THE SFA WEEKLY Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 9
2026

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FROM THE DESK OF DR. MCINNIS, PRINCIPAL

Dear SFA Families,

I am excited this week to share a snapshot of the latest 2025–2026 national data from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), highlighting the incredible impact and vitality of Catholic schools across the country!

Serving over 1.67 million students across 5,829 schools, Catholic education continues to deliver exceptional academic growth and supportive learning environments. Across national assessment benchmarks, Catholic school students consistently outperform public school averages in core subjects like Math, Reading, and Science—with 8th-grade math scores leading by an impressive 21 points!

Beyond academic excellence, the data reflects our deep commitment to nurturing every child:

- Personalized Learning: With a low national student-to-teacher ratio of 11.1 to 1, students receive tailored guidance and individualized attention.
- Inclusive & Supportive Communities: 60% of Catholic schools serve students with diagnosed disabilities, ensuring diverse learning needs are supported within our faith community.
- High Dedication: High retention rates among teachers (88%) and principals (86.3%) demonstrate strong commitment and strong leadership across our schools.
- High Demand: Over 37% of Catholic schools nationwide currently maintain a waiting list, showing the growing demand for values-centered, high-achieving education.

Without exception, it is the work of our students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and the entire St. Francis of Assisi community who make this standard of excellence possible every day. Thank you for partnering with us in educating the mind, heart, and spirit of the next generation!

Dr. Tim McInnis
Principal, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
Class of 1984

2025-2026 U.S. CATHOLIC SCHOOL DATA

NCEA National Catholic Educational Association

176 CATHOLIC DIOCESES WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

DEMOGRAPHICS

SCHOOLS
5,829

Elementary/Middle
4,644
Secondary
1,185

STUDENTS
1,674,907

Elementary/Middle
1,155,344
Secondary
519,563

PROFESSIONAL STAFF
151,514

The student/teacher ratio is **11.1:1.**

13 Schools Opened

62 Schools Closed or Consolidated

37.6% Schools with a Waiting List

FAITH

Students	Staff
Catholic 71.8%	Catholic 73.6%
Non-Catholic 22.2%	Non-Catholic 16.5%
Not Reported 6.8%	Not Reported 9.9%

ETHNICITY

American Indian 0.5%	Asian 4.5%
Hispanic 14.2%	Black 7.6%
Middle Eastern/ North African 0.3%	Multiracial 7.7%
Native Hawaiian 0.4%	Unknown 3.9%
	White 61%

Hispanic or Hispanic and Some Other Race (Total Hispanic Background) 17.1%

PARENTAL CHOICE*

30% *Schools* Utilizing Parental Choice Programs

19.4% *Students* Utilizing Parental Choice Programs

TITLE I

6.6% Students Receiving Title I Services

14.2% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch

RETENTION

88% Teachers

86.3% Principals

70.6% Superintendents

DIAGNOSED DISABILITY*

10% Students with a Diagnosed Disability

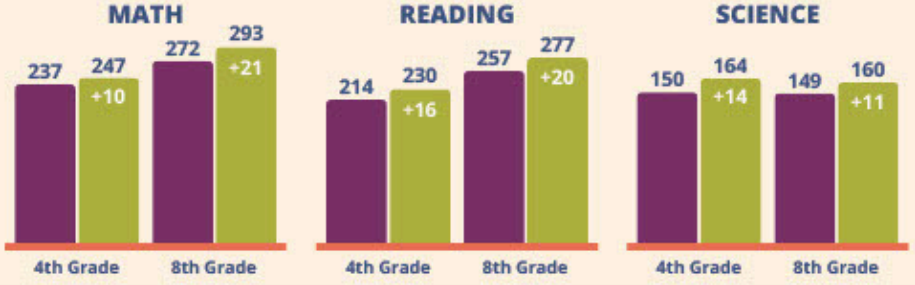
69% Schools Serving Students Diagnosed with a Disability

*Not all dioceses reported

ACADEMICS

2024 NAEP SCALE SCORES

Public | Catholic



Sources: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2025-2026: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA), 2026; National Assessment of Educational Progress, National Center for Education Statistics, 2024.

This Week at St. Francis

Our middle school scientists are busy learning through hands-on experiments and activities! 8th grade is plating bacteria, 7th grade is measuring with a triple beam balance, and 6th grade is exploring the sense of sight while learning about observation and inference.

