

POINTS OF INTEREST

Sophomore, Junior and Senior **final schedules and locker combinations** can be picked up on Tuesday, September 6, from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. At this time, we will collect the locker fee of \$7 and \$10 parking permit/fee for any new drivers.

Freshmen and transfer students will have an **orientation** beginning in the Kohler Auditorium on **September 6 at 9:00 a.m.** They will receive their locker combinations, schedules and other helpful information.

All high school students **begin classes on Wednesday, September 7.** Students may be in the hallways at 7:20 a.m.. Classes begin at 7:50 a.m. and end at 2:42 p.m.

Prayer for the School Year

Father, we thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year, and we ask that you bless the students, faculty, and families that make our school a great place.

We pray that you will guide us in all ways so that we will seek your will in everything that we do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Christ — Above All Things

From the Desk of the SFHS Principal, Mr. Erick Chittle

Good Parents,

Peace and summer joy!

We begin another school year thankful for the students, your children, that will in a few weeks walk our halls, learn in our classrooms, and worship in our chapel and church. At Saint Francis, the target never moves -- we want to help you mold your children into young men and women who are pleasing to God. As our test scores continue to move upward and as we add more rigor to our curriculum, we maintain our focus on the fact that every student is called to sainthood. Every student is destined to a life with God through His Son for a short while on earth and for eternity in the world to come. This focus demands that our courses are infused with the teachings of Christ and His Church. Therefore, as your sons and daughter's minds are developing, they are presented with ways to analyze ideas through the lens of faith. This - coupled with devotional, service, and sacramental opportunities - will help form the next generation of Catholic leaders.

With our focus on academic and spiritual growth, we hope to help form students who have begun to grow in wisdom and are already able to distinguish what is good and holy from false and worldly promises. These goals are high. However, it is not enough to form top scholars earning hundreds of thousands of dollars of scholarships; we are called to cultivate young men and women willing to stand for what is good, right, and true. It is as Blessed Pope John Paul II wrote: "The greatest challenge to Catholic education in the United States today, and the greatest contribution that authentically Catholic education can make to American culture, is to restore to that culture the conviction that human beings can grasp the truth of things, and, in grasping the truth, can know

their duties to God, to themselves and their neighbor..."(*Veritatis Splendor*).

There is one significant academic change for the coming school year. This year we have doubled the available Advanced Placement (AP) courses at our school. With much research and thought, we have decided to weigh AP courses on a 5.0 scale: (A= 5.0, B= 4.0, C=3.0, D=2.0, F=0). This is based on the idea that more difficult classes should carry more weight. This is a common practice at most of the best Catholic and private schools in the country. Like the grading scale change, this should give our applications for both scholarships and college entrance an advantage or at least not put our students at a disadvantage. This change will not be retroactive, but it will affect GPAs going forward. For all classes except seniors, it will affect class rank. (For seniors, we will determine rank with the non-weighted GPAs.) Although in the past universities have leveled the playing field by taking only non-weighted GPAs, some universities have stopped this practice and accept whatever GPA the high school sends. Further, it now becomes an expectation that all students enrolled in AP courses take the AP exams at the end of the year. There is a fee of \$87 charged by the College Board for each AP test. Please call me with any questions.

Be assured of our continued prayers for your students, and we ask for your prayers for all of our students and teachers for the 2011-2012 school year.

Peace and All Good,

Mr. Erick Chittle

**FRESHMAN/
TRANSFER
STUDENT
ORIENTATION**

Tuesday, Sept. 6
9 a.m.

