

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

SEPTEMBER - *Welcome* - NEWSLETTER



WOW! What an incredible start to our school year!

We're thrilled to report a smooth and exciting transition as we welcomed 659 students through our doors. It was a day filled with enthusiasm and energy, and we're grateful to all our staff, students, and parents for making it such a success.

Our Week of Welcome has been a fantastic showcase of our school spirit, offering numerous opportunities for connection and fun. We're excited for what lies ahead and look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming Meet the Staff Open House.

To keep you informed and engaged, we'll be sending out a "Week at a Glance" every Friday, starting September 6th. This weekly update will be a great way to stay in the loop with everything happening at STF.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead filled with learning, growth, and community!

Loving God,

Bless this journey of a new school year.

Refresh the souls of our staff as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to. Thank you for the renewed joy of learning our students bring with them.

Welcome to those who are new to this community, and we ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.

Lord, guide us, the community of St. Francis of Assisi Middle School to return with open hearts and minds eager to support our wonderful children.

We ask this in your name, Amen.

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

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT - Open House

We are excited to invite you to our annual Meet the Staff Open House on **Thursday, September 5th**, from **6:30 to 8:00 pm**. This is a wonderful chance for students to give their parents and guardians a tour of their school and introduce them to their teachers.

Please note that this event is a drop-in format; there will be no group gathering in the gym.

While you're here, check out our Wolves gear on display, with sizing and order forms available. Don't miss the chance to enjoy "Popcorn with the Principals" in the gathering area.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing a fun evening together!




HOT LUNCH - Ordering is LIVE!

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](#)

ORANGE SHIRT DAY - September 27th in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community intergenerational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt symbolizes the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. It grew out of Phyllis Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the St. Joseph Mission residential school. It has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

Our division will recognize Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 27th, 2024. If you would like to purchase an Orange shirt for your child please log into your RYCOR account and fill out the electronic form. **All Orders are due by noon on Sept 13th, 2024.**

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CONSENT FORMS - Online Informed Consent

Thank you to all our parents who have completed the necessary informed consents in RYCOR. We appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter.

These forms are required by our insurance provider and must be completed as soon as possible to ensure that all students can fully participate in our school activities. Please note that these consents apply to all students and cover the following:

- **Athletics:** This one-time form covers all sports try-outs and rosters throughout the year.
- **Dawe/St. Patrick's Run:** All students at STF participate in this event and must have this form completed.
- **Mass:** As all students attend school Mass at St. Mary's five times a year, this form is necessary for participation.

If you haven't yet completed these forms, please do so at your earliest convenience to ensure there are no delays in your child's participation. Thank you for your cooperation!

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](#)

- Thank you for reviewing the information regarding Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media that was sent to your email address

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- [Division Calendar - LINK](#)
- [PowerSchool - LINK](#)
- [Registrations/School Engage - LINK](#)
- [Schoology - LINK](#)
- [Rycor - school fees/consent forms 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 11:39 - 12:39 PM **NEW TIME
 - Last block ends @ 3:15 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 close to 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.
 - 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 engines 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

- Please click [here](#) to access the Division's Transportation Information to register.

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 23 @ 7:00 PM, Our Executive Positions are filled but we love to have parents join and become part of this amazing community.

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 2023/24 (i.e. Holy Family, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Martin de Porres, etc.)
- For students that are new to STF and RDCRS please know that we will be sending a unique (specific to your child only) QR code home in the next 2 weeks 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**.

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- 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>

MUSICAL PRODUCTION - Update

Our school has proudly offered a musical production for several years, providing our students with the opportunity to further explore the arts and showcase their talents. This year, however, we face a challenge. Despite our efforts, we have been unable to secure a volunteer musical director to lead our musical production this year.

The arts play a crucial role in fostering creativity, collaboration, and self-expression. While we won't have our school musical this year, we encourage families to explore the wonderful opportunities available in our community. We remain committed to supporting our students' growth and interests and are hopeful that we can reinstate our musical production in future years.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your calendars

- September TBD - New Kids Lunch
- September TBD - Spirit Assembly (closer to the end of the month)
- September 3 -6 Week of Welcome activities
- September 5 - Meet the Staff Open House @ 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- September 16 - MADD Canada Presentation - Grade 8 & 9
- September 17- Dawe/St. Patrick's Run - Grades 6-9
- September 18 - Opening Mass @ St. Mary's 10:30 AM
- September 20 - Teacher Professional Development Day - No School
- September 23 - School Council AGM @ 7:00 PM
- September 24 - Dawe/St.Patrick's Run (Rainout) Grades 6-9
- September 27 - National Truth & Reconciliation & Orange Shirt 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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