PK4 is enjoying some fresh air and fun outside!

1st grade is enjoying story time with friends and taking a little time for a fun dance brain break!

2nd Grade is learning all about the properties of matter! They put their measuring skills to the test with a fun cracker lab. Edible experiments are the best!

3rd grade is exploring the forces of flight with paper airplanes! They're testing, measuring, and seeing science in action.

The middle school houses kicked off the first House Games of the year! House Games are a great opportunity for students from different grade levels to work together, build teamwork, and show their house spirit. Congratulations to House Maximilian Kolbe on taking the win!







PK-4 Friends







6th-8th Grade Science

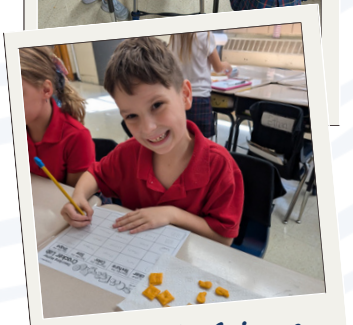


1st Grade









2nd Grade Science







3rd Grade Science













House Games

BULLETIN BOARD

HOMEPAGE

25TH ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL MASS

Friday, September 11, 2026

ALL SCHOOL MASS

7:45 A.M.

Join our parish and school community as we pause to observe the 25th anniversary of September 11. Our readings, petitions, and prayer intentions for this special Mass will be offered for our country, the victims of this national tragedy, the brave first responders, and all families whose lives were forever changed.

"May the Lord grant eternal rest to the departed, comfort to those who mourn, and bestow His grace and peace upon our nation. We will never forget."

All parishioners, parents, and community members are warmly invited to attend and pray with us.

LEARN MORE

Get Ready to ShakeOut

October 15, 2026

Register: ShakeOut.org



Don't forget to return the bright orange

Economic Deprivation Survey

sent home this week! Every response helps our school access the federal program services available to our students!

MEDIA AUTHORIZATION FORM

Haven't signed yet? Please complete the Media Authorization Form in FACTS to let us know your preferences for photos, videos, and school communications!

HOMEPAGE

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

HOME & SCHOOL

VOLUNTEER. CONNECT. BUILD COMMUNITY.

FALL
Volunteer Opportunities

Help with events, activites, special projects this FALL!

Sign Up!

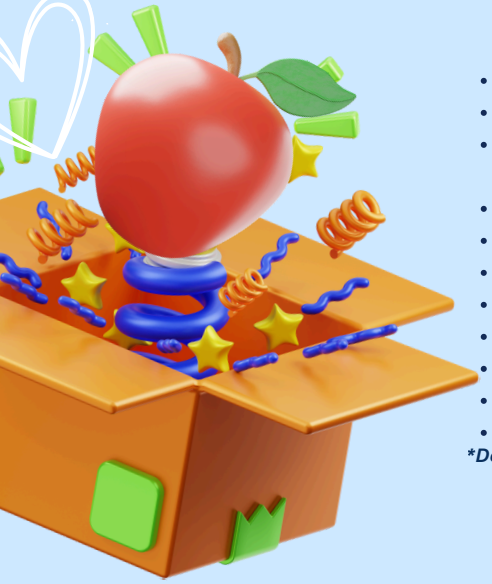
SPRING
Volunteer Opportunities

Help with exciting events, celebrations, and more this SPRING!

Sign Up!

Support Our School **Clear the Lists!**

Our teachers have put together classroom wish lists with items that would be helpful throughout the school year. If you'd like to help, take a look and see if there's anything you'd like to check off their lists! Thank you for supporting our teachers and students!



- PK2 - Mr. Adams
- PK4 - Mrs. Soell
- Kindergarten - Mrs. Della Croce & Mrs. Irvin
- 1st Grade - Mrs. Wayne
- 2nd Grade - Mrs. Terriault
- 5th Grade - Mrs. Rutledge
- 6th Grade - Ms. Mayer
- 7th Grade - Mrs. Schmitz
- Stream - Mrs. Watson
- Gym - Mrs. Smith
- Performing Arts - Dr. Jordan

**Don't see a teacher? Their list is on the way!*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLOR FUN RUN

REGISTER TODAY!!!

We are off to a great start!

