



Year End Update - June 2024

Dear St. Francis Community,

As we reach the end of another full and busy school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our achievements, express my thanks, and share some of my excitement to look forward to the future.

Reflecting on Our Accomplishments

I want to celebrate all of our athletic teams, including cross country, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track and field. Our athletes have shown great dedication and sportsmanship throughout the year.

Our Fine Arts and Performing Arts departments have been outstanding, with various concerts, dance performances, and visual arts displays. The Aladdin musical was another amazing way to bring our community together and showcase our collective gifts and talents.

Additionally, our Gauss math club was a great success this year, with one of our students earning a distinction award for scoring in the top 25% in the world.

Our students have continued to excel academically, demonstrating their dedication to learning and their thirst for knowledge. Despite any challenges, they have remained focused, engaged, and determined. Our teachers have gone above and beyond to provide innovative and interactive learning experiences, ensuring that our students receive the best education possible.

We would like to congratulate our Grade 9 classes for an especially productive and successful year as leaders. We have appreciated your willingness to serve and for the contributions that you have made to the school throughout your time at St. Francis. We pray that you have a wonderful high school experience, guided by your faith.

For our Grade 7 and 8 students, we would like to thank you for the contributions you have made to the school throughout the school year and congratulate you on a productive and successful school year. We are blessed that you have chosen St. Francis for your junior high school experience and look forward to serving you next school year.

To the families that will be leaving us, thank you for entrusting St. Francis to teach your children. We hope that we have enriched their lives just as much as they have impacted ours over the course of their time with us. For those who are continuing on with us, we look forward to your continued leadership. To all of our new students and parents that will be joining us in the fall, St. Francis welcomes you and can't wait for you to become a part of Our Sacred Home.

Looking Forward

We are excited to continue making progress on our basement Academy Training facility and our academy registrations. 2024-2025 class lists are almost ready and will be shared on the first day of school. We will welcome our Grade 7 students in the morning and our Grade 8/9 students in the afternoon on September 3rd. Students will receive their schedules on the first day of school, and supply lists will also be posted to our website. We encourage you to purchase a Chromebook for your child if possible.

A Restful Summer

As we conclude this school year, I hope everyone can take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the summer break. Reflect on the accomplishments and growth of the past year, and return refreshed and ready for the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Jackie Kraemer
Principal, of *Naatowapoomahpis*, 'Our Sacred Home'

This “Back to School” information is subject to change over the summer.
Be sure to watch the SFJH website and look for newsletters in your email (later in August) for updated information about Back to School.



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.

Current St. Francis students:
2023-2024 reports will be available from Friday June 28, on PowerSchool.

Office Hours

St. Francis school office will be closed for the summer on July 4. If you require assistance over the summer, please contact the Holy Spirit office at 403-327-9555. The St. Francis office will reopen on August 21.



First day back for students

First day back for students is September 3, 2024:

- Grade 7 only: Tuesday, September 3 - morning
- Grade 8 & 9 only: Tuesday, September 3 - afternoon

First full day for **all** students: Wednesday, September 4 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

School Supply List

St. Francis encourages families to consider the purchase of an acceptable electronic device such as a chromebook for their student(s) for the 2024-2025 school year. Detailed information on acceptable devices as well as the school supply list is attached later in the Newsletter.

Bell Times

Bell times will be changing slightly for the 2023-2024 school year

- Monday -Thursday: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm; lunch 11:35 am - 12:15 pm.
- Friday: 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

The full bell schedule is later in the Newsletter.

Options - Developmental and Investigative

All students had the opportunity to complete a Developmental Options pick sheet and return them to the office in June. Students will select their Investigative Options in the first week of school in September.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker and a lock. Students must use the lock provided by the school.



Transportation

Transportation Registration forms for 2024-2025 have been emailed to eligible families. These forms must be completed by June 28, 2024 to ensure transportation for September for your student. There will be no charge for transportation for 2024-2025 but **you must register your student before June 28**. If you did not receive an emailed form and feel your student is eligible for bussing or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs McPherson in the office at 403-327-3402. Maps/schedules will be posted on the Southland website mid to late August. Parents are to check the maps for their school and find the one that is in their neighborhood and to go to the closest stop from their house. These maps can also be found on the Division website - it links over to the Southland site. The school division Transportation Update is attached later in the Newsletter.



