

# The Seraph

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ST. FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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*All About Prep*



St. Francis Preparatory School  
6100 Francis Lewis Boulevard  
Fresh Meadows, NY 11365  
718-423-8810 ext. 290  
www.SFPonline.org



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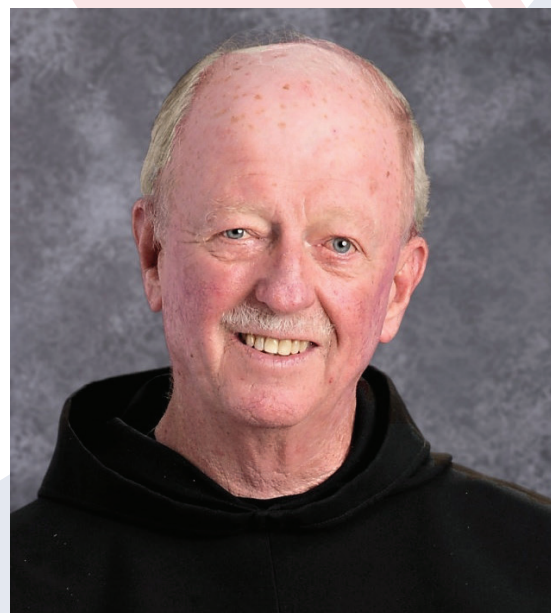
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@StFrancisPreparatorySchool

## Welcome from our President, Br. Leonard Conway, O.S.F

*Br. Leonard Conway, O.S.F - President, St. Francis Prep*



**I'm delighted that you are**  
interested in learning more about St. Francis Prep.

St. Francis Prep, a Catholic secondary school in the Franciscan tradition, began providing quality education in 1858 in Brooklyn, NY, and relocated to Fresh Meadows in 1974. I began teaching at St. Francis Prep in 1971, 52 years ago, during which I served 30 years as Principal, and this year I begin my 10th year as President of St. Francis Prep.

My responsibilities have me working mostly on the business side of the school – maintaining and promoting our mission, finances, admissions, development, alumni relations, fundraising, public relations, and being the official spokesperson of the school. Our Principal, Mr. Patrick McLaughlin (a long-time assistant principal) is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. His major focus is directing the academic program and supervision of the school community.

Over the years, we have been selected by the U.S. Education Department as well as *U.S. News & World Report* as an outstanding high school in America providing excellence in education.

Our mission statement outlines our values, vision

and purpose- “St. Francis Prep is a Catholic, Franciscan, college preparatory school where we treat all of Creation with dignity and respect. As instruments of God’s peace, justice and love, we form leaders who achieve academic excellence, create community, and proclaim joy and hope.” Our students view the school as a true microcosm of New York City where everyone is welcome. We are very proud of our tremendous diversity. Our students find the faculty accepting, friendly, available, and respectful. Our alumni feel that the Prep made them what they are today and the curriculum prepared them for college and their future.

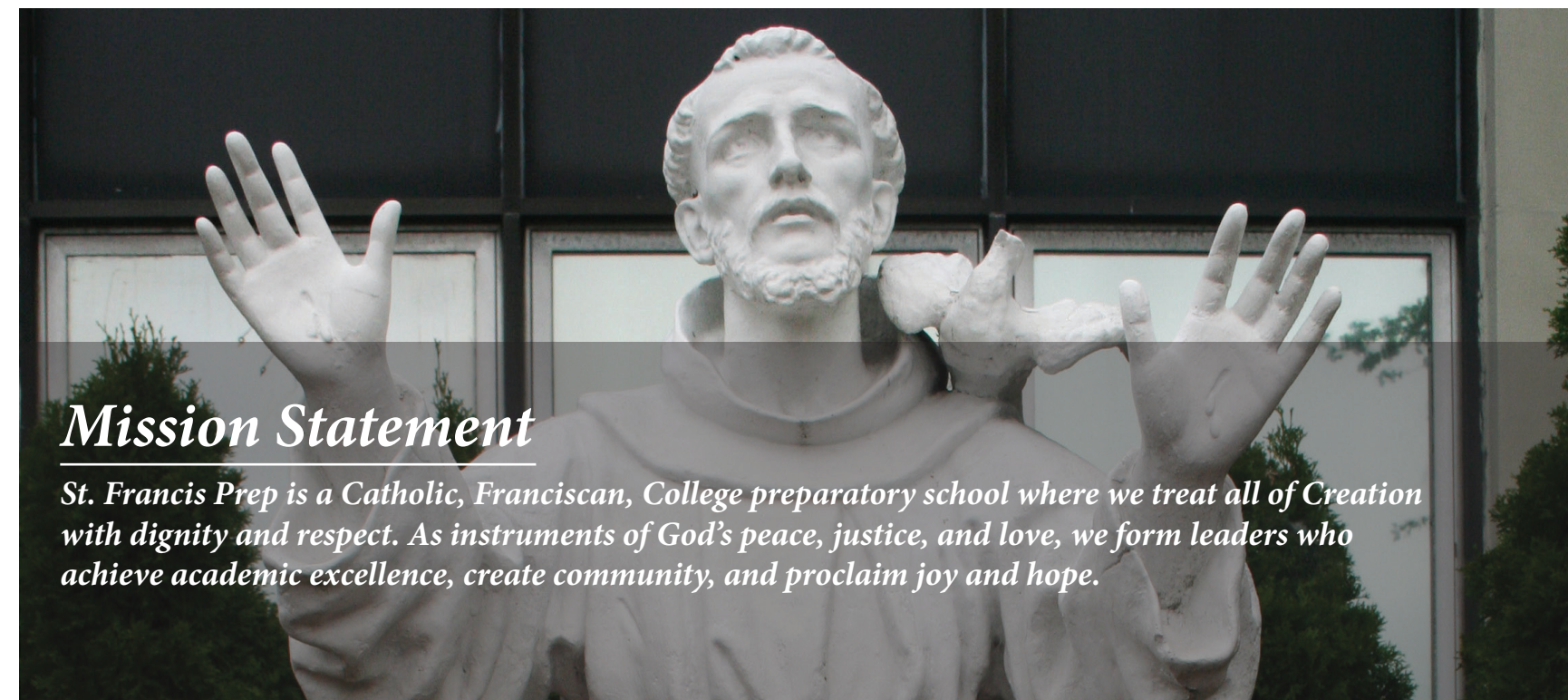
Be sure to visit our new state-of-the-art facilities – all new modernized science labs, The Coach O’Connor Fitness and Athletic Center, our cafeteria, music rooms and chapel. Our new west wing addition is complete with additional music rooms, new locker room and physical education offices. Construction is underway on the east side addition which will provide a locker room and additional music rooms.

In addition to having Smartboards in every classroom, each incoming student is given an IPAD to use in all of the classes.

This is all made possible by the generosity of our alumni and benefactors. No tuition money or dollars from our operating budget are used for any of the projects.

So I invite and encourage you to continue to “check us out.” Should you have any questions as you walk around, one of many students would be happy to help. I’m confident after your experience today you will agree that St. Francis Prep is the best Catholic high school in the metropolitan area.