See flyer for details

SEPTEMBER 22

Planning Meeting

6:30pm, SFA School RM 21/23 (Middle School, 2nd floor). All are welcome to join us at these meetings!

When SFA Comes Together, Amazing Things Follow.

Together, we make SFA a place where faith, family, and community thrive. Thank you for being part of it.

FOR QUESTIONS TO THE HOME & SCHOOL BOARD PLEASE CONTACT US AT: **SFAHS@SFASTL.ORG**

ST. FRANCIS of Assisi PARISH PICNIC

OCTOBER 10, 2026
10am - 10pm

& ADULT NIGHT at the picnic | OCT 9 6–10 PM

VOLUNTEER Sign-Ups!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Volunteer Sign-Ups Open Today! We need our amazing parents and parishioners to help make this year's picnic a success! We're looking for volunteers Friday and Saturday, and even one hour can make a big difference!

SIGN UP TODAY!
for volunteer slots!

Sponsorship

TICKET SALES, RIDE BRACELETS, & MORE!

ON SALE NOW!

SCAN QR CODE
for picnic website

HELP US STOCK the Game Booths

We're collecting prizes for the Parish Picnic GAME BOOTHS!

- **Individually wrapped candy & full-size candy bars**
- **Full-size Skittles, Sour Punch Straws & Airheads**
- **Hostess snacks**
- ***Homemade treats**

(Please bring homemade treats no earlier than the week of the picnic.)

Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

Parish Picnic T-SHIRTS



Get your Parish Picnic T-Shirt and wear it with SFA pride before, during, and after this special celebration of our parish!

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPT 15, 2026

QUESTIONS
Contact Abby LeCroy at 314.369.1051
or abigaillecroy@gmail.com

PARISH PICNIC FACEBOOK PAGE

Thank you for celebrating 100 years with us!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Make me a CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

HOMEPAGE

100 YEARS

1927 - 2027

100 Years of Faith, Service & Community

Celebrating Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

Join us throughout this special Centennial year as we honor a century of Catholic education, Franciscan values, and a community that grows together in faith.











Our Next CENTENNIAL EVENT

ALUMNI MASS & RECEPTION

Sunday, September 20, 2026

11 AM ALUMNI MASS

Reception & Tour to follow

Join us for a special day as we come together to celebrate **100 years of St. Francis of Assisi**. Reconnect with old friends and see how our school and parish continue to grow in faith and community.

All Alumni, former faculty & friends of SFA are invited!

Save the Dates

Oct 9-10, 2026

PARISH PICNIC

A special Centennial edition of our annual Parish celebration.

Details to come!

Nov 2026

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTH

Throughout November, our school and parish community will participate in a month long food drive to benefit those in need.

Dec 2026

ORNAMENT SALE

Commemorate this milestone year with a limited edition 100th Anniversary ornament.

STAY CONNECTED!

Scan the QR code to join our Alumni Database!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

100 YEARS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

COLOR FUN RUN

Get Movin's FUND HUB

So far we've raised $25,005.00 that's 62% of our goal!

89% of students are officially registered

55% of students have recived at least one donation

We need your help to hit our goal of $40,000 by October 7, 2026

BANNER ORDER FORM DUE SEPT 9

Click Here!

1. Register or log in to your Parent Dashboard and customize your student's page. Scan the QR code or visit www.getmovinfundhub.com **School Id:** 64ef805e4e441
2. Make a donation to help your child. This will make an impact ontheir classroomand their individual goals!
3. Share your child's page with friends and family. This makes the biggest impact! Text, email, or post on social media - -you can do it right from your phone!

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER & DONATE

P.S. Want to double your impact? Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program!

Please email **sfahs@sfastl.org** if you have any questions

BASKETBALL SIGN-UPS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30

Click the link or scan the QR code!





HOMEPAGE

CLASS of 2027

MUM FUNDRAISER

PRE-ORDER your mums now!

Complete the Google form here. Send in payment to school office or rectory via Cash or Check, please put on envelope ATTENTION: Sarah Rehagen (make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi and put in the memo line Mums Class of 2027) OR you can click this Venmo link and pay via Venmo, please put in memo/subject "Mums."

- $15 each (9-inch pot)



WHITE ORANGE YELLOW PURPLE RED



ORDERS DUE

SEPT 18th

@SFAEighthGrade-2027

venmo

Wiethop Greenhouse offers the 5 colors of mums (shown above). They are expected to be blooming mid-September, but this is an estimate subject to weather conditions. Order pickup will be in the SFA North Lot on September 26th, 2026. More info to come on pickup.

