

## Back to School 2009

### Special points of interest:

- Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors final schedules and locker combinations can be picked up on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, from 8:30—2:00. At this time, we will collect the locker fee which is \$7.00 and parking permit for any new drivers which is \$20.00. The parking fee is refunded at the time of graduation.
- All Freshmen and transfer students will have an orientation on September 8th at 9 a.m. They will receive their locker combinations, schedules and other helpful information.
- All 9-12 grade students will begin their first day of classes on Wednesday, Sept. 9th. Students may be in the hallways at 7:30 a.m. Classes begin at 7:50 a.m. and end at 2:37 p.m.

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## The Difference is Prayer

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

Good Parents:

Summer Greetings and Peace be with you!

I welcome all of our returning students and look forward to getting to know our new ones as we embark on a great school year at St. Francis High School.

Our goals will remain the same with the beginning of the new school year. Our desire is that each student grows academically and spiritually until we have saints with strong intellects. If our goal is not sainthood, that is the process of sanctification, then we are not in line with God's call to holiness for all of us.

Academically, our teachers will continue to deliver lessons that will move our students toward ever higher levels of achievement. This will be done with an even greater focus on standards as we continue to refine our Curriculum Maps and employ our ACT plan. Spiritually, we

will continue to give our students opportunities to grow in their love and trust of God. In Saint Clare's Chapel we will offer optional devotions, Mass, adoration, and confession weekly, along with our regular weekly Mass at Saint Francis Church. We were very pleased that a survey given to the Freshman at the end of last year uncovered that many of them felt their greatest spiritual progress was made during Adoration. (Adoration will again be Wednesday; we need parent volunteers for an hour or half an hour time slots beginning at 8:15 until 2:15. If you can commit to this please call the office at 946-8038 .

We are blessed to have Father Bill Lipscomb as GTACS' full time Chaplain; this is especially fitting now that we are in "The Year of the Priest" as proclaimed by our Holy Father. Father Bill has a great love for our students and will bring consistent, wise, and priestly presence to all of our schools. Thank you to Bishop Cooney and Father Bill for this

blessing.

I will continue to pray for your children the rest of the summer and ask your prayers for the holiness of our school. Saint Francis, Saint Clare ... Pray for us.

Peace and All Good,

Mr. Erick Chittle

*Lord, make me an  
instrument of Thy  
peace.*

*-St. Francis of Assisi*

**Help needed:** At the end of last year, I started to notice the great contrast between the quality of students and teachers at Saint Francis and the physical condition of the building. Therefore, a group of us are going to paint the hallways, doors, and stairways, but we need more hands. We will be painting the afternoons and nights of Thursday, August 20th, and Friday, August 21st at 4 p.m. (and the morning of the 22nd if needed beginning at 8:30 a.m.). Please come any time that you can. I want to thank the Knights of Columbus for taking the lead on this especially Andrew Nickodemus, and David Soto. Further, I would appreciate a volunteer to plant some flowers in front of the school, and someone to build a new picnic table for our students to enjoy in the courtyard. Thank you for considering these service projects.

*Homecoming Game*  
*Sat., October 3rd*  
*at 1 p.m.*  
*Pep Rally and*  
*Parade on Friday,*  
*October 2nd.*

*Our weekly Mass*  
*will be on*  
*Thursdays at*  
*11:00 a.m. at*  
*St. Francis Parish*

## Religion Department and English Department

Listed below are the teachers followed by courses taught:

**Mrs. Susan Maasberg:**  
**(Religion Department Chair)** Church History Social Justice

**Mr. Bill Strong:**  
Introduction to Catholicism

**Mrs. Trish Zamarron:**  
Old Testament and New Testament, Catholic Apologetics

**Mr. David Peck:** Major World Religions

**Mrs. Cheryl Schmuckal (English Department Chair):** Public Speaking, Honors Classical Literature and Composition, AP Language and Composition

**Mr. Bill Strong:**  
American Literature, Creative Writing

**Mrs. Tracey Tull:**  
Classical Literature and Composition, SFTV, and Yearbook.

**Mrs. Meegan Feil:**  
9th grade English, Honors 9th grade English, AP Literature and Composition

## High School Support Staff

Mrs. Beth Maday, Counselor

Mrs. Kathy Hunt, Secretary

Mrs. Lynn Mead, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Tom Hardy, Athletic Director

Mr. Greg Vaughan, Academic Assistance Center



## Math Department and Physical Education

**Mrs. Molly Klettner: (Math Department Head)** Algebra 2, Honors Algebra 2, College Prep. Algebra and Calculus.

**Mr. Tim Donahey:**  
Pre-Calculus, Geometry, and Honors Geometry

**Mr. Andy MacTavish:**  
Algebra 1

We are in the process of hiring a P.E. Teacher

## Science Department and Social Studies/Business Department

Listed below are the teachers followed by courses taught:



