2009	\$400.00	27 (55 min. sessions)	Mondays and Saturdays	Evenings

****Start times are subject to change due to registration numbers and are provided as a guideline only****

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

U5 & U6, Timbits Jersey, shorts & socks will be provided for each player to keep.
U8 - U18, Full Kit Jersey, Shorts & Socks will be provided for each player to keep.

Soccer Shoes or Soccer Cleats are acceptable, Shin Guards are MANDATORY - Not included in player fees

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:



U5 & U6 TIMBITS: This is our introductory level, where all sessions are run by our CSA Certified Coaches who will help your child build a love for the ball.

U8 - U12 FUNDAMENTAL: At this stage, individual player development is paramount. Developing soccer creativity skills in a fun environment.

U14 & U16 LEARN TO TRAIN: Golden Age of Learning, that learnt technical skills are introduced to the beginning of the tactical environment.

U18 LEARN THE GAME Combining previously developed technical and tactical skills, into a more mature game setting.



2025 *LCBC IGNITE!*

Lethbridge Cougars Basketball Club FALL PROGRAM SIGNUP

- IF YOU ARE IN GRADE 4-7, ENROLLED AT A HOLY SPIRIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF *"LCBC Ignite!"*
- *LCBC'S FALL DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM*
- **Program Includes:** Skill Development & Exhibition Games
- **LOCATION:** **Ecole St. Mary's: 422-20th Street South**

Grade 4-5 CO-ED (6 sessions) WEEKLY ON MONDAYS scheduled at 5:00-6:15 OR 6:15-7:30 (will change week to week)	PROGRAM RUNS: September 8-October 27, 2025 (not including September 29 & October 13)
Grade 6-7 BOYS (6 sessions) WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS scheduled at 5:30-6:45 OR 6:45-8:00 (will change week to week)	PROGRAM RUNS: September 9-October 28, 2025 (not including September 30 & October 14)
Grade 6-7 GIRLS (7 sessions) WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS scheduled at 6:30-8:00pm	PROGRAM RUNS: September 10-October 29, 2025 (not including October 15)

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR *"LCBC Ignite!"* PROGRAM:

- PLEASE ARRIVE **5 MINUTES** EARLY
- BRING PROPER COURT SHOES, SHORTS, & WATER BOTTLE.
- *"LCBC Ignite!"* T-shirt (included in \$100 program fee)
- EVERYONE IN GRADE 4 -7 FROM HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOLS ARE WELCOME
- **ONLY 40 SPOTS/PROGRAM AVAILABLE ! REGISTER FAST**→ lethbridgecougars.ca or Scan Qr Code. Deadline to Register: Friday, September 5th or until spots are filled
- CONTACT lethhbridgecougarsbasketball@gmail.com for more information
- **TeamLinkt App will be used for schedule.**





NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools



FIND YOUR **GROOVE** AT THE LIBRARY

Sign up for a free library card (or renew your existing one) during the month of September and you might just score a funky sweatshirt or nifty tote bag



lethlib.ca/join



LETHBRIDGE BOOK & MAGAZINE FESTIVAL

15TH ANNIVERSARY

September 20, 2025 | 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lethbridge Public Library - Main Branch

Featuring Authors

Linda Bailey | Crave Bakery | Maggie Helwig
Ryan North | Jessica Waite | Kevin Van Tighem |
and more!

Live Music | Food Trucks | Workshops | Author Signings | Marketplace

Celebrating Reading. Advocating Literacy.

For full events details visit thewordonthestreet.ca/lethbridge



Lethbridge
Public Library

CONNECTING
YOU