St. Francis Website

Check out the St. Francis website sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca for lots of useful information:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ current news items | ❖ upcoming events calendar | ❖ bell times |
| ❖ teacher contact information | ❖ school fees information | ❖ daily announcements |
| ❖ academic information | ❖ athletic calendar | ❖ student handbook |

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 in the announcements each day.

Payment can be by cash, debit tap or, the easiest method is to buy prepaid canteen cards through [School Cash Online](#). Canteen cards can be purchased in increments of \$20.50. Your student can then purchase items at the canteen by just telling the canteen staff their name and that they have money on their card. The canteen staff will keep track of your student's spending and will let them know when funds are getting low.

School Fees

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

SchoolCashOnline
KEV GROUP

If you have already registered for School Cash Online at another school in the Holy Spirit School Division, you will see the 2024-2025 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.)

Wildcat Athletics News

The co-curricular athletic year at St. Francis will start with cross country and volleyball and continue with basketball (November), badminton (March) and track & field (May). Practice and game times will be posted on the St. Francis athletic calendar on the website. Be sure check it often for up to date times and last minute changes!



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Volleyball tryouts will begin as soon as school starts in September! Watch the newsletter coming out in late August for the tryouts and first practice times for volleyball and cross country!!

HOLY SPIRIT EL/JH LETHBRIDGE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 26 First day for staff
Aug 28 Opening Mass

O – 5
I – 0

AUGUST '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sept 2 Labour Day
Sept 3 First day for students
Sept 25 Div. Board Meeting
Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

O – 19 (24)
I – 19

Oct 14 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 15 School PD Day
Oct 23 Div. Board Meeting

O – 22 (46)
I – 21 (40)

OCTOBER '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER '24

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nov 8 Wellness Day
Nov 11 Remembrance Day
Nov 12 Div. Collab. Day
Nov 27 Div. Board Meeting

O – 19 (65)
I – 18 (58)

Dec 18 Div. Board Meeting
Dec 20 Last day before break
Dec 21-31 Christmas break
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Boxing Day

O – 15 (80)
I – 15 (73)

DECEMBER '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 1-5 Christmas break
Jan 6 First day after break
Jan 22 Div. Board Meeting
Jan 28 Semester 2 begins
Jan 31 School PD Day

O – 20 (100)
I – 19 (92)

Feb 17 Family Day
Feb 18 & 19 Unassigned time for teachers
Feb 20 & 21 SWATCA
Feb 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 19 (119)
I – 15 (107)

FEBRUARY '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Mar 17 Div. Collab. Day
Mar 18 Spiritual Dev. Day
Mar 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (140)
I – 19 (126)

Apr 17 Last day before Easter break
Apr 18 Good Friday
Apr 18-27 Easter break
Apr 21 Easter Monday
Apr 28 First day after break
Apr 30 Div. Board Meeting

O – 16 (156)
I – 16 (142)

APRIL '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 19 Victoria Day
May 20 School PD Day
May 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (177)
I – 20 (162)

Jun 25 Div. Board Meeting
Jun 25 Last day students
Jun 26 School PD Day
Jun 26 Last day for teachers

O – 19 (196)
I – 18 (180)

JUNE '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

No students
Stat Holidays
School PD/Div. PD/Spiritual Dev./Collab. Days
Div. Board Meetings
First and last days for students
First and last days for teachers

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024-2025

(Some of these dates may be subject to change)

September 2: Labour Day - No School
September 3: Grade 7, am; Grade 8 & 9, pm
September 4: First full day for all students
September 13: Teamwork Triathlon
September 20: School Photos
September 24: Welcome Back Meet & Treat Evening - 6:00 pm
September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 3: School Opening Mass - 8:30 am
October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
October 15: School PD Day - No school for students
October 17: Annual Academic Awards Night - 7:00 pm
November 8: Division Wellness Day - No School
November 11: Remembrance Day Holiday - No School
November 12: Division Collaborative Day - No school for students
October 29th: Parent/Teacher Interviews
December 10: Advent Mass - 8:30 am
December 23 - January 3: Christmas Break
January 27 - January 30: Exam Week: Gr 9 - PAT Finals; Gr 7 & 8 - Midterms
January 28: Semester Two begins
January 31: School PD Day - No school for students
March 5th: Ash Wednesday Mass - 1:00 pm
February 17: Family Day Holiday
February 18 & 19: School closed
February 20 & 21: Teachers' Convention - No school
March 10: Showcase - 6:00 pm
March 17: Division Collaborative Day - No school for students
March 18: Spiritual Development Day - No school for students
March 25: Parent/Teacher Interviews
April 18 - April 25: Easter Break
May 7: Marian Mass -8:30 am
May 19: Victoria Day Holiday
May 20: School PD Day - No school for students
June 5: Grade 9 Farewell - 6:00 pm
June 17: Year End Mass - 8:30 am
June 16 - 26: Exam Week: Gr 9 - PAT Finals; Gr 7 & 8 Finals
June 21: National Indigenous People's Day (Saturday)
June 25: Last day for students