**Mr. Frank Paladino (Science Department Chair):** Physical Science, Physics, and Chemistry.

**Mrs. Carol Erickson:** Biology, Anatomy, Psychology, and A.P. Psychology

**Mrs. Susan Maasberg:** Biology and Honors Biology

Listed below are the teachers followed by courses taught:

**Mr. David Peck (Social Studies Department Chair):** United States History, AP United States History, and Government

**Mr. Rodney Taplin:** World History, United States History, and Military History.

**Mr. Andy MacTavish:** Economics, World History and Business Computer Applications.

## Fine Arts/Foreign Language Department

**Mrs. Cress Smith:**  
Band

**Mr. Ben Ferris:**  
Spanish 1,2,3,4.

**Mr. Jason Maday:** Culinary Arts

**Mrs. Debra Coburn:**  
Photography, Art 1 & 2 and Sculpture.

**Choir:** We are in the process of hiring someone for our choir program. Please note: Choir will be zero hour and will meet Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-7:45 a.m. If you are interested in joining choir now that it is zero hour, please contact Mrs. Maday. We look forward to growing the program that Mrs. Mawby began.

## Special things to note...

### All System Mass

Please join us on Friday, September 11th at 8:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Gym for Mass. This is a beautiful way to celebrate the starting of school by gathering together as one Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools.

### 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!

### Exchange students

Please welcome back senior, Andrea Fly back after a year long visit as an exchange student in Thailand. Please give a warm SF welcome back to Isaac Noge from South Africa and to our new exchange students: Ronja Esins from Germany and Kunrong Wang from China.

### ***Point of interest:***

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

Late Start Thursdays  
(once a month)

On the second Thursday of each month, school will begin at 8:35 a.m. This late start will be used by our departments as time to meet in Professional Learning Communities allowing teachers to plan units, review test data, and create common assessments. This time has proven to be a powerful tool in school achievement.

Students may arrive at the normal time, and gather in our dining room where breakfast will be served from 7:50 a.m-8:20 a.m. (or your student may choose to sleep in and arrive by 8:35 a.m.).

Lunch prices for SF students are \$3.30. Parents may begin funding their child's lunch account at any time. Checks may be made to GTACS and mailed to Karen Spencer; GTACS Dining Services at 123 East 11th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

*To report absences please inform the school before 8:15 a.m. Call 946-8038 Leave a message if no answer.*

## 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 sustained contemplation.

Our Chapel that was 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 their students. See the schedule below.

Monday: Confessions and Spiritual Direction available 12:55 p.m.—1:15 p.m.

Tuesday: Holy Mass 11:50 am

Wednesday: Exposition/ Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist 8:15 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Please Contact Mr. Chittle 946-8038 if you would be able to adore on a weekly basis for an hour.)

Thursday: Holy Mass 11:00 a.m. at Saint Francis Church

Friday: Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet for Life and Vocations

## Bookstore Information

The ESCO Online Bookstore for St. Francis is currently available for ordering your 2009-2010. The online website can be found at [www.sfhsbooks.com](http://www.sfhsbooks.com). For those who do not have internet access or who prefer not to order online, orders can also be placed by phone to ESCO Books at 888-228-6292. This option will also become available on August 3 at 11:00 a.m. You will need to have your schedule in hand when placing your order, either online or by phone. Free shipping is available

until 11:59 p.m. on August 16 to order with no shipping charges assessed. If you sold books to ESCO during the book buyback, you will need the certificate number (on the yellow ESCO buyback form) that was given to you at that time. During the checkout process you will be prompted to enter that number so that the credit can be applied to your purchase. You can enter multiple certificate numbers if you happen to have more than one. If you have misplaced your certificate,

ESCO can retrieve the number for you by calling their Customer Service at 888-228-6292.

For questions, please contact Deb Quinlan at 995-8424 or by email at [dquinl@gtacs.org](mailto:dquinl@gtacs.org).

## Counseling Office News!

**Wednesday, September 16th** will be our **Parent Orientation** for all students. **Ninth and tenth grade parents are invited to come from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.** to meet our teachers and tour the school. **Eleventh and twelfth grade parents are welcome to come from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** to meet our teachers and learn about upcoming tests and important deadlines you won't want to miss!

**PSAT REGISTRATION** is in progress. Any Sophomore or Junior who is interested in taking this test should register by September 16th in the main office. Please bring a check payable to GTACS in the amount of \$16 to the office; you will then receive a practice book to help in your preparation. More information about the PSAT can be found at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**SCHEDULE CHANGES** are underway! The counseling office is open Monday—Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please stop by during office hours to make any necessary changes.

**SENIORS**...you are working on your college applications...right?