If we can be of any further help in your decision making process, call our Admission’s Office at 718-423-8810 ext. 229 or 264 or visit our website at [www.SFPOnline.org](http://www.SFPOnline.org).



### Mission Statement

*St. Francis Prep is a Catholic, Franciscan, College preparatory school where we treat all of Creation with dignity and respect. As instruments of God’s peace, justice, and love, we form leaders who achieve academic excellence, create community, and proclaim joy and hope.*

## Welcome to St. Francis Prep!

*Mr. Patrick McLaughlin - Principal, St. Francis Prep*



**At the Prep, we strive to deliver** the highest level of education and support to our students emphasizing faith, character, respect and virtue. The achievements of our students, both past and present, are a testament to their hard work and drive as

well as the extraordinary administrators, faculty and support staff in our school. We sustain and promote excellence by providing a faith-filled environment that advances the knowledge, skills, abilities, and values of our students. We recognize that strengthening our programs, providing service opportunities outside the classroom, and offering college-level course-work is crucial for our student’s success in college and career.

We offer a wide variety of student activities and athletic opportunities that certainly enhance the high school experience. Campus Ministry nurtures faith life by including many ways for our students to get involved in their varied programs such as the Franciscan Youth Movement, Retreat Ministry, Soup Kitchen visits and Immersion Experiences, to name only a few. Our Guidance Department provides services integral for the development of each student. The counselors assist students to succeed academically and provide them with a wide range of services such as college career, and personal counseling.

At the heart of our faith based education is teaching and learning. We are a community of leaders and have set the standards high for both faculty and students. On average, 99% of our senior class will go on to study at the college level and many will qualify for academic scholarships. We are very proud of the achievement of our student body and the difference they make in the wider community after high school.

It is our hope that all in our SFP community live out the mission of being instruments of God’s Peace.

Warm Regards,  
Mr. Patrick McLaughlin

## SFP Follies

*Mr. David Ganci - Director of Student Activities*

**At the end of every summer and** at the start of every school year, St. Francis Prep invites the incoming 9th Graders to participate in the annual SFP Follies, an event that is geared to familiarize new students with their new home. Under the direction of Mr. David Ganci, Director of Student Activities, and with the close help of Mr. Michael Aguilo, Senior Peer counselors (supervised by Mr. Nick Lombardo) take the lead to make the newcomers feel welcomed and comfortable.

The day consists of indoor and outdoor activities, engaging the students in activities that involve the body, mind and spirit. Along with administration, faculty and staff members that all come together on one of the last days of summer vacation, the event brings everyone together in an assemblage of camaraderie and Prep Spirit.

A fun time is had by all and, as the event slogan says, it is “the first chance to make lasting memories.”



## St. Francis Prep's Office of Development

*Mr. Robert T. Angeletti H'11, Director of Development*

**The Office of Development** oversees St. Francis Prep's fundraising activities and manages all aspects of the school's alumni and donor constituent data base which currently contains over 35,000 records.

The Office of Development also coordinates more than 20 alumni and donor events, reunions and receptions each year in consultation with the Alumni Director and Alumni Board; produces all alumni and donor related publications including the GradNews magazine and the Annual Report of Contributions; and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the SFP alumni website (<http://alumni.sfponline.org>), Facebook page and other social media platforms.

Our alumni and other generous benefactors support the Prep largely because of the great work performed by our dedicated faculty and staff members who go “above and beyond” with the time and attention they devote to their students—both inside and outside the classroom. And our students succeed!

*High School is Four Years; St. Francis Prep is Forever!*

*On for O! St. Francis!!*

*“High School is four years; St. Francis Prep is Forever.”*

## Science Curriculum Prepares Students For Our Technological Society

*Mrs. Kimberly Istrico - Chairperson, Science Department*



The Science Department offers a comprehensive and in-depth approach to science-oriented careers and the vast areas of new, improved, and promising technologies. Along with the Regents and Honors courses offered in Earth Science, Chemistry, and Physics, we also offer Advanced Placement courses to students who show an interest in and dedication to science.

Courses such as Advanced Placement (A.P.) Biology, A.P. Chemistry, A.P. Physics, and A.P. Environmental Science give students the opportunity to take college-level courses using college material. These courses also prepare students to take the A.P. test in May, through which they may receive transferable college credit. Classes such as Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marine Biology, Biotechnology, Astronomy, Modern Genetics, and Forensic Science offer opportunities in specialized areas. Students even have the opportunity to take our Z-period Sports Physiology and Kinesiology and Nanotechnology. The Science Department also offered a week-long Trip to Iceland.

Mrs. Frances Jimenez and Mr. James LaRocca conduct the Science Research Program, which

has achieved outstanding results. Over the years St. Francis Prep has been the only Catholic school in the nation with multiple Intel semi-finalists.

The Science Research Program is a three-year undertaking in which students research an issue in the biological, physical, social, behavioral, or astronomical sciences, or in the fields of engineering, computers, or mechanics. The students work with professionals to design experimental procedures, complete experiments, write a professional research paper, and present the results.

In addition to our exciting and challenging curriculum, we are proud to introduce the “Healthcare Discovery Program”. The program was designed as a direct result of our partnership with New York-Presbyterian Queens Hospital. This program gives junior and senior level students that opportunity to work in the hospital alongside a preceptor in an area of medicine that interests them. Additionally, New York-Presbyterian Queens has generously donated an Anatomage virtual anatomy dissection table to St. Francis Preparatory School.



*Anatomage virtual anatomy dissection table*



*“High School is four years; St. Francis Prep is Forever.”*

## Where Would We Be Without Numbers?

Mr. James Lynch - Chairperson, Math Department



Advanced Placement, and Advanced Courses are available for students who qualify. For students who have historically found math a challenge, a four year curriculum is available to meet the needs of these students. The Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator is used as an additional resource.

The faculty members of the Mathematics Department are often seen before and after school, volunteering their free time offering extra help sessions to the students. During the school day, the Math Center is another resource students can take advantage of. The Math Center is staffed with a faculty member who can provide instruction and review in a more one on one setting. Peer tutors are also available to students who seek additional help. Mu Alpha Theta is the St. Francis chapter of the National Mathematics Honor Society. Students who have fulfilled GPA requirements and service hours are eligible for this program. These students are recognized during an Induction Ceremony each spring.