MONDAY TO

THURSDAY

Period	Time
Warning Bell	7:58
HR	8:00 to 8:10
1	8:13 to 8:51
2	8:54 to 9:32
3	9:35 to 10:13
4	10:16 to 10:54
5	10:57 to 11:35
Lunch	11:35 to 12:15
Warning Bell	12:15
6	12:18 to 12:56
7	12:59 to 1:37

8	1:40 to 2:18
9	2:21 to 3:00



ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH

FRIDAY

Period	Time
Warning Bell	8:00
HR	8:02 to 8:12
1	8:15 to 8:55
2	8:58 to 9:38
3	9:41 to 10:21
4	10:24 to 11:04
5	11:07 to 11:47
6	11:50 to 12:30

Quarter Breaks

Start	End	Marks Due
September 3	November 7	November 15
November 13	January 28	February 3
January 29	April 17	April 28
April 28	June 25	June 26



chromebook

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE INITIATIVE

Acceptable Devices

Although many students have smartphones; they do not meet the requirements as an accepted learning device. We also recognize that not all parents can or want to send their child to school with a device. Teachers will continue to plan assuming that not every student will bring a personally owned accepted device to school but we are moving toward having less of an ecological footprint. Some school owned devices will be available for students to use while at school on a limited basis.

Device Criteria

You may want to provide a different device rather than a Chromebook. Other acceptable devices include:

- Tablet with 9.7" screen (minimum).
- Laptop with Apple OS or Windows OS

As long as it meets the screen requirement, has good battery life and the ability to run Google Suite for education.

Bring your own device.



Education today requires students to be ready to thrive in a complex, global high-tech society. Students bringing their own devices in Alberta have shown growth in several areas, including; technology literacy, independent learning, increased collaboration and engagement in more profound understanding. With students having their own devices, students will have more opportunities to participate in critical thinking activities, communication and ethical use activities.

To proceed most effectively, students must have the technology 'in hand' in every classroom. We are encouraging parents at St. Francis to consider the purchase of an accepted device for their child for the 2024/2025 school year. We made strides last year; our current goal is to have 70%, or more, of our students bring their accepted learning devices by the start of the 2024/2025 school year.

Why a Chromebook?

A Chromebook meets all these needs sufficiently compared to other products. It is the most cost-effective, and our system infrastructure is already in place.

Parents/guardians will manage the device, which means you can control what your student views and downloads by using parental controls and lock features. With a personal device, the student will have access to download necessary apps to complete course work, and the student will be responsible for all other aspects of the computer. Students also have to abide by the responsible use agreement to access our network service.

St. Francis Supply List

2024-2025



Acceptable Devices

Although many students have iPhones, and Android phones, they may not meet the necessary requirements as an accepted learning device.

Chromebooks are an ideal solution as they can be inexpensive and meet all the requirements of acceptable devices. You may want to provide a different device rather than a Chromebook. Other acceptable devices include:

- Tablet with 9.7" screen (minimum). *Ex: Apple iPad, Samsung Galaxy, Lenovo Tab, Microsoft, etc...*
- Laptop with Apple OS or Windows OS. *Ex: Apple, Samsung, Acer, Sony, Windows, Lenovo etc...*

Devices must meet 9-7" screen requirement, have good battery life and the ability to run Google Suite for education.

As always some school owned devices will be available for students to use while at school on a limited basis.