Orders are not confirmed until Payment is received.

For questions, please contact Sarah Rehagen 314-450-6654 OR sarahrehagen0@gmail.com

HOMEPAGE

Hot Lunch

FALLLING BACK INTO THE ROUTINE

- AUG&SEPT B-DAY LUNCH - 9/11
- 6TH GRADE CAMP - SEPT 14,15,16
- FUN RUN/11:30 DISMISSAL - 9/25

SEPTEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AUG 31 TOASTED RAVIOLI W/ MARINARA SAUCE SALAD (RANCH OR ITALIAN DRESSING) ORANGE SLICES	1 HOT DOG ON A BUN TATOR TOTS PEAS ORANGE SLICES	2 NACHOS: CHEESE OR BEEF&CHEESE (CHOOSE IN FACTS) CORN ORANGE SLICES BROWNIE	3 GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH POTATO CHIPS COOKED BROCCOLI ORANGE SLICES	4 DOMINO'S PIZZA (CHEESE, PEP OR SAUSAGE) CHEEZ-ITS BELL PEPPERS W/RANCH FOR DIPPING ORANGE SLICES
7 HAPPY LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	8 MAC & CHEESE GREEN BEANS APPLE SLICES S'MORE	9 CHICKEN SANDWICH (BUFFALO OR REGULAR) (CHOOSE IN FACTS) CURLY FRIES PEAS APPLE SLICES	10 WAFFLES BACON YOGURT APPLE SLICES	11 DOMINO'S PIZZA (CHEESE, PEP OR SAUSAGE) CHIPS SALAD (RANCH OR ITALIAN DRESSING) APPLE SLICES
14 NATIONAL HOAGIE DAY TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICH BUTTERED NOODLES GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE CANTALOUPE	15 TACO SALAD (GROUND BEEF, CHEESE, LETTUCE IN SHELL. OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE TO ADD) SPANISH RICE CORN CANTALOUPE	16 CHICKEN ALFREDO DINNER ROLL BROCCOLI CANTALOUPE	17 PRETZEL PIZZA RAW BABY CARROTS W/RANCH FOR DIPPING CANTALOUPE RICE KRISPY TREAT	18 CHICK-FIL-A SALAD PRETZELS CANTALOUPE
21 MOZZARELLA STICKS MARINARA SAUCE BAKED BEANS VEGETABLE MEDLEY GRAPES	22 SCRAMBLED EGGS (PICK W/ OR W/O CHEESE IN FACTS) SAUSAGE BISCUIT GRAPES	23 ORANGE CHICKEN FRIED RICE STEAMED BROCCOLI GRAPES	24 SOFT PRETZEL WITH CHEESE SALAD (RANCH OR ITALIAN DRESSING) PINEAPPLE SUGAR COOKIE	25 HALF DAY FUN RUN 11:30 DISMISSAL
28 HOT HAM & CHEESE BAGEL TATER TOTS COOKED CARROTS PINEAPPLE	29 CHICKEN PARMESAN BUTTERED NOODLES VEGETABLE MEDLEY PINEAPPLE	30 FRENCH BREAD PEPPERONI PIZZA GREAN BEANS PINEAPPLE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE	OCT 1 CHEF JOJO'S RAVIOLI (BEEF RAVIOLI IN RED SAUCE) SALAD GARLIC BREAD GRAPES	OCT 2 DOMINO'S PIZZA (CHEESE, PEP OR SAUSAGE) PRETZELS CELERY SLICES PINEAPPLE

AUG & SEPT B-DAY LUNCH

PLEASE DON'T ORDER LUNCH IF YOU ARE BRINGING A LUNCH FOR YOUR KIDDO

REMINDER: 6TH GRADE CAMP. DON'T BUY LUNCH FOR YOUR 6TH GRADER SEPT 14TH-16TH.

CHICK-FIL-A OPTIONS & PRICING:

1. FULL LUNCH W/ SANDWICH OR 8 PIECE NUGS = $6.50
2. FULL LUNCH W/ 5 PIECE NUGGET= $5.00
3. ONLY SANDWICH OR 8 PIECE NUG= $4.50
4. ONLY 5 PIECE NUGGETS = $3.00

BIRTHDAY LUNCH FRIDAYS!