CLASSES RESUME

Wednesday, Sept. 7

ALL SYSTEM MASS

Friday, Sept. 9 at
8:30 a.m. in the SF
Gym

**PARENT
ORIENTATION**

Wednesday, Sept. 14

**HALL OF FAME
& HOMECOMING**

Saturday, Oct. 8

NO SCHOOL

Friday, Oct. 28
Gladhandler set-up

GLADHANDER

"Seuss on the Loose"
Saturday, Oct. 29

Religion Department and English Department

Mrs. Susan Maasberg, 11th Grade
Religion Department Chair
Church History and Social Justice

Mr. Bill Strong, 9th Grade
Introduction to Catholicism

Mrs. Trish Zamarron, 10th/12th Grade
Old Testament and New Testament,
Catholic Apologetics

Mrs. Cheryl Schmuckal,
English Department Chair
Honors Classical Literature and Composition,
AP Language and Composition

Mr. Greg Vaughan
Church History

Mr. Bill Strong
American Literature and Freshman English

Ms. Maria LaCross
Classical Literature and Composition (including
Honors), Honors Freshman English, and Year-
book

Mrs. Meegan Feil
AP Literature and Composition

Rev. Bill Lipscomb
Chaplain

Science Department and Social Studies

Mr. Frank Paladino
Science Department Chair
Physical Science, Physics, Chemistry and
Honors Chemistry

Ms. Catherine Babbitt
Ms. Babbitt is a graduate of both
The University of Steubenville and Aquinas
College. She will teach Anatomy, Biology,
and AP Biology.

Mrs. Susan Maasberg
Biology and Honors Biology

Mr. David Peck
Social Studies Department Chair
Government, Economics, World History
and Psychology

Mr. Rodney Taplin
World History, United States History, Military
History, AP Government and ACT Preparation

Mr. Keith Haske
United States History

Mr. Fred Robb
Economics and Government

To Be Determined
AP Psychology

*The science lab renovation
is well under way and it looks amazing!*

High School Support Staff

Mrs. Beth Maday, Counselor
Mrs. Kathy Hunt, Secretary
Mrs. Lynn Mead, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Tom Hardy, Athletic Director
Mr. Keith Haske, Dean of Students

*To report absences
please inform the school before
8:00 a.m. Call 946-8038
Leave a message if there is no answer.*

Math Department and Library

Mrs. Molly Klettner

Math Department Head

Algebra 2, Honors Algebra 2, AP Statistics and AP Calculus

Mr. Tim Donahey

Pre-Calculus, Geometry, Honors Geometry and Algebra 2

Mr. Fred Robb

College Prep Algebra and Algebra 1

Mr. Greg Vaughan:

Mr. Vaughan will team teach both Algebra 1 and 2

Mrs. Amy West

Librarian

Mrs. West is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State with a Master Degree in Education from Lindenwood University. She has been an educator for over nine years working as a High School Business teacher, and then a librarian at the elementary and high school levels.

Phys Ed., Business, Fine Arts and Foreign Language

Mr. Keith Haske

Exercise Science and Health

Mr. Fred Robb

Accounting 1 and 2

Mrs. Cress Smith

Band

Mr. Ben Ferris

Spanish 1,2,3,4 and AP Spanish

Mrs. Carol Brinks

Spanish 1

Ms. Stephannie Krive

French I

Mr. Jason Maday

Culinary Arts

Mr. Scott Carter

Choir

Mrs. Debra Coburn will be taking a year's sabbatical; we thank her for her outstanding work in our Art Department. We are currently searching for a new art instructor.

Mrs. Rebecca Vandersight will be our new Art teacher. She has been a teacher with TCAPS for a number of years, as well as being a professional artist.

Special things to note...

Musical Announced

We are pleased to announce that this year's high school musical will be "**Guys and Dolls**." Directors are Jenn Miles and Misha Blodgett, Vocal Director is Scott Carter and Choreographer is Minda Nyquist. Show dates are Feb. 10-12 and 17-19. Auditions

are tentatively being set for the week of September 19. There will be an informational lunch meeting the first or second week of school so be sure to listen to announcements.

Glad Meals

GTACS students and their families continue to serve meals to the homeless and poor in our community every Saturday throughout the year.

Please consider getting involved this year!