The faculty also believes in the importance of showing students the fun side of Math. Projects, which include making music videos, creating posters, scavenger hunts, have been incorporated to support learning. A Math

**Students at St. Francis** are presented with a challenging curriculum in Mathematics. New York State Regents level courses in Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II are required of all students. Students can also take elective courses, each of which can be used to obtain college credits. Precalculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Math Analysis, Math 12 are elective courses which are taught in a way where the students feel they are in a college setting. Honors,

## Peer Tutoring Program

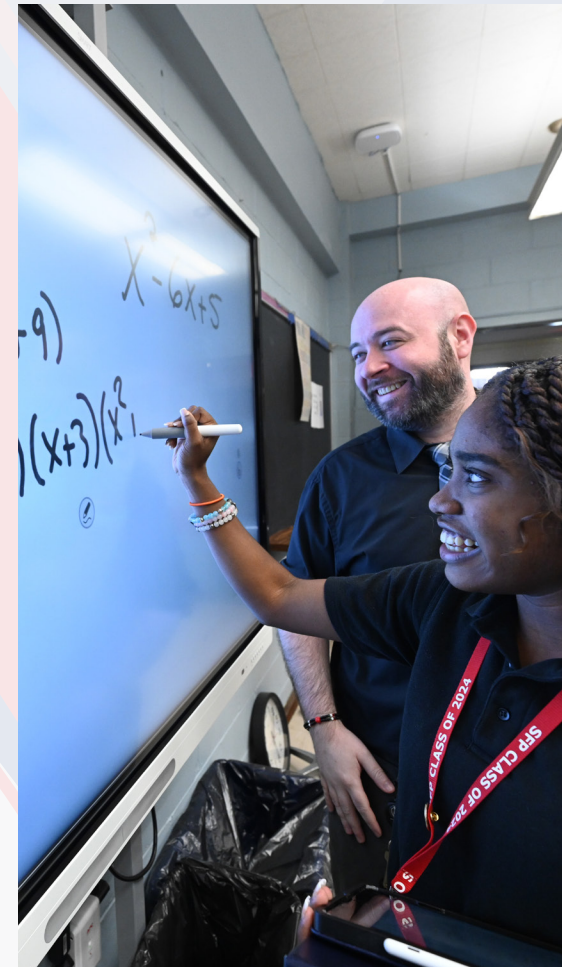
Ivy Tang '20 - Editor

**If you're struggling to pass in any** of your classes, or have difficulty recalling previously learned concepts, consider signing up for an in-school tutor through The Peer Tutoring Program! This program was made to assist academically struggling students by pairing them with students who have already taken the class. Our peer tutors are qualified Prep students who are easy to approach and easy to find in school for convenience. It is completely free to sign up for a tutor, and

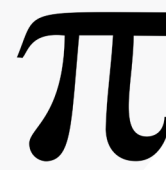
is highly recommended by teachers and staff. The schedules are flexible, and you can communicate with your tutor to coordinate times before school, after school, and/or during frees. See Mrs. Eagle in W-101 at any time if you are interested in getting a tutor.

If you're interested in becoming a tutor, pick up a form in W-101. You can choose what classes/subjects you want to tutor for, and then you will have to get signatures from your

Club was recently started to participate in local and national competitions. Pi Day is celebrated every March. The department also has a presence on social media (@sfpmath).



previous teachers to show you are qualified. Once you gather all of the signatures for the classes you are willing to tutor, submit your application and wait for a slip of paper with your tutoree's name to come to your COR mailbox. All peer tutors get service hours for the time they spend helping their student. Now, for all students of the Prep: work hard in all of your classes, and good luck!



## World Language: Learn and Live the World

Mrs. Marianna Ruggieri-Marletta - Chairperson, World Language Department



### The World Language

Department takes pride in its wide range of languages and multiple levels taught in each language. The languages offered to incoming students are French, Italian and Spanish. Students must study the foreign language for two years. However, more than 95% of students continue to a third year. Under the auspices of NYSAWLA (New York State of Administrators of World Languages), students take the FLACS (Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons & Supervisors) Exam which is the culmination of a three year sequence in which Prep's results on this exam have been outstanding.

Incoming freshmen of Spanish-speaking background and high-achieving students will also be offered the choice of taking a Spanish Honors course, ending with the FLACS Exam in sophomore year instead of junior year. After the third year, students enrolled in a Spanish course may choose from several electives: Spanish IV (college credit), Spanish Conversation (college credit), and A.P. Spanish. Students enrolled in their third year of French may continue on to French IV, a college credit course. Students enrolled in

the third year of Italian may choose to study Italian IV, a 3 credit college course, or A.P. Italian, a two-semester college credit course. A student may also study a second language after having taken 2 years of a language.

The World Language Department's faculty is composed of native speakers and teachers who have studied abroad extensively. This not only enables them to teach the language completely, but it also allows them to share their many cultural experiences with the students. Traditions and customs play a very important part in instruction and the Foreign Language Department highlights culture through tradition, song, dance and customs.

The majority of the World Language Department teachers belong to various professional organizations that help them to keep up to date with ongoing developments in their field. These organizations also sponsor national competitions for students such as the National Exam for French, Italian and Spanish. Many of our students do extremely well on these National Exams, placing them in either Gold, Bronze or Silver categories. The World Language Department is very active in these competitions and it recognizes students with outstanding results at its annual Foreign Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

Faculty members moderate numerous World Language clubs after school. These are largely social gatherings aimed at exchanging the cultures of the foreign lands. Their participation in International Night in March or April is always a huge success. The Foreign Language Department strives not only to teach the language of choice, but also to have students "live" the language.

Mrs. Ruggieri-Marletta, the Chairperson of the World Language Department, has been sponsoring international trips for the last 12 years. Students have had the opportunity

to travel to Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, London, Slovenia, Portugal, Greece, and Morocco. "Travel is an influential experience: it teaches empathy, awareness, and understanding of cultural difference, plus the capacity to challenge and question what we might have previously been led to believe." Many students return from the trips with a different view on lives, cultures and context. Learning is most powerful when experienced first-hand. It is a tangible experience that gives students the ability to shape their beliefs and also obtain the self-belief to reflect and inquire about what they have been previously taught".

The World Language Departments' philosophy of COMMUNICATION is adopted through the America Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages and it has brought us into the 21st century. The skill to converse in multiple languages is becoming increasingly essential in the more and more integrated global business world. Leonardo De Valoes, an Adjunct Professor said "Communicating directly with new clients and companies in their native language is one of the first steps to founding a lasting, stable international business relationship."



## Security at The Prep

*The Security Team*



**With so many factors to consider** when sending your child to school, safety academics, community, and integrity head the list. Here at Prep, we pride ourselves on providing only the best for our Terrier Family.

That's why we don't implement any ordinary security system; we go above and beyond to ensure the safety of all who enter the building, -- student, staff member, or visitor. St. Francis Prep utilizes the main entrance on Francis Lewis Blvd., where entrants are met and scanned at the security desk. This area also features live footage streamed from cameras monitoring the entire building, inside and out.

Our security isn't comprised of regular staff members. We are fortunate to have a team of retired law enforcement professionals licensed by New York State. These dedicated security members supervise all activities, both during the school day and for after-school programs, patrolling the entire school campus.

While St. Francis Prep prides itself in providing a safe and enriching environment for all of

our community, we are not naive to the fact that the unexpected sometimes happens. Our security team spends countless hours in preparation with the Deans, School Nurse, and other members of the SFP community practicing fire drills, lock down drills, and ALICE training with all members of the school staff. In the chance that external help is needed, we have a close relationship with the local police and fire departments.

We understand that it has become impossible today not to worry every time our children leave the house. But we can assure you that, here at Prep, safety is the building block that all else stands on, providing the base for education, lasting relationships, and personal growth.

## Social Studies Electives SPAN HISTORY . . . and

*Mrs. Diane Haussermann - Chairperson, Social Studies Department*



**The Social Studies department's** goal is to create well-informed, analytical global citizens. Students have the opportunity to refine their critical thinking skills throughout their four years of Social Studies at the Prep.