- ☐ We are encouraging parents of St. Francis students to consider the purchase of an **acceptable device** for their student for the 2024-2025 school year.
- ☐ Multi-line scientific calculator (preferred: Texas Instrument Ti-30XS MultiView, Ti-34 MultiView)
- ☐ 2 boxes of Kleenex
- ☐ 2-4 3-ring binders (2 is necessary, 4 is recommended)
- ☐ Paper (lined, unlined, graph)
- ☐ 5-10 duo-tangs (1 per subject is recommended)
- ☐ 10 dividers
- ☐ 10 pens (blue or black)
- ☐ HB pencils - at least 24, but 48 would be preferred
- ☐ 2 erasers
- ☐ 2 red pens
- ☐ White out (optional)
- ☐ Pencil crayons and/or coloured markers
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Geometry set
- ☐ Dictionary/Thesaurus (optional but nice to have)
- ☐ Gym strip (T-shirt/sweatshirt, shorts or sweatpants, socks, non marking running shoes, deodorant, a bag to store articles in)
- ☐ Grade 8 Humanities: 1 black marker, 5 duo-tangs
- ☐ **French Immersion:** French Dictionary, Bescherelle (verb book), French/English dictionary, 4 duo-tangs, 2 black whiteboard markers (optional)
- ☐ Headphones



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION TRANSPORTATION UPDATE - 2024/2025

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 1, 2024. For the 2024/2025 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** Before June 28, 2024 in order to access transportation services for the 2024/2025 school year.

ELIGIBILITY AND 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 km or more from their designated school.
- Grade 7 to 12 students within the school division's boundaries who reside 2km or more from their designated school.
- Grade 7 to 9 students living north of Crowsnest Trail and between **1.0** and **2.0** km from St. Francis Junior High School.
- Students accessing a Fine Arts Program of Choice under the following circumstances:
 - They are a K-6 student living inside the boundary of The Children of St. Martha School or Father Leonard Van Tighem School who requires transportation to St. Patrick Fine Arts School.
 - They are a Grade 7-9 student living in the Father Leonard Van Tighem Junior High School attendance zone, who attended Grade 6 at St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary 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 Paying

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 2024/2025 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 verified.

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION NOTES :

- *Transportation services are provided to school at the beginning of the school day and from school at the end of the school 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.*

REGISTRATION FOR TRANSPORTATION

To assist with planning and ensure sufficient space on busses, all riders will be **REQUIRED TO REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 28, 2024** in order to access transportation services during the 2024/2025 school year.

Families of eligible students should receive an email asking them to complete an online *Transportation Registration Form* in SchoolEngage. If you don't receive an email, please contact your child's school directly to confirm your eligibility and arrange for a form to be assigned to you.

To access your SchoolEngage Account:

For Current Families who already have access to PowerSchool

1. Log into PowerSchool. If you need help logging into PowerSchool, please contact your child's school directly.
2. Once you are logged in, click on the "School Engage" option on the bottom left corner of the screen.
3. Select the "Student" tab on the top-left side of the screen. Then select the name of the student you are registering for transportation services.
4. The *Transportation Registration Forms* will appear under the Forms section. Select the "Open" button next to the appropriate form.
5. Complete and submit the form.

For New Families who don't yet have access to PowerSchool:

1. Log into School Engage using the email address and password that you created when you registered your child in our system.
2. Select the Student tab on the top-left side of the screen, then select the name of the student you are wishing to register for transportation services.
3. The Transportation Registration Forms will appear under the Forms section. Select the "Open" button next to the appropriate form.
4. Complete and submit the form.

Completed *Transportation Registration Forms* will be reviewed and verified. Once verified, a confirmation notice will be sent.

The school division is committed to providing transportation to students who register for service before **June 28, 2024**. Please be aware that, riders who do NOT register by **June 30, 2024** will NOT be eligible to receive bus service in the 2024/2025 school year.

Bus route information for the upcoming school year is expected to be available in mid to late August and may be found on Southland's Lethbridge webpage at:

<http://www.southland.ca/lethbridge>.

Families will also have the opportunity to use Southland Transportation Ltd.'s GPS tracking service app, "MyBusStop," which provides real-time information about bus location, route stops, schedules, and possible delays. For more information, and to find your school's code, visit <https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/transportation/mybusstopapp>.



Spots still available in the
following age groups:

12-13 (Born 2011-2012)

14-17 (Born 2007-2010)

Interested in hockey but don't want the significant time or financial commitment that often comes with this great sport?

We offer an organized non-checking recreational hockey league for all genders aged 5-17. All skill levels are welcome.

One hour, once a week. Season runs from October to March.

Registration closes on September 20, 2024 - spots fill quickly so don't delay!

www.lethbridgerechokey.com