WEEKLY MASS

Thursdays

10:15 a.m.

St. Francis Church

All are welcome

St. Clare's Chapel

Fr. Bill Lipscomb,

Chaplain

TUESDAY

Chapel Mass,

11:50 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Adoration,

8:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Reconciliation,

9:00 a.m.

FRIDAY

Divine Mercy Chaplet/

Rosary

12:45 p.m.

Some adjustments to this schedule may be made during the school year

St. Clare Chapel

The Patroness of our school is the spiritual sister of Saint Francis, Saint Clare. Saint Clare (1194-1253) was surrounded by material wealth, but her deep prayer life and devotion to the Eucharist drew her to a life of prayer, simplicity, and silence. She became the foundress of the Poor Clares, an order dedicated to a life of complete poverty and contemplation.

Our Chapel, built during the 2005-2006 school year, demonstrates our commitment to prayer and our love of the Eucharist. There will be many devotional activities at Saint Clare Chapel during the school week. Parents are encouraged to join us.

Point of interest

All uniform shirts, sweaters, vests, and sweatshirts must have the approved logos and purchased from approved vendors.

Retreat Information

Kairos, our senior retreat, is being held from October 1-4. Homecoming week begins October 3 so there is some overlap between those two events. Homecoming culminates on October 8. **Underclassmen Retreats** will be held on Monday, October 17.

The **9th Grade Retreat** is entitled, "It's about time," and is designed to help youth recognize the importance of faith and trusting God through the transition from middle school into high school. The day will end with Mass. The theme of the **10th grade retreat** is "Obstacles to Christ." Sophomores will come to see some of the obstacles placed in their path, recognize there is "road service" available (parents, friends, virtue, humility, the Sacraments), and come to realize that Jesus is the road (the Way), their compass (the Truth) and their ultimate destination (the Life). The students will examine obstacles to faith. Confession will be the highlight of the retreat. The **11th grade retreat** will focus on what a good relationship looks like culminating in an examination of their relationship with Christ. The day will end with Adoration and Benediction.

Cost of underclassmen retreats are as follows: 9th Grade, \$30; 10th and 11th Grades, \$20.

Counseling Office News

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

On **Wednesday, September 14**, there will be our Parent Orientation for all grade levels in Kohler Auditorium. Schedule is as follows:

6:00 -7:00 p.m.: 9th and 10th grade parents will have the opportunity to meet our teachers and tour the school.

7:30-8:30 p.m.: 11th and 12th grade parents are welcome to come to greet our teachers and learn about upcoming dates and important deadlines.

2010-2011 PLAN test results will also be discussed at this time.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes have been ongoing through the month of August. Please stop by the guidance office and sign up for an appointment to meet and discuss any changes you wish to make on your schedule or any other questions/concerns you have regarding the 2011-2012 school year.

COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS

Seniors - great job working on those college applications! My hope is you will have most (if not all) of your applications completed by the September 6. PLEASE let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the college application process.

IMPORTANT PSAT INFORMATION

The PSAT/NMSQT is a national test that will be administered in the morning on **Saturday, October 15**. The PSAT/NMSQT is a test primarily for **juniors**, but sophomores can also elect to take it for practice. In addition to being excellent practice for the SAT college entrance examination, this is the only way for juniors to enter the National Merit Foundation Scholarship Program. Taking it in the tenth grade increases your chances of qualifying for that scholarship program. Only students in the eleventh grade can be eligible for a National Merit Scholarship. If you would like more information on the PSAT/NMSQT please take a look at www.collegeboard.com.

NOTE: This test is optional and if you wish to take it, you must pay your fee of \$16 no later than **Thursday, September 8**. Please pay by check – payable to GTACS or St. Francis High School and bring it to the main office. I have to preorder tests and will reserve 60 tests for our students who wish to participate in this exam.

Mrs. Beth Maday
St. Francis High School Counselor