In their freshmen year, students complete a study of pre-history through the Age of Exploration, focusing on writing, source analysis, and finding connections throughout history. In their sophomore year, students continue to improve their historical thinking skills as they study the Age of Enlightenment through the present day in preparation for their Global History and Geography Regents. In their junior year, students study American history and government, preparing for the US History and Government Regents. In each of these three years, students have the opportunity to take honors and Advanced Placement credit. Senior year at the Prep brings a variety of Social Studies elective opportunities. Students can earn college credit through our AP classes, which include Psychology, European History, Government & Politics, and Macroeconomics. Students can complete their own course of study through

independent research in the Senior Honors Research Seminar. Additionally, students can elect to take either Forensic Criminology, Criminal Justice, History of the Americans, Sociology, NYC History, Participation in government, Psychology, Economics, History of World War II or Contemporary World issues to both meet the fourth year Social Studies requirement and study an area that piques their interest.

The Social Studies department gives the opportunity for students to expand on and apply their knowledge through clubs and activities such as the Model UN Speech, Debate and Student Congress, Trial of the Century, C.S.I. challenges; trips to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Europe and local museums, and visits by local politicians. Our hope is that every student that graduates becomes a productive global citizen armed with the tools to make informed decisions.

## Evolving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Computer Science & Business

*Mr. James May '76 - Chairperson, Computer/Business Department*



**The Computer Department** is a member of the Computer Science Honor Society. Every spring, junior and senior students are selected by the Computer Science Faculty for induction into the Honor Society for their superior achievements. Last year, we inducted twenty seniors and two juniors in recognition of their academic excellence.

We are proud that our Computer-Business Department has evolved and kept pace in a discipline that is ever-changing. The Computer Department added an A.P. Course in 2019. This full year course, A.P. Principles of Computer Science, and plan on introducing another AP class A.P. Computer Science A. Video Game Design is a college credit course associated with St. John's University.

St. Francis Prep has invested in the Technology that enables the department to keep pace with ever-changing world of computers. In the Robotics course, the class continues to use the EV3 robots, which are programmed using the C Language. The Video Game class uses the program Game Maker to have the students develop their own games. Both the Computer and Business classrooms use cutting edge technology. Please be sure to see the web pages that have demonstrations for what we are doing in Robotics.

Courses offered in the Computer Department include A.P. Principles of Computer Science, Principles in Computer Science, Robotics, Video Game Design, Python Programming and C# Programming and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Courses in Computer science are only open to juniors and seniors. All the courses are one semester classes, except for the A.P. Computer course.



## The Library at SFP

*Ms. Elizabeth Wolpert - Library Team*

**The Library at St. Francis Prep** strives to be the ultimate resource for academic work and general reading pleasure. It is a quiet place where students can concentrate, relax, be with friends, and get help with research or with many of the technological resources that students use on a daily basis. The Library team can help students with Turniton.com; Noodle Tools; finding resources such as books, eBooks, and articles; with creating citations, and with using the libraries' many databases. Internet access and printing capabilities are

available, and library staff can assist students with our Print Management System, accessing computers and Chromebooks, or with finding a book for class or independent reading. Students may rent out the Library Conference Room for the purposes of group study. Students may also sign up for MyLibraryNYC, which will provide a fine free Library card, enabling students to access all of the Queens Library's and the New York Public Library's resources. The library provides 24 personal computers, 90 Chromebooks, and 80 database

subscriptions with access to millions of full-text articles. Hours are 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Fridays.

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## Reading and Writing, and So Much More . . .

*Dr. Joseph Castellano - English Department*



### The English program at St. Francis

Prep is what we call a literature-based program. Students read great works of literature, discuss them in class, and then write about them. Our students leave St. Francis Prep as good readers, writers, and thinkers; they have the skills they need for success in college and work. Equally important, during their four years here, students build on their love of reading. A goal of the English department – and the entire school – is for the students to leave us as lifelong learners.

Each grade level has a specific focus and a set of required works. English 9 is an introduction to literature and necessary reading and writing skills. Students read a Shakespeare play, *Of Mice and Men*, *The House on Mango Street*, *Night*, and excerpts from *The Odyssey*. In addition, they read a wide array of short stories and poems. English 10 focuses on British Literature: *Macbeth*, the Romantic poets, *Frankenstein*, *The Lord of the Flies*, and many other short stories and poems. In English 11, students get to read some of the great works of American Literature. They read *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Death of a Salesman*, the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, and many short stories. In senior year, all students take a full year of English, selected from an array of electives. We offer A.P. English Literature, World Literature honors, Drama, Poetry, Fiction, and Gothic Literature. In all four years, our teachers also supplement the required reading with other classic and contemporary works of their choosing.

We offer honors classes on all four grade levels and A.P. classes in junior and senior years. Students qualify for honors and A.P. classes based on their interest, achievement in their current class, and the recommendation of their English teacher. We do not track students at St. Francis Prep; there is much movement into and out of honors and

A.P. classes during the four years.

The English department staffs a Writing Center where students can get extra help on any of their writing. Students can make an appointment themselves or are referred by their English teacher. The Writing Center is a great resource for students to become great writers. The English department also sponsors *The Little Portion*, the school's literary journal; students edit and select poetry and short story submissions of the student body. *The Little Portion* is published every Spring, accompanied by a public reading of poetry and stories. We also sponsor Poetry Out Loud. This program is a nation-wide competition in which students learn and recite two poems. Over the years, we have sent many students to the New York State finals. All of these activities present opportunities for students to develop their love of writing.

The St. Francis Prep English department will provide you with many opportunities to build your reading and writing skills and grow in your love of literature. You will love your experience in your English classes here. You will leave with new insights and a deepened passion for the language arts.

## Religious Education Nurtures the Franciscan Spirit

*Mrs. Linda Baldacchino - Chairperson, Religion Department*



**Our mission at St. Francis Prep** is to educate the whole student spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. The Religious Education's curriculum is designed with this in mind and helps students grow in faith and acquire knowledge of themselves, God, and others. They are immersed in our Franciscan and Catholic Christian tradition, with a deep interest in addressing the faith needs of the adolescent. As our students mature from freshman to seniors, it is our goal for them to carry the Franciscan spirit and values in their hearts and minds as they face the challenges of life.

Religion classes are part of the student's program of study for four years at Prep. Faith and spirituality develops in different stages throughout high school and our teachers assist students along their journey. Freshman and sophomore classes explore student's awareness of their individual identities and their relationship with others. The program is comprehensive and foundational in the basic tenets of Catholic Christianity, Sacred Scripture studies, and Franciscan values.

A very special and unique part of our religious education program for freshman and sophomores is the "Experience Group."

Once a cycle, our students meet in small group settings to discuss topics that are specifically related to what they are experiencing as teenagers. Once again, we are encouraging and supporting the development of the whole person.

As students become juniors and seniors, their choice of religious studies becomes

very diverse and enables them to delve deeper in their relationship with God and their spirituality. Our semester-long electives include: Body, Mind, Spirit; Contemporary Franciscan Living; Healing Powers of Grace; Human, Sex, and Love; Jesus and Film; Morality; Philosophy of Life; Religions of the World (AP Course); Social Justice; and Women in the Bible. Qualifying juniors have

the opportunity to do Christian Service for the year. They volunteer in the community and then come together once a cycle to reflect upon their experience.

By offering so many opportunities for students to explore their faith life, we are blessed to be part of their spiritual development.

## Living Our Faith through Campus Ministry

*Dr. Christian Sullivan - Director of Campus Ministry*



### The mission of the Campus

Ministry team is to animate and nurture the faith life of the St. Francis Prep community. Our team helps students learn about what it means to be "Franciscan" and to "put faith into action." Campus Ministry offers leadership, service and liturgical opportunities that allow students to help others and grow spiritually. Though our Masses and prayer services are from a Catholic perspective, our office also welcomes the involvement of students from all faith backgrounds.

The Campus Ministry team is comprised of four dedicated people. **Father Ralph Edel** is our full-time Chaplain. He coordinates our sacramental preparation program and celebrates our Masses where he shares thoughtful and relevant homilies. He is a regular presence at all retreats, most school

activities and is available for students to talk to and ask advice. **Dr. Christian Sullivan** is the Director of Campus Ministry, overseeing the many program offerings. **Mrs. Marissa Ruotolo-Merkle** is the Campus Minister for Liturgy and Worship. Besides assisting with the retreat program, Mrs. Ruotolo assures that we have dynamic prayer services, liturgies and worship experiences. **Mr. Shawn Sempowich** is the Campus Minister for Service Learning and also teaches Christian Service classes. The Campus Ministry office is a great place to visit and relax during free periods. Our team is here to journey with and support our students.

Many different groups make up Campus Ministry. Seniors can be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and distribute the Eucharist at liturgies. Students from each grade serve as lectors, liturgy assistants, members of the liturgical ensemble, and part of the prayer team. Prayer team members assist with leading the daily prayer over the PA system at the beginning of the school day. Franciscan Youth Movement (FYM) students organize activities that promote our Franciscan values like letter writing to elders and veterans, animal food drives, and Gratitude is an Attitude Week. What makes Campus Ministry special? Mrs. Ruotolo believes, "It's the collection of students of all faiths coming together to celebrate our Franciscan identity."

SFP students have several volunteer opportunities after school and during vacation breaks through Campus Ministry. Students can serve a meal at the Presentation Parish Soup Kitchen, assist with Cunningham Park Clean Ups, or attend a Service Retreat. One

of the most popular service programs is called "Midnight Run." Six times during the year, groups of students and chaperones bring food and clothing donations to people living on the streets in Manhattan. Several students choose more intense experience of faith and service by participating in the week-long Franciscan Immersion Experiences. Past teams have worked in New Orleans, New Mexico, Green Bay, Camden, Missouri, Long Island and Peru. During summer, the SFP Service Academy gives participants different service experiences each day throughout NYC.

All students at SFP attend retreats. Freshmen participate in Foundations Day, an in-house retreat focused on belonging. Sophomore year, students travel off campus with their religion class. Juniors and seniors lead these experiences for the 9th and 10th graders. During 11th and 12th grades, retreats are optional. Juniors can attend the two-night Journey Retreat and seniors have four special day-long experiences in spring. Athletic teams, art students and musical groups also have specially designed retreat experiences.

Campus Ministry is a wonderful place for students to express their faith. "We want our students to build strong relationships with God, learn what it means to be a Franciscan, and how those two things should be lived out in a teenager's life. Our school is more than a college preparatory school. We want students to grow spiritually and Campus Ministry provides opportunities and programs to do this," Dr. Sullivan points out.

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## Art Program is Progressive and Rewarding

Mrs. Jeanne Buccino - Chairperson, Art Department



Studio in Art I, and Performing Arts I. For 10th grade- Studio II in Fine Arts, Digital Media Design, CAD, Fashion, Advanced Digital Design, Studio in Performing Arts, Advanced Sophomore Art, Honors Two-Dimensional Design. For 11th and 12th grades: Two-Dimensional Design, Drawing, Life Drawing, Painting, Sculptural Design, Photography, Film and Animation, Glass, Fusion & Jewelry Design, Computer Graphics, Web Design, Graphic Design, A.P. Art History, Advanced Drawing and Painting, Acting, Movement/Dance, Advanced Movement/Dance, and Stage/Theater Design. In addition to the A.P. classes mentioned above, many of our advanced art electives are offered for college credit through St. John's University.

### The St. Francis Preparatory Art

Department's program of study introduces our students to a wide variety of disciplines, from the visual arts to the performing arts. Our objective is to develop the students' awareness, appreciation, and creation of art through a sequential program of instruction that provides a sound foundation of art production, art history, art criticism, and aesthetics. It also allows the advanced student flexibility to pursue a more sophisticated direction in order to pursue the development of a successful portfolio for college admissions' requirements.

There are presently six full-time Art instructors utilizing our state-of-the-art Art Education center located on the west side of the fourth floor. This facility includes six classrooms: a fine art drawing and painting studio, a sculpture, ceramics, and glass studio, a mechanical drawing studio, and one computer graphics lab equipped with Apple Macintosh computers, featuring industry standard design and digital editing software. The Art Department boasts an impressive 25 course program consisting of the following: For 9th grade: Studio in Art I, Advanced

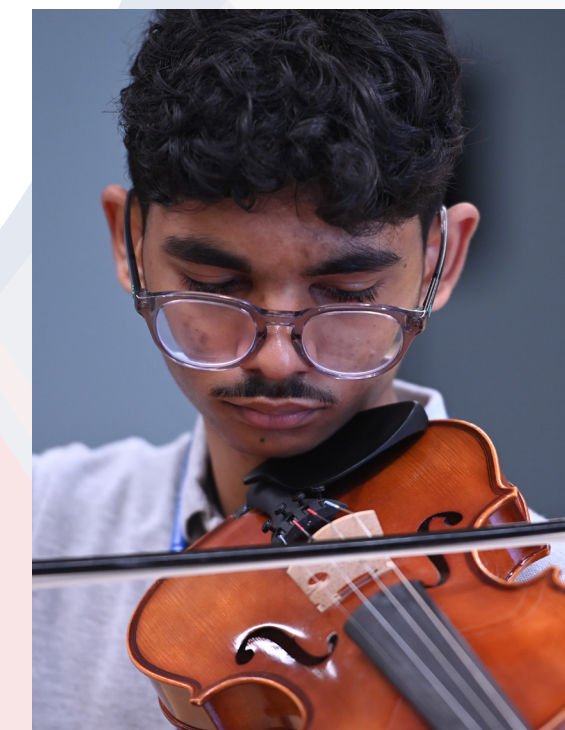


schools in the United States, such as SVA, RISD, SCAD, Pratt, NYIT, Lesley University, Parsons/New School, School of Visual Arts, FIT, LIM college, and NYU to name a few.

Beginning in their freshman year, our students are guided through college applications to ensure successful college admissions. This includes course and career advisement, visits from college admissions counselors to St. Francis Prep, college application seminars, portfolio artwork selection and digital documentation. SFP offers a guided portfolio help sessions for Art majors.