If your child is one that celebrates their birthday this month, you or another significant adult can come eat with your child during their lunch period. You can bring fast food or homemade lunch for the birthday child and for yourself!

Birthday Lunch Arrival:

Please sign-in (in gym lobby sign-in sheet) You may enter the gym, have a seat at a table and wait for them to arrive.

Check the school calendar for Dates of Birthday lunch! Lunch times are on this page!



The School LUNCH periods

11:20 - 11:40 // 3,4,5
11:30 // Preschool
11:45 - 12:05 // K, 1, 2
12:15 - 12:35 // 6,7,8

FOR ANY LUNCH QUESTIONS OR TO CANCEL LUNCH CONTACT JO HUFKER AT JO.HUFKER@SFASCHOOLSTL.ORG OR CALL 314-487-5736 X126

LUNCH ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

HOMEPAGE



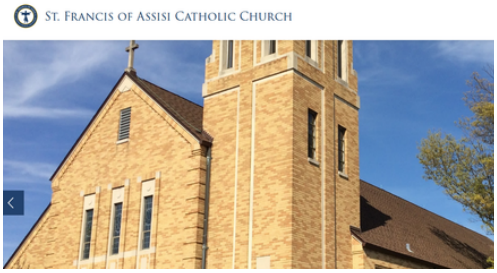
Snack & Scripture

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
Every Wednesday
3-3:45PM
IN YOUTH MINISTRY ROOM

SUBSCRIBE

*To our weekly **Bulletin** to see what's going on in the Parish!*

And check out our Parish website for more events and all things SFA!



SFA DRESS CODE

SCHOOL UNIFORMS
Just Me Apparel
www.justmeapparel.com

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Reminder

If you received a welcome yard sign please remember to return it to the school office. Thank you!



save the date!



september

11 *9/11 25th Anniversary Mass* Mid-Q1 | 🥳BDAY Lunch AUG/SEP
14-16 6th Grade Camp
22 Picture Retakes & All School Photo
25 SFA Fun Run | Half Day
30 7 Gr Conf. Parent & Student Meeting 6:30PM Gym

Volunteering at SFA

If you're planning to volunteer at the school in any capacity, please make sure you've completed the Protecting God's Children training. 👉 Click here to visit the Archdiocese of St. Louis website and register for an upcoming training session. If you've already completed the training through another school or parish, you will need to log in to your account and add **St. Francis of Assisi** to your profile to verify your training and so you will be included on our approved volunteer list.

sfastl.org
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
4550 Telegraph Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129
Phone: 314.487.5736 **Fax:** 314.416.7118
School ext: 121 // **Preschool ext:** 132 // **Parish ext:** 150

Tuition Questions

Please contact **Dan Denton** our business manager at businessmanager@sfastl.org or 314.487.5736 ext: 142

FACTS Parent Helpline: 866-441-4637

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER at

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

THURSDAY, SEP 17 | 10AM-10PM
RAISING CANE'S 1163 JEFFCO BLVD ARNOLD, MO 63010

Mention the fundraiser at the Restaurant or apply code **RCFUND96** to online or app orders at checkout and Cane's will **donate 15% of Net Sales*** to:

