



THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL TIDBITS

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
JULY 24, 2018

“Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love” EPH: 4

Parent Survey

Please look for our summer parent survey to be sent out before July 30th. This is an opportunity for you to give us your thoughts and feedback on the 2017-18 school year. We are always looking for ways to make TFS an even greater experience for all, and we value what our parents have to offer! Thanks, in advance, for your help.

Principal’s Forum

Thank you to all those who were able to dial-in or come in person to the Principal’s Forums held on July 16th. We had great participation and Mr. Watson looks forward to having more opportunities to get your feedback throughout the year. Below you will have the opportunity to view the WebEx videos from both sessions held on the 16th. The sound from the room is hard to hear in some cases, and the question was sometimes not repeated, but you can get the gist of the discussions. Thanks to Nicole Learn for her help in getting the WebEx sessions available and for these recordings to be made available to you.

Principal Forum - Monday, July 16, 2018, 8:00am (33 min 21 sec)

- Click here to open recording: <https://cisco.webex.com/ciscosales/lsr.php?RCID=c5bc710426cd4fea95ac2f5dd3aa05e3>
- Enter the **Recording password: KqWh6bJ6**
- Click the play triangle button on the video to start the recording

Principal Forum - Monday, July 16, 2018 - 6:00pm (1 hr 33 min 31 sec)

- Click here to open recording: <https://cisco.webex.com/ciscosales/lsr.php?RCID=6dfe39a7b99b4621a0c517956994b208>
- Enter the **Recording password: NqA333Xt**
- Click the play triangle button on the video to start the recording

Your feedback is important, and we are always seeking opportunities to get your input. Thanks for your partnership with us in providing an excellent education for your children!

Summer Office Hours

The Thea Office (K-5 building) will be open for visitors dropping off an item or to pick something up this summer anytime from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week.

Transitions

We have, as of July 23rd, completed the hiring for this summer. Earlier this summer we hired Eli Langson as the 7th grade social studies teacher. Eli comes to us from Charlotte where he worked at a private school last year, but at a Garden Grove, California Catholic School the previous three years. While there, he also coached basketball for the middle school team and wants to continue to be involved with extracurricular activities with the students here as well. Eli’s Catholic experience in education goes further back, though, to when he received his Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s Degree in Education from Notre Dame. Welcome Eli! Rima Baltutis was hired for the open First Grade teacher position. Rima is moving here from Chicago where she worked in two separate Catholic Schools for 5 years, with the last two as a learning specialist. She has a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instructional Leadership from University of Illinois at Chicago and spent two years in Benin in the Peace Corps. We are thrilled to have someone of her teaching experience joining our faculty! Welcome Rima!

For the last opening in Spanish for 7/8th grades, we are making a couple of moves within the Spanish Program. We have hired Amalia Hopf to be the K-4 Spanish Teacher. She did an excellent job as a long-term sub this past year while Lisa Steele was out on maternity leave, and is a native speaker. Bea Jimenez will be moving to the Middle School to take over the role as the 7/8th grade Spanish Teacher. Bea has done a great job in revising the K-4 curriculum and how it is implemented over the past several years,

and this will be a great help and guide for Mrs. Hopf as she takes over the K-4 role. Bea's move to middle school will give her time to improve the curriculum in our older grades and to take the lead, as the Spanish Program Department Head, to continue to improve our Spanish program overall. I know the K-4 students will be sad to lose Bea, but they can look forward to her helping them to transition confidently to HS Spanish! Welcome Amalia and congratulations Bea on your new role, good luck to both!!

Hot Lunch for Next Year

We will be partnering with a different provider for hot lunch next year. The sign-ups and ordering will be done electronically as has been done in the past, but more choices and portion sizes will be available with the My Hot Lunch program, [click here](#). More information will be provided on August 7th in Tidbits, if not sooner!!

New Parent Portal for 2018-19

TFS will be using RenWeb beginning in August 2018. The RenWeb parent portal will replace PlusPortals. All current families as well as new families will receive login information once the system is in place. We will update you when we have a firm date on sending out login information.

Middle School Schedules

Several years ago we started emailing out MS student schedules in early August as opposed to handing them out on "Meet and Greet" as we had done in the past. Middle school schedules will be available before the start of school on RenWeb, and schedules will not be e-mailed this year. We are working with RenWeb on the timeframe and will let you know as soon as we have a date. All parents/guardians and middle school students will receive login information as soon as it is available. The transition to a new database and family portal system has slowed down our process for this year. However, do not worry, you will have your schedules soon Middle Schoolers! (We know you can't wait!)

Bridges Enrollment Links

Bridges enrollment links were sent to all current Bridges families as well as all new families in May. The Bridges links that were previously sent will no longer work due to the changeover in our online systems. If you wish to register your child for Bridges, please use this link: [TFS 2018-19 Bridges Registration](#)

Openings for Students at TFS for 2018-19

We are always looking for more great families to join TFS. Do you know of a family looking for a great education in a caring Catholic environment? A school where a commitment to Faith, Academics, and Service defines and guides the education of their students? Then I think I know a school!

Please send any interested families you may know to our Admission Coordinator Lura Tysiac at lura.tysiac@stfrancisraleigh.org. We are always looking for amazing families like yours to join our community!

Fall Sports Tryouts

Tryouts will be held August 23rd and 24th at 3:15 p.m. for the upcoming Fall season:

Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer and Boys and Girls Cross Country

Please look for more information in Tidbits as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Boys Soccer Note:

Boys soccer tryouts will be held on August 23rd and 24th. If you are considering trying out for the team, please email Coach JP Lexa (jplexa@suretysystems.com) with your name, grade, and position(s) you are most comfortable playing. Thank you!

HSA

Welcome to the HSA

All TFS parents are considered members of the HSA – you don't need to sign up or pay any dues! The HSA is led by a Board of volunteers that coordinate Fundraising efforts, and many events including Field Day, the Father-Daughter Dance, the Advent Pancake Breakfast, 8th Grade Graduation Reception, and many more. We encourage all parents to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure – keep an eye out in Tidbits and on Facebook for opportunities to support TFS. Find the TFS HSA Facebook Group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/308136653044208/>

New Family Play Date – August 4th

New TFS families – join us Saturday, August 4th from 10am-12pm on the TFS playground. This is a fantastic opportunity for new families to meet other new families, enjoy light refreshments, and talk with current families and ask questions.

HSA Uniform Sale – August 4th

This year we will be holding a Uniform Sale prior to school starting. Please join us **Saturday, August 4th from 9:00-11:00 am in Jacoba Hall** to refresh your uniform pieces. To allow for extra assistance, we invite our newest TFS families to shop even earlier starting at 8:30 am (new families only, please!).

We need **volunteers** to help sort, set up and shop on both August 3rd & 4th. Please consider helping with one of these activities and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44aba829a7f94-back4>. There are slots for middle school students, too. Remember all volunteers get to shop early!

Please **drop off** your gently used, clean, outgrown uniforms in Thea Hall between Tues., July 24th – Thurs., July 26th and again Tues., July 31st – Wed., August 1st from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Be sure to include a completed [TFS Seller](#) form with your bag to earn Uniform Bucks. (Note we will also be accepting last minute donations at the door this year.)

Questions? Please see the [FAQ document](#) or email tfsuniformsale@gmail.com.

The Franciscan Experience is Coming Soon

What is The Franciscan Experience? Take an online auction event and fill it with fun, memorable events that bring together our community, teachers and children. Think pizza & movie parties, picnics at Pullen Park, or the long-standing favorite, “Principle for the Day” – plus much more! The auction will also include items for parents such as Mom’s night out, golf outings, sports memorabilia, and many new events this year. We’re even planning a return of our great lunch days that you won’t want to miss. The highest bidders “win” those events and all proceeds go to help fund all HSA-sponsored activities during the school year. The auction will run from September 25th – October 5th.

WE NEED YOU! We need your help in making The Franciscan Experience great! We are calling on all families and businesses willing to donate “experiences” – e.g., vacation packages, a day of boating, gift cards – or if you have a special talent you can share (sewing, handyman services, etc.) to be part of the online auction. Gather your family together and see if you can come up with a creative experience to offer in the auction. Please contact Christy Rayle or Erica Emerson Overacre at tfsfundraiser@gmail.com if you have questions or an experience/item to donate!

Want to get involved but not sure how to donate? Select something from our [Amazon Wish List](#) which will be used in conjunction with some of our other donations. These donations will automatically be sent to our planning committee.

Important Dates	
August 4 th	New Family Welcome Play Date Also – H.S.A. Uniform Sale
August 13 th	New Student Orientation/Kindercamp
August 14 th	Meet & Greet
August 16 th , 2018	First Day of School!