Advanced Art Classes — Incoming eighth grade students may apply to take Full year Advanced Art honors, Performing Arts I and or Movement for Performers (Dance). For the school year, the art department is currently holding virtual auditions and portfolio reviews. To obtain an application and information please email Mrs. Buccino, Art Department Chairperson at [JBuccino@stfrancisprep.org](mailto:JBuccino@stfrancisprep.org)

 [Instagram.com/SFP\\_Art](https://www.instagram.com/SFP_Art)



## The Changing Face of Guidance

Ms. Robyn Armon- Director of Guidance

**Our mission as educators is** to prepare students — thoroughly and realistically — to be successful individuals, family members, workers, community members, and citizens in a rapidly changing world. In doing so, our graduates will be able to react appropriately to the continual vacillations in their personal and communal environments and will be able to function effectively in their various future endeavors. School counselors are influential in helping students reach their post-secondary, career, personal, and social goals. In addition to their roles in counseling and coordination, school counselors are leaders, advocates, and collaborators. As leaders, they engage in school-wide change to ensure students' success. They promote academic achievement by providing a comprehensive developmental school-counseling program that pays attention to issues of educational equity and access. As advocates, they promote high levels of achievement for all students. They remove barriers to academic achievement by teaching skills to students, and by helping students and parents negotiate the school environment and

access support systems. School counselors collaborate with teachers, administration, staff, parents, and community members to effect positive changes. Most important, they demonstrate their willingness to share responsibility and accountability for student achievement and school improvement.

Our goal is to help students become people who have an insurmountable self-confidence, who are able and unafraid to think for themselves, who appreciate the intrinsic value of work, and who will always enjoy the process of learning. We must continue to foster awareness and understanding of socio-cultural differences and of human similarities as well as provide students with a colorful array of meaningful encounters with persons of differing social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. By doing this, our students will become competent and productive citizens who respect themselves and others. Together we must recognize that we have the awesome responsibility of being their role models. Though it may be a challenge, we have the unique roles of being



key players in the academic success stories of our students as they grow and change in a world filled with ugliness and beauty, racism and acceptance, hatred and love, and ignorance and mindfulness.

*“High School is four years; St. Francis Prep is Forever.”*

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## Prep's Nationally Recognized Students



Class of 2024, Jayden Li, PSAT National Merit Scholarship Semi - Finalist

## Franciscan Brothers... Franciscanism in the Modern Day

Mrs. Krissy Petry -Mathematics Faculty & FYM Coordinator

**The Franciscan Brothers** are a religious order that traces its roots back to the early 13th century, founded by St. Francis of Assisi, an Italian Catholic friar and preacher. St. Francis, born in 1181, is renowned for his deep commitment to poverty, humility, and service to others. He sought to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ closely and dedicated his life to helping the poor and the sick. St. Francis' order, known as the Order of Friars Minor, focused on living a life of simplicity and service to humanity.

The Franciscan Brothers, following the example set by St. Francis, emphasize the importance of humility, poverty, and compassion. They have a rich history of establishing schools, hospitals, and missions around the world, providing education and healthcare to those in need. Over the centuries, the Franciscan Brothers have continued to promote a life of selflessness, serving marginalized communities, and advocating for social justice.

The Franciscan values have a profound

impact on modern-day life, emphasizing the significance of empathy, stewardship, and community. By embracing these values, individuals can foster a greater sense of compassion and understanding for others, leading to a more inclusive and equitable society. The Franciscan commitment to simplicity encourages people to live with less, reducing their impact on the environment and promoting sustainable practices. Additionally, their emphasis on community and social justice calls for individuals to actively participate in creating a world where all individuals have access to necessities and equal opportunities.

Overall, the Franciscan values serve as a guiding light for contemporary society, urging individuals to prioritize the well-being of others, live modestly, and work towards the betterment of humanity as a whole. Adopting these values can lead to a more empathetic and harmonious world, where the needs of the marginalized are recognized and addressed, and where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.



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## School Improvement through Middle States Accreditation

Mr. Robert Johnston - Co-Internal Coordinator, MSA

**St. Francis Preparatory** School has enjoyed a long and successful relationship with the Middle States Association. Prep is one of Middle States' standout schools, earning four "Programs of Distinction."

According to Middle States, "Programs of Distinction provide external validation of a school's accomplishments in specific areas of expertise, enhancing a school's prestige and promoting its reputation as a top-tier institution. Middle States Programs of Distinction serve as models for schools throughout the world."

Prep is the only school *worldwide* to hold four Programs of Distinction. Prep's first was in Music.

"Nobody is doing it better!"

These words describe Prep's Music Department, as expressed by the Middle

States Association when we were the *first school* ever to earn the Association's Program of Distinction in Music, which is aimed at recognizing only those schools with the most sophisticated programs and the highest goals in music education.

Prep's Art department has earned the Program of Distinction in Visual Arts, making Prep *one of only two schools in the world* to hold Programs of Distinction in Art *and* Music. According to the Middle States website, "the Visual Arts Program of Distinction identifies programs of superior quality, clearly articulated and comprehensive, led by qualified and talented instructors using research-based instructional techniques and strategies, and allows all students to develop an appreciation for and an understanding of the visual arts as a valuable and expressive fine art form."

The School Counseling Program of

Distinction recognizes schools that support a comprehensive and coherent school counseling program that is modeled on national school counseling standards. For schools granted the School Counseling Program of Distinction, it is evident that the program outcomes are focused upon the academic, social and emotional development of all students so they are prepared for the ever-changing world of the 21st century school.

Most recently, Prep earned the PoD in World Languages, where Middle States, "recognize(s) a school's commitment to language education through a well-articulated, learner-appropriate program that facilitates cultural agility as well as the acquisition of languages at a high level."

Next up in our efforts, Athletics and Service Learning.



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## iPad Technology

*Ms. Nicole May and Mrs. Caitlin Donovan-Demeo – Directors of Technology*



**Whatever the future may hold** for your student, we know that they will be involved with technology in their daily lives. St. Francis Prep is working hard to stay on the

cutting edge of technology, providing students with tools they will use in their careers and lives beyond their years here. When students enroll, each is given an iPad, complete with a school embossed case particular to their year. These devices serve many purposes, allowing students to bring their work home and providing them with a device dedicated to their schoolwork. This device remains with them for their four years at the Prep, and is their gift upon their graduation from the school.

While students are here, they use their iPads in class almost everyday. We are a Google Apps for Education school, meaning that each student is issued a school Google account to use. These accounts allow for teacher dissemination and collection of

work, feedback on student projects, and collaborative efforts on class projects. The iPad also allows for a great degree of creativity and freedom in the classroom; teachers often have students utilize the iPad to make movies, podcasts, and other multimedia friendly projects.

In order to expose students to a wide variety of technology, the library is also equipped with Chromebooks. These remain in the library for students to use during their free time, often writing papers or working on assignments. No matter what type of device students are on, we have wireless printing available for all students. Our goal is to integrate technology seamlessly into student's learning to improve their education and their knowledge of technology.

## Parent Involvement at St. Francis Prep: Parents' Guild

*Parents' Guild*

### One of the long-standing

organizations within the Prep family is the St. Francis Prep Parents' Guild. The Guild begins each year welcoming the new freshman parents with a Mass, arranged with the Liturgy Committee, followed by a breakfast reception in the cafeteria. This year's 9th-Grade Parent Welcome program was a great success, strongly attended by many new Prep families.

The St. Francis Prep Parents' Guild provides a venue for social and service events in the Franciscan tradition. The Parents' Guild is comprised of a warm and welcoming community. The Guild organizes fundraising events, trips, and raffles such as Paint and Sip Night, Radio Bingo, music concerts, and the annual Christmas Party for our Friends with Special Needs. The Guild is actively

working on adding new and fun activities to the calendar for you to take part in so you can meet other parents from Prep as well as support our school.

Our members are committed to spiritual growth through fellowship and deeds, and our fundraising helps keep tuition affordable for all SFP families. The Parents' Guild has also expanded co-sponsored service opportunities with Campus Ministry such as the annual parent-student Breakfast Run to feed the homeless. Information about the Parents' Guild is available on the SFP website at [www.SFPonline.org](http://www.SFPonline.org).

The Parents' Guild fundraising events are open to all. Parents and guardians of prospective and current students are encouraged to stop by one of the Guild's monthly meetings, which

usually take place at 7:30pm sharp on the second Tuesday of the month. Check the school calendar for exact dates.

Parents' Guild board members may be reached at [parentsguild@stfrancisprep.org](mailto:parentsguild@stfrancisprep.org) or at 718-423-8810. We thank you for your support, and we hope that you'll join us!

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## FYM Lends a Helping Hand

*Mrs. Krissy Petry -Mathematics Faculty & FYM Coordinator*

**Franciscan Youth Ministry (FYM)** within educational institutions serves as a catalyst for fostering Franciscan values and principles within the school community. Inspired by the legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi, FYM seeks to instill compassion, humility, and a deep connection with nature. By encouraging students to embrace the spirit of service and simplicity, the program aims to create a nurturing environment that reflects the essence of Franciscan teachings.

At the heart of the Franciscan philosophy lies an unwavering commitment to compassion and empathy. The FYM in schools organizes various initiatives that encourage students to actively engage with local communities, particularly those marginalized or in need. Through voluntary participation in outreach programs, students are given the opportunity to understand the struggles faced by others and develop a profound sense of empathy. By embodying the spirit of Saint Francis, students learn to prioritize the well-being of others, fostering a culture of kindness and support within the school community.

The Franciscan Youth Ministry underscores

the importance of embracing humility and simplicity in one's lifestyle. Through educational workshops and interactive sessions, students are guided to appreciate the value of modesty and selflessness. By organizing activities centered around sustainable living and ethical consumption, FYM encourages students to adopt a more environmentally conscious approach to life. This emphasis on simplicity instills a sense of gratitude and contentment, enabling students to develop a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of all living beings.

The teachings of Saint Francis emphasize the spiritual significance of nature and the environment. The FYM promotes ecological awareness through the implementation of eco-friendly practices and the organization of nature-based excursions. By encouraging students to immerse themselves in the natural world, the program fosters a profound appreciation for the beauty and vitality of the Earth. Through outdoor activities and conservation projects, students develop a strong sense of responsibility towards preserving the planet, reflecting the deep-rooted Franciscan reverence for all creation. Integral to the Franciscan philosophy is the

belief in the transformative power of selfless service. The FYM encourages students to actively participate in community service projects, providing them with opportunities to contribute positively to society. By organizing fundraising events, volunteering at local shelters, and engaging in charitable endeavors, students embody the spirit of altruism and benevolence advocated by Saint Francis. Through these acts of service, students not only impact the lives of others but also experience personal growth and fulfillment, fostering a culture of giving back within the school community.

The Franciscan Youth Ministry plays a pivotal role in promoting Franciscan values within educational institutions. By nurturing compassion, humility, a connection with nature, and a spirit of service, the program fosters a community that embodies the teachings of Saint Francis of Assisi. Through its initiatives, the FYM instills in students a deep sense of responsibility towards the welfare of others and the environment, empowering them to become compassionate and conscientious individuals committed to creating a more harmonious and just society.

## Poetry Out Loud

*Mr. Eric Hafker - English Teacher*

**Poetry Out Loud is the nation's** largest and most prestigious literary competition that encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than 4.2 million students and 72,000 teachers from 18,000 schools and organizations. Every January we hold a school-wide competition in the library where a panel of English teacher judges pick two winners to go to the City Regionals. In the 15 years that Prep has participated, we have had 5 New York City winners go on to the State Regionals--more than any other Catholic high school has achieved in New York!



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# The Franciscan Youth Movement – Proclaiming Peace, Joy, and Hope

Mrs. Krissy Petry -Mathematics Faculty & FYM Coordinator



**The Franciscan Youth Movement** (FYM) within educational settings serves as a beacon of peace, joy, and environmental consciousness, reflecting the core values of the Franciscan tradition. Embracing the teachings of Saint Francis of Assisi, the FYM designs and implements a diverse range of activities that inspire students to become peacemakers, ambassadors of joy and hope, and custodians of the natural world. By engaging in these activities, students are encouraged to cultivate a deeper understanding of their role in creating a harmonious and sustainable community.

The Franciscan Youth Movement demonstrated its commitment to spreading joy and compassion by organizing a heartfelt holiday card-writing campaign for individuals residing in nursing homes or rehabilitation facilities. Understanding the importance of fostering human connection and alleviating feelings of loneliness, especially during the holiday season, the FYM encouraged students to craft personalized, uplifting messages of hope and love. By reaching out to the elderly and those undergoing rehabilitation, the campaign aimed to brighten spirits, spread warmth, and remind recipients that they are valued and remembered. Through this initiative, the FYM embodied the Franciscan values of kindness and empathy, encouraging students to extend their care and support to those in need, thus fostering a culture of inclusivity and compassion within the broader community.

FYM demonstrated its commitment to caring for creation by organizing a donation drive dedicated to supporting shelter pets.

Understanding the interconnectedness between human welfare and the well-being of animals, the FYM mobilized the school community to contribute pet supplies, such as food, toys, bedding, and grooming essentials. By fostering a sense of responsibility and compassion for vulnerable animals, the donation drive not only aimed to provide immediate assistance to local shelters but also raised awareness about the importance of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Through this initiative, the FYM encouraged students to embrace the Franciscan values of kindness and empathy, extending their care and concern beyond human beings to encompass all living creatures, fostering a culture of respect and compassion for all forms of creation.

FYM also actively engaged in local park clean-up initiatives, embodying the spirit of environmental stewardship and care for creation. With a deep-rooted understanding of the interconnectedness between human actions and the natural world, the FYM organized and participated in community-driven efforts to remove litter, restore green spaces, and promote sustainable practices. Through these park clean-up events, students not only contributed to the preservation of local ecosystems but also fostered a sense of responsibility and respect for the environment. By demonstrating a commitment to maintaining the cleanliness and vitality of public parks, the FYM exemplified the Franciscan values of reverence for all creation and the promotion of a more sustainable and ecologically balanced world.

Furthermore, The Franciscan Youth Movement organized a special meet and greet lunch event, inviting Franciscan brothers to share their wisdom and experiences, allowing students to gain deeper insights into Franciscanism. This intimate gathering

provided a unique opportunity for students to engage in meaningful conversations with the brothers, fostering a greater understanding of the Franciscan values, traditions, and way of life. Through this interaction, students had the chance to learn about the principles of simplicity, humility, and service that define the Franciscan order, gaining firsthand knowledge of how these values can be integrated into their daily lives. By facilitating this enriching exchange, the FYM not only encouraged students to embrace the Franciscan philosophy but also inspired them to embody the spirit of compassion and community that lies at the heart of the Franciscan tradition.

The Franciscan Youth Ministry serves as a catalyst for fostering peacemaking, joy, and environmental stewardship within the school community. Through its diverse array of activities, the program nurtures a culture of empathy, resilience, and ecological awareness among students. By promoting a spirit of reconciliation, celebrating the joy of shared experiences, and fostering a deep reverence for the natural world, the FYM inspires students to become compassionate global citizens committed to creating a more harmonious, joyful, and sustainable future.

# Assisi Semester Abroad Program

Mr. Eric Hafker - English Teacher

**What do you get when you take** 39 curious and adventurous Prep students + 5 enthusiastic and caring chaperones + the best WorldStrides tour director +Siena, Assisi, Perugia, and Rome + experiencing it all through St. Francis' eyes and soul? A fun, unforgettable, and life transforming journey! Eric Hafker of the SFP English Department has offered this class for the past several years with great success. This annual trip/class/pilgrimage is open to sophomores and juniors each school year. It is a unique opportunity for our students to explore cultural and spiritual roads not usually taken by tourists, make new friends, get closer to their true selves, and of course, closer to their God.



ST. FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# SFP

*For more information about our school, how to apply, and special events go to*

[www.SFPonline.org](http://www.SFPonline.org)

A promotional banner for St. Francis Preparatory School. It features a dark blue background with a white and red geometric design on the left. The school's logo, "SFP", is prominently displayed in white. Below the logo, there is a call to action in white italicized text, followed by the school's website URL in white.

Follow Us on Instagram

Follow Us on LinkedIn

Follow Us on YouTube

Like Us on Facebook

A vertical panel containing social media icons and text. From top to bottom: the Instagram icon with the text "Follow Us on Instagram", the LinkedIn icon with "Follow Us on LinkedIn", the YouTube icon with "Follow Us on YouTube", and the Facebook icon with "Like Us on Facebook". The background is dark blue with a red and white geometric design at the bottom.

# SFP Walk-A-Thon 2023



## What is Cor?

Amanda Morris

If you asked any other high schooler what the short period at the start of the day where attendance is taken is called, they would most likely say homeroom. But at St. Francis Prep, we call it “Cor.” The word cor means heart in Latin, and takes on a very special meaning to SFP students. In Cor, attendance is taken for the day, we say prayer, and any important announcements are made. You first meet your Cor and get to know them at Freshmen Follies, where you participate in fun games together before the start of freshman year. You do a lot of school related activities

and events with your Cor every year, such as the Walkathon and Christmas Extravaganza, as well as attend Mass together. Not only that, but your Cor and Cor teacher remain the same throughout all four years at Prep. This is what makes it so special.

In my opinion, Cor is one of the best things about St. Francis Prep. It’s something to look forward to, knowing that you’ll walk into a room full of familiar faces at the start of the day. I love how you can just relax and talk to your friends before being in class all day.

Over the years, you really bond with your Cor. Countless memories have been made over the past three years, from singing Disney songs together before the Walkathon to laughing about the most random things. Cor really brightens up my day simply because of the people who are in it. I’ve made some of my closest friends in here, and I’m so glad that it has been a part of my high school experience. I can see why they call it Cor, because it’s not just a homeroom — it’s a family.

“High School is four years; St. Francis Prep is Forever.”

# Get Fit, Stay Fit, and Have Fun Doing It

Mr. Sal Fischetti - Chairperson, Health and Physical Education Department



## The Health and Physical

Education Department at St. Francis Prep is designed to develop students’ physical, mental and social skills by exposing them to a wide variety of individual and team sports aimed at improving cardiovascular fitness,

muscular strength endurance, flexibility, and body composition. The goal of the Phys. Ed. Program is to direct students toward lifelong physical activity that will aid in maintaining fitness throughout adulthood.

Freshmen and sophomore students follow a standard program, concentrating on one activity each academic quarter.

**Freshmen:** focus on skills that develop coordination and dexterity fitness, gymnastics, square dance and soccer.

**Fitness unit:** students run the challenging freshmen mile, pushups, sit ups, and stretching round out the student’s first experience in high school phys ed class. In the 3rd quarter, the boys and girls classes are combined for co-ed square dancing.

**Sophomores:** build individual and team sports skills in basketball, volleyball, track and field, modern dance, lacrosse and field hockey. The highlight of the year is the Terrier Cup Tournament, which crowns a team of girls as Field Hockey Champs and a team of

boys as Lacrosse Champs.

**Physical Education Leaders’ Program:** juniors and seniors with a strong interest in sports and fitness can apply. The program is devoted to instruction and leadership assisting as “gym leader” in freshmen and sophomore phys ed classes.

We offer junior and senior electives; each course consists of 2 activities.

**Boys:** Touch football and weight training, speedball and soccer; basketball and ultimate Frisbee; and European handball and self defense.

**Girls:** Touch football and soccer, lacrosse and field hockey; conditioning and self defense; and modern dance and aerobics.

**Co-ed electives:** Tai chi and yoga; paddle ball and golf; volleyball and softball; racket sports; and jogging and fitness

**Project adventure:** gives students an opportunity to participate in challenging activities that promote teamwork, trust, communications and cooperation.

## Summer Camps and Academies at SFP

Mr. Sal Fischetti - Chairperson, Health and Physical Education Department

Every summer SFP opens its doors to elementary and middle school students offering a wide range of sports camps and academy enrichment programs. All of these programs are staffed with SFP coaches, teachers, administrators and students, all devoted to providing a positive experience to our campers. The campers walk away with a better understanding of the sports and classes, an improved skill level, and the opportunity to be involved in our outstanding facilities and have a positive experience.

Our mission is to enable students to experience the joy of learning in a comfortable and engaging atmosphere.

### Summer Camps:

- Football Fitness & Conditioning
- Baseball
- Cheerleading
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Volleyball
- Dance
- Softball
- Soccer

### Summer Academy Enrichment classes:

- Concert Band workshop
- Electronic Orchestration workshop
- TACHS PREP Course
- Computer And Fine Arts
- Music Technology; popular music for Film and TV
- Musical Theatre
- Video Game Design
- Science Technology
- Engineering Mathematics

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# St. Francis Preparatory School's Class of 2024 Athletics College Commitments

Volleyball	Track & Field	Soccer	Soccer	Tennis
Track & Field	Soccer	Soccer	Cheerleading	Volleyball
Track & Field	Soccer	Basketball	Cheerleading	Basketball
Baseball	Track & Field	Basketball	Baseball	Lacrosse



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# Homecoming

RAFFLES, EVENTS AND MORE!

*October 27th*

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*First Responders Mass*

*7:30 AM*

*@St. Francis Prep Chapel*

*Homecoming Game*

*1:00 PM*

*@Mitchell Athletic Complex*

*Cardinal Spellman HS*

*All are invited!*

*Come One, Come All  
And Show Your Prep Pride*