ATHLETIC RESTAURANT NIGHT

Raising Funds with Raising Cane's

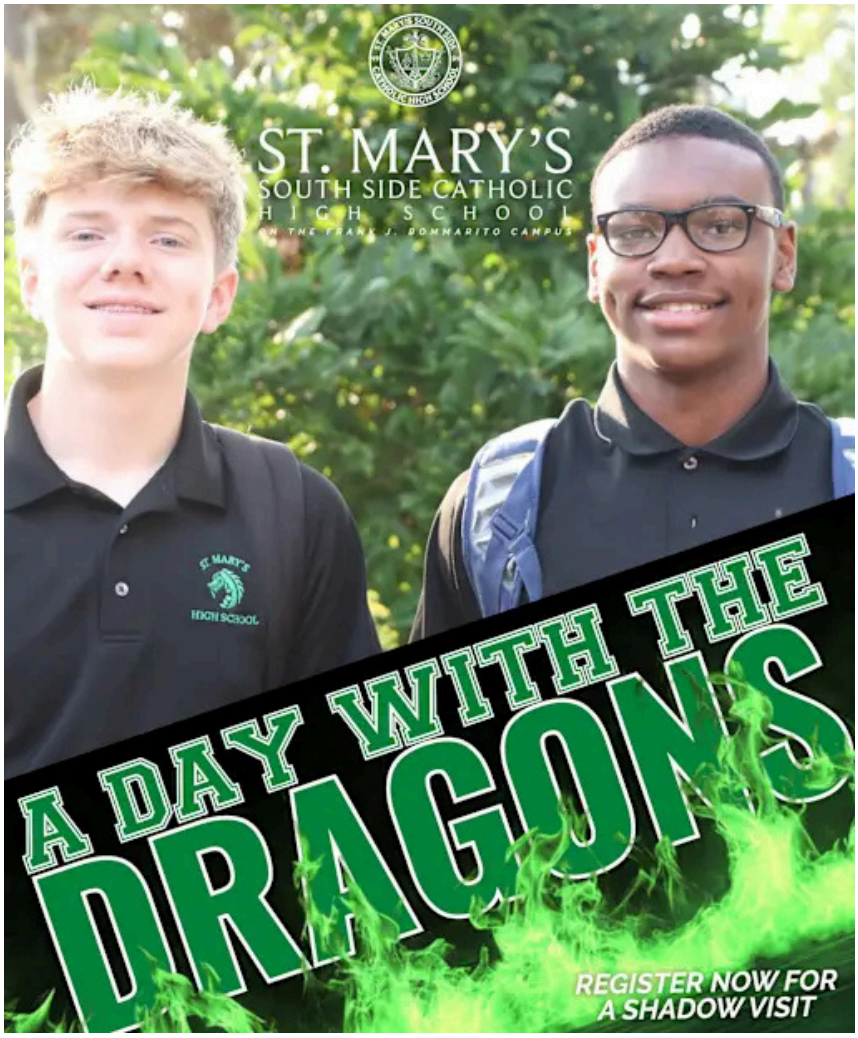


Learn more about how we can support you at **CanesAndCommunity.com**

Terms and conditions apply. Learn more: raisingcanes.com/fundraiser

RaisingCanes





SMSSC SHADOW DAY LINK

Youth Orchestra

for Middle School Students

Cost

$300 per semester
(+instrument rental, more information on our website)

Program Details

Co-ed program for grades 6-8

Beginning Band

- No experience necessary
- Learn brass, woodwind or percussion instruments

Beginning Strings

- No experience necessary
- Learn violin, viola or cello

Intermediate Orchestra

- 1+ year of experience required
- Includes strings, woodwinds, brass or percussion

Key Dates *at Cor Jesu Academy*

Virtual Informational Meeting:

- September 1 at 5:00 p.m.

Instrument Exploration Night:

- September 14 at 5:30 p.m.

First Rehearsal:

- September 21

Weekly Rehearsals: *Monday Nights*

- Beginning Band: 4:15-4:55 p.m.
- Intermediate: 5-5:55 p.m.
- Beginning Strings: 6-6:45 p.m.

For more information, scan the QR Code!

Questions? Email Ms. Maggie Feder '17 at mfeder@corjesu.org or call (314) 300-6424.

HOMEPAGE



UPCOMING Admissions Events NDHS

Shadow Days

Open to 8th Graders

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

SELECT DATES

Rebel Reveal Night

Open to 6th - 8th Graders & Families

OCTOBER

07

Open House

Open to 6th - 8th Graders & Families

OCTOBER

25

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

EDUCATION WITH A HIGHER CALLING

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
2026 Fall Fairs

Families with students in grades 5 and up can explore exciting educational opportunities by meeting representatives from Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis!

Meet representatives from over ***20 CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS,*** including all-girls, all-boys, and coeducational options, at each fair.

To see the full list of schools, please check our website:
ARCHSTLSCHOOLS.ORG

HOSTED BY
St. Joseph's Academy

Thursday
September 10
5:30-7:00 p.m.

2307 S Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131
314.394.4321

HOSTED BY
St. Louis University High School

Wednesday
September 23
5:30-7:00 p.m.

4970 Oakland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110
314.269.2097

HOSTED BY
Duchesne High School

Tuesday
October 6
5:30-7:00 p.m.

2550 Elm St.
St Charles, MO 63301
636.757.6932

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE