



JesuitStrong

Summer 2026

St. Francis Xavier

| Jesuit Elementary School

| Preschool-8th Grade





principalnews

Becoming(n) – the process of growing into who we are meant to be; the unfolding of purpose, character, and faith over time.

Each year, this word has grounded our reflection. This year, **Becoming** feels especially fitting. We have witnessed growth in our classrooms, on our teams, in our friendships, and within ourselves. Growth is rarely loud or immediate; more often, it is steady, patient, and even unnoticed in the moment. Yet over time, it reveals itself in who we are and how we live.

Like seeds planted with care, our students have continued to take root and flourish. As the Gospel reminds us, *“And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold”* (Mark 4:8). This year, we have seen that fruit in abundance.

Our students continue to grow in the five Student Learning Expectations, not just in words, but in action:

They are **loving**, shown in both simple and profound ways with how they welcome new students with openness, standing by friends during difficult moments, and choosing kindness even when it is not the easiest path.

They are **religious**, deepening their relationship with God through intentional prayer, meaningful participation in liturgies, retreats that invite reflection, and service grounded in faith.

They are **open to growth**, embracing challenges with courage. Whether navigating a difficult class, learning from a mistake, or stepping outside their comfort zone, our students are showing resilience and a willingness to grow into the people they are called to be.

They are **intellectually competent**, engaging deeply in their studies and asking thoughtful questions, collaborating with peers, and striving not just for achievement, but for understanding.

They are **committed to doing justice**, stepping beyond themselves to serve others with compassion and purpose.

Becoming is not a destination we arrive at, but a journey we live each day. It is found in small choices and significant moments, in quiet growth and bold steps forward. As a community, we are called to continue growing. We strive to build one another up, to encourage and challenge each other, and to walk together in God’s love.

And as we move forward, we trust in the promise that the seeds planted within us will continue to grow, bearing fruit in ways both seen and unseen. With faith as our foundation and community as our strength, we continue the journey of **Becoming** together.

Peace,
Ryan Watson | Principal





“ I am proud of our faculty, staff, parent leaders, and parish ministers who continue to serve with dedication and generosity. Whenever encouragement was needed, a visit to the school renewed hope. That spirit of joyful becoming remains a lasting gift. ”

Pastor | Fr. Bob Fambrini

This year marks the conclusion of my time as pastor of St. Francis Xavier.

I carry profound gratitude for a community shaped by faith, generosity, and steadfast support. What stands before us is not simply a parish, but a living community, one very much alive in the Spirit and continually becoming all God intends it to be.

A primary hope of mine was to strengthen the bond between parish and school so that faith formation would extend beyond the classroom and into the heart of parish life. In Ryan Watson, our principal, we have been blessed with not only an exceptional leader but a faith-filled partner in that mission. His Ignatian spirit, steady leadership, and deep care for students and families have helped our school flourish.

Our school is recognized as a model within the diocese; not simply because of achievement, but because of its commitment to growth. We expanded opportunities for students to encounter the Eucharist through weekly Wednesday Mass and deepened parish participation through the Sunday Family Mass. Each step reflects a community striving to integrate faith more fully into daily life.

It is a joy to know that this spirit of growth will continue under the leadership of our new pastor, Fr. Joe O’Keefe, SJ. With his Jesuit heart and commitment to education and parish life, I am certain he will guide this community into its next chapter of becoming.



Thank you all for carrying forward this Ignatian tradition and for living the mission of St. Francis Xavier across generations.

Founded on September 21, 1936, St. Francis Xavier School is proudly celebrating 90 years of Jesuit education.

Across nine decades, much has changed in our buildings and programs, yet our mission, rooted in the traditions of St. Ignatius, has remained steady: to form students in faith, knowledge, and service for the greater glory of God.

What began with a small group of students has grown into a vibrant school community serving **645 learners**. In every era, our focus has remained the same: *cura personalis* — care for the whole person — guiding students academically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Our campus has grown to include a full gymnasium, science labs, a stage for performances, a LEGO lab, age-appropriate technology, and we even added air conditioning! Each addition reflects the Jesuit call to *magis*: to continually seek what more can be done in service of our students and mission.

We remain deeply committed to forming “**Kids for Others**,” a hallmark of Jesuit education that continues to shape generations of St. Francis Xavier graduates.

We are especially grateful to the “**Phoenician Quints**,” our five founding Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Dubuque, Iowa. Our first principal, Sister Ermentrude Huschke, started the school with **120 students** and **13** in the original graduating class. Our Jesuit priests and our BVM sisters planted the seeds of a legacy that has flourished for **90 years**.





**What is your favorite
St. Francis memory?
A walk down memory
lane with current
faculty members who
attended SFX!**

*Making Desert Survival
Kits with Sr. Ann Lenore*
Kelly Pierce Maguire '80

End of Year Pool Parties
Cari Hargis Sheedy '98

*The Carnival, which eventually
became The Fun Fest*
Kiley O'Melia Sifferman '98

Making my lifelong friends
Maddy Quintel '15

*My favorite memory was
when one of the boys in my
4th grade class convinced
Mrs. Patton to let us incubate,
hatch, and raise ducks after
Mrs. Grucky told him no.
The ducks lived in the old
courtyard (Mr. Nick even
built them a duck house)
until we set them free at the
park during our 8th grade
year when they started
building the new school.*
Sarah Behring '11

*We got to go to Baskin Robbins
if we got straight A's*
Chris Sheedy '83

*Yearbook signing day when
all the classroom doors were
open for signatures*
Caitlin Alston '01

*Soaking our baby teeth in Coke,
milk, and water in first grade
with Sr. Reme to see the effects!*
Anne Pierce Sanford '88

Mrs. Caldwell's wet noodle!
Nick Patton '99

The Night Snorkel at CIMI!
Maggie Kamps '17

Buddies!
Kelli Heiple Clark '02



Better Together: Growing in Faith and Friendship

Author | Heather Cissell, Magis
Moderator and 1st Grade Teacher

Once a month throughout the school year, our littlest wolves in Preschool - 3rd grade meet with their “big” buddies in grades 4 – 8 to participate in shared activities centered on one or more of the **Jesuit Student Learning Expectations**. These gatherings, led by our 8th grade Magis leaders, foster meaningful, yearlong relationships rooted in faith, service, and community. SFX students experience mentorship grounded in compassion and leadership. Little buddies build confidence, feel supported, and benefit from positive role models who guide them academically, socially, and spiritually. Older students, in turn, develop responsibility, empathy, and a deeper sense of purpose as they lead by example.

This partnership encourages all students to live out our Jesuit mission of being “kids for others.” The program also strengthens our school community, helping each student feel known and valued. Through shared experiences — such as learning to pray the Examen, participating in a Saints scavenger hunt, celebrating a new pope (and a new saint), and engaging in various service projects — students have an opportunity to deepen their faith while forming lasting bonds. Our SFX Buddy Program nurtures growth, kindness, and a strong spirit of community across all grade levels.

KIDS FOR OTHERS CLUB



Author | Liz Rodriguez, School Counselor

This year we piloted a new leadership group on campus. **The Kids for Others Club** was created out of a simple but important belief that every student has the ability to lead and make a meaningful impact. From that vision, this club was born as a space where students in grades 6 through 8 could step into leadership, build community, and support one another.

Each week, they come together to collaborate, share ideas, and take ownership of projects that matter to them and to our school community. They bring their heart, initiative, and a willingness to serve others.

In this first year, **the Kids for Others Club** has made a meaningful impact at SFX. Students led efforts during Mental Health Week in September to raise awareness for Suicide Prevention Month, facilitated peer-to-peer classroom lessons, spoke during Pledge and Prayer, participated in World Culture Day, and contributed to a growing culture of care and connection across campus.

What has been most powerful is the joy and pride students feel simply by being part of something bigger than themselves. They have embraced the true spirit of being **“Kids for Others,”** showing up for their peers, using their voices, and leading with compassion.

As we look ahead, I am excited to continue growing this program through service projects, field trips, and hands-on opportunities that will deepen students' experiences. I am incredibly grateful for the support of this initiative, which allows our students to discover their strengths, uplift one another, and make a difference in our community each and every day.



PLANNING FOR SFX'S FUTURE

St. Francis Xavier Jesuit Parish and School share a unified mission rooted in Catholic tradition and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Together, we live our faith through action, pursue excellence, and form “people and kids for others” who carry this mission into daily life—at school, in worship, and in service across the Valley.

Earlier this year, we celebrated 90 years of SFX School, with the Parish approaching its 100th anniversary in 2028.

A BOLD VISION, UNITED

Inspired by an opportunity to further our legacy and guided by a renewed purpose, SFX School recently completed an updated strategic plan that focuses on four hallmarks:

- Jesuit Mission & Catholic Identity
- Finance & Governance
- Facilities & Advancement
- Academics & Student Life

Led by Anne Sanford, director of advancement, and shaped by parents, faculty, alumni, and parish leaders, the plan outlines priorities to strengthen our mission, enhance learning environments, expand opportunities, and support students in mind, body, and spirit.

The Parish has also developed a strategic plan through parishioner, clergy, and staff input to guide its next century, identifying needs and opportunities for growth in programming and facilities.

Together, these plans reflect a shared mission and the strength of a unified school and parish community.





WHAT IS A CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDY?

In order to bring strategic plan priorities to life, facilities additions and renovations are needed. In May 2026, SFX will begin a campaign planning study to gather feedback on projects shaping the future of SFX School and Parish.

A campaign planning study is the first step in exploring a major fundraising effort. It assesses feasibility by inviting feedback from families, alumni, parishioners, and supporters, asking:

- What do supporters think of the proposed goals?
- Who will serve as campaign leaders and volunteers?
- Will supporters financially support a future campaign?
- What challenges or opportunities should leaders consider?

After careful vetting, SFX selected the Steier Group, a leading Catholic development consulting firm, to guide this effort. The study will take place throughout May, with findings and recommendations presented in June. If results are favorable, campaign preparations will begin this summer.

NEXT STEPS

As a valued member of the SFX community, your voice matters. We invite you to share your perspective as we explore a potential capital campaign. Your input will help shape priorities and guide the path forward.

Thank you for your prayers, insight, and commitment to the future of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School and Parish.

To learn more about the proposed plans, read the following two pages, and to learn more about the campaign's progress, visit school.sfxphx.org/give/capital-campaign.





PROPOSED SCHOOL PROJECTS

CAFETERIA & SCHOLAR CENTER | \$6 MILLION

Our campus lacks a dedicated, climate-appropriate dining space, and key academic services are spread out, limiting how well we serve students. This new building will address both needs.

The cafeteria will provide a year-round space for meals and gathering, free the gym for athletics and events—with upgraded sound and lighting—and expand opportunities for after-school and parish programs, supported by a commercial kitchen and flexible seating.

The Scholar Center will centralize academic support, offer flexible spaces for small-group and individualized learning, support neurodiverse learners, and create areas for innovation and collaboration.

Together, these spaces will enhance the student experience and expand opportunities for both school and parish programs.



CAFETERIA & SCHOLAR CENTER



SCHOOL WELCOME CENTER | \$500,000

Our school entrance lacks warmth and space for gathering. A dedicated Welcome Center will create a more inviting, functional entry by transforming the front office, adding seating and gathering areas, providing additional restrooms, and creating flexible spaces for meetings and small groups.



PROPOSED PARISH PROJECTS

ENHANCE THE SUNDAY EXPERIENCE | \$3 MILLION

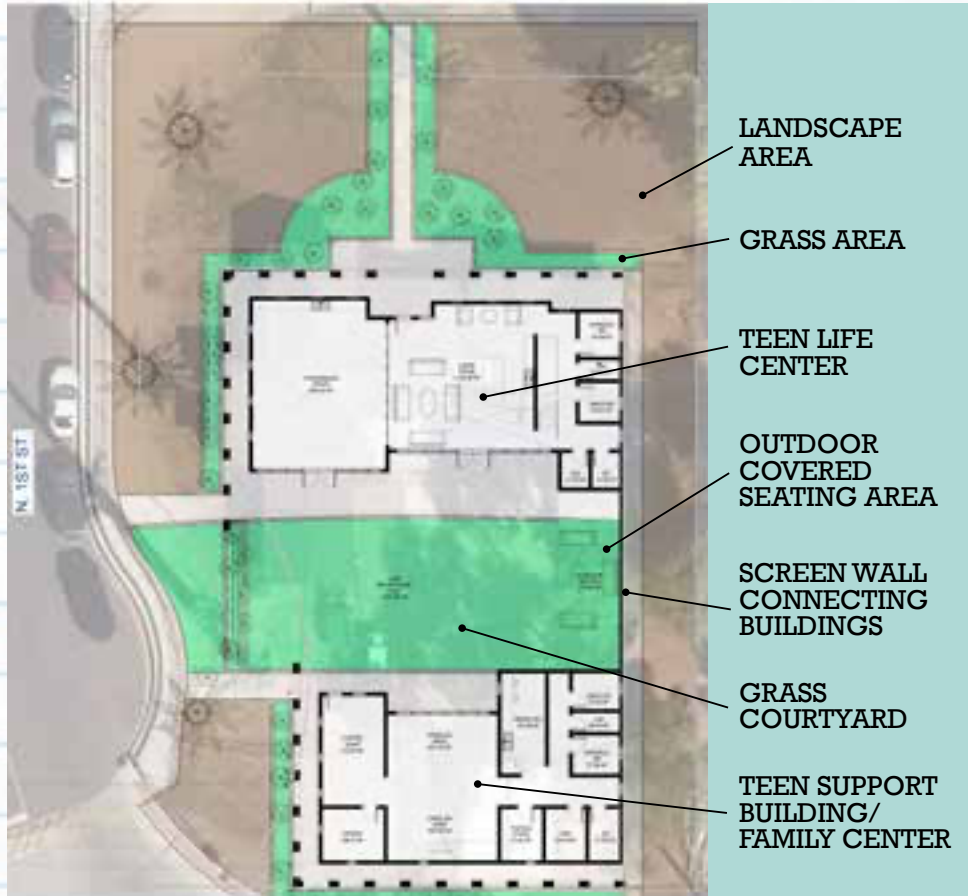
As the parish has grown, elements of our church—completed in 1959—no longer meet today's needs. To create a more welcoming, prayerful environment, we will update seating and flooring while preserving decorative details, enhance lighting, improve and expand restrooms, add a flexible family and bridal room, restore underused spaces, create a comforting area for young children, and install a ramp for sanctuary accessibility.

YOUTH CENTER AND FAMILY CENTER | \$2 MILLION

Teens today need a dedicated space to gather, build relationships, and grow in faith outside of school and home. A new Youth Center will provide a welcoming environment for youth ministry, replacing the Life Teen House with spaces for large gatherings, small groups and study, along with essential amenities and areas for prayer and reflection.

PARISH WELCOME AND ACCOMPANIMENT CENTER | \$500,000

As St. Francis continues to grow, parishioner needs are evolving, and the Parish Center requires revitalization. A redesign of the lobby and lower level will create a more welcoming space, offering small rooms for one-on-one accompaniment, a more inviting lobby that fosters connection, and flexible lower-level spaces for small groups.



SHADE OVER CHURCH COURTYARD | \$500,000

Our courtyard is a natural gathering space, especially after Mass, but extreme heat limits its use. A thoughtfully designed shade structure will create a more comfortable, year-round environment for families to gather and connect, helping transform the courtyard into a true hub of community life.

ESTABLISH A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND | \$1 MILLION

Unexpected repairs and long-term maintenance needs are a reality for any parish. Establishing a capital reserve fund, invested through the Catholic Community Foundation, will provide stability and reduce the need for emergency special collections.





BECOMING



Rohan

Become light and find your way.
Be yourself with no dismay.
Don't wake up and feel torn.
Feel another part of yourself be born.
Wake up with a smile on your face
Be open to growth but don't make a race.



Bella

Becoming The Light
Be Jesus's light
Even when some days are not bright
Come and be free
Overlooking your troubles and let it be
Adversities will always come and go
If you do not succeed than give it another go
Nothing to lose unless you give up
Going forward no matter how tough

KIDS for others



Andie

Becoming
Believing in the journey
Exploring the unknown
Climbing over obstacles
Opening doors along the way
Moving forward daily
Nourish your heart with prayer
Grace in every step



Rocco

Be a kid for others
Everyday be positive about yourself
Communicate with God in prayer
Overcome your weaknesses
Maintain the love for the SLF's
In school be the best version of you
Notice that you are loved
Go forth and set the world on fire



My heart is an apartment building
 A room for everyone I love
 Every day, a room fills up,
 Every day, a room is made,
 Every day I love more
 I'm becoming a lover,
 Not a hater,
 I may be made,
 But I'll forgive and forget
 No grudges or enemies...
 I like it like that
 I'm a fire of love
 Lighting the way
 No darkness or hatred,
 I like it like that.



Luci



We are becoming men and women
 for others
 We are becoming friends for others,
 We are becoming teachers for others,
 We are becoming family for others,
 We are becoming kids for others,
 We are people for others.



Mary

Becoming.



Lily

Becoming a light to
 Christ's way.

Becoming hope
 each day.

Becoming loving
 like God

Becoming more
 thoughtful

Becoming Peace

Becoming
 whole



Wyatt

Being the light in the world
 Encouraging others in work
 Coming closer to God in prayer
 Onto the journey of life
 Members of God's faith
 Love worshipping God with kindness
 New life in the Eucharist
 Going forth to set the world on fire



Asher

Be ready for great changes
 Encourage others through changes,
 Consider new things,
 Others will always be there for you
 Meet new people.
 Let your faith grow,
 Nothing can hold you back,
 Live now throughout your life and go out into the world to be a light.

BE JESUS'S
 LIGHT



TEACHER FEATURE:
MICHAEL FAVARO
Music Teacher



Music has been a constant in my life for as long as I can remember.

I was drawn to the piano at a young age, and my curiosity only deepened as I got older. One of my earliest memories is sitting in on my mom's ballet class in Chicago, hearing Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* — a moment that stuck with me and still feels formative.

I've been fortunate to learn from incredible teachers who not only taught me but mentored me — many of whom I now collaborate with as fellow musicians. In college, I studied classical piano while also focusing heavily on jazz and improvisation. It was there, through a piano pedagogy course, that I began working with elementary students and discovered how much I loved sharing the gift of music. After college, I performed full-time while building a private piano studio, teaching one-on-one lessons, and over time gradually transitioned from performing full-time to teaching full-time.

Teaching at SFX has been a natural extension of that journey. I am grateful for the Jesuit values that shape the school community and for the welcoming environment they foster — one where both students and teachers are encouraged to grow, reflect, and discover.

Music is the closest thing to magic I've found. We create something out of nothing—and in that act of creation, I encounter God. In a school rooted in finding God in all things, that feels especially meaningful.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Finding Our Village at St. Francis Xavier

Author | Sondra Wermes | Parent Association President 2025-2026

When my twins started Kindergarten at SFX, we were new to the area, knew exactly one family, and were right in the middle of COVID. It could have felt isolating. Instead, we felt welcomed.

As a former elementary school teacher, I had toured many schools before choosing our path. What stood out to me here was not a specific program or facility. It was a genuine sense of belonging that you can feel the first time you step on campus or attend a school event.

That belonging has a name here. It is *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person. Our children are growing academically, but they are also learning to be compassionate, to lead, and to serve others. That same spirit runs through the families here too. It is what makes this village feel like home.

Getting more involved is what truly rooted us. Whether it was my husband coaching on the sidelines or my own time volunteering, these experiences are how we truly found our place. We are so glad to have found our village here. We are so happy to be part of this community, and we are so glad you are too.





Difference Makers: Living Our Faith Through Service

Author | Mary Beth Abbott, Director of Campus Ministry

“**Men and Women for Others**” is a guiding principle attributed to Father Pedro Arrupe, S.J., the 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus. He emphasized that the goal of education is to form individuals committed to service, social justice, and compassion, championing a spirituality that engages the world rather than retreats from it. Becoming a “**Person for Others**” remains a central objective in Jesuit schools worldwide, including right here at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School. Our mission, “**Kids for Others**,” isn’t just something we say, it’s something that is seen every day at St. Francis Xavier. It shows up in how students treat one another in the classroom and on the playground, and it comes to life through the many service projects we take on throughout the year.

Faith in action is evident through the various community collections throughout the year that support local organizations such as **Catholic Charities**, **St. Vincent de Paul**, and the **Kino Border Initiative**, and also within the classroom. Each grade level participates in age-appropriate service projects, ranging from acts of kindness to raise funds for orphans and vulnerable children to hands-on efforts like making cards, quilts, or honing our baking skills, making pumpkin pies for St. Vincent de Paul at Thanksgiving.

Another example of students putting faith into action is by assembling and personally distributing “**blessing bags**” to those experiencing homelessness. Witnessing the joy and gratitude of those who receive these bags is something that cannot be taught in the classroom. I received this grace firsthand when I handed a blessing bag to a gentleman on the street last fall. The smile and light that radiated from his face is an image that I will never forget. These experiences of service culminate in 7th and 8th grade with the Arrupe Project, where students research and actively support local organizations addressing inequality. Together, these lived encounters embody the Jesuit mission of forming “**Kids for Others**.”

In all of these opportunities, from simple acts of kindness to meaningful encounters in the community, our students are being formed not only in mind, but in heart and spirit. Service at St. Francis Xavier is a part of our school culture that shapes who our students become. By living their faith through action, students learn to recognize the dignity of every person and respond with compassion and justice, carrying this mission beyond the walls of St. Francis Xavier to make a lasting difference in the world.



Student Leadership at SFX



Magis

Magis is a Latin term meaning “more”. In Ignatian Spirituality Magis means a deep commitment toward doing what is right and always striving to improve. At St. Francis Xavier School the Magis Leadership Committee is an organization consisting of 8th grade students whose role is to serve their campus through service and inspire their school community to “do the Magis.”

Magis students take on responsibilities such as serving on the tech team during school Mass and regularly filling holy water fonts around campus. They also lead buddy activities, fostering connections between younger and older students while building a sense of unity across grade levels.

Their commitment extends to supporting special school events, such as the annual Gift Mass that provides toys and food to those in need. Through service, organization, and leadership, these 8th graders set a powerful example for the entire school community and inspire us all to be **Kids, Men, and Women for Others**.



National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is a national organization that promotes the values of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

The Kristen Spucces Chapter at St. Francis Xavier School inducts members during their 7th grade year, recognizing students who demonstrate excellence in these five pillars and preparing them to serve as leaders within the school community during their 8th grade year.

NJHS members actively participate in a variety of service projects both within St. Francis Xavier School and in the broader community. These include Homework Helpers, Go Green for God Paper-Only Recycling, Brophy Day of Inclusion, Fun Fest, Math Night and school-wide collections. Our NJHS students truly live out the mission of being **Kids for Others**.



Student Council

The 7th grade students at SFX are given the opportunity to represent their class, school, and broader community by serving on the Student Council during their 8th grade year. Participation in Student Council provides a meaningful platform for students to develop and demonstrate leadership, represent their peers, and embody the spirit of being a “**Kid for Others**.”

Student Council representatives play an active role in daily school life by leading the Pledge and Prayer each morning, composing thoughtful daily prayers, and welcoming guests to campus. They also organize and lead activities for Catholic Schools Week, culminating in the highly anticipated and spirited 8th grade student vs. staff volleyball game. In addition, Student Council members support numerous service initiatives throughout the year.



Alumni Spotlight

Amy Flood ('72) and Ann Johnston Behring ('73) first met in 1965 when the Johnstons moved next door to Amy's family. Amy, Ann, and younger sister Janet ('74), became close friends right away due in part to the Flood's large swimming pool which they made available to welcome the new family next door.

The Rancho Solano neighborhood, located off of Central and north of Missouri to Bethany, was full of St. Francis families including the Charleses, Joyces, Keahons, Lees, Meads, Rohrbachers, Tanners, Wallaces, Wellings, Wojciehowskis, and later the Scanlons and Devneys.

As Amy's siblings were 5 and 6 years older than her and not really interested in her joining with their friends and activities, Amy spent a great deal of time at the Johnston house playing with Ann and Janet (Irish twins) and their four siblings. They rode their bikes to school, played Little League sports, joined the summer swim teams, learned how to sew and cook under Mary Jo Johnston's tutelage, learned decoupage and other skills at Amy's house, traded baby sitting jobs when the other was not available, and worked together at Entz-White later in high school.

After high school, Amy and Ann were busy with their respective paths and did not stay in close touch. A random meeting at Applebees sparked the relationship which picked right up where it left off especially when Ann and Janet were invited to join a Bible Study held at Amy's house led by the wonderful Father Joe Dube who was a new priest at St. Francis. The group met for over a decade on Wednesday evenings with other primarily St. Francis grads.

Ann and Amy have remained close friends and interact at St. Francis as they both serve on the Finance Council. Ann has a grandchild, and Amy a Godchild, in the same grade. Janet's grandchildren are in different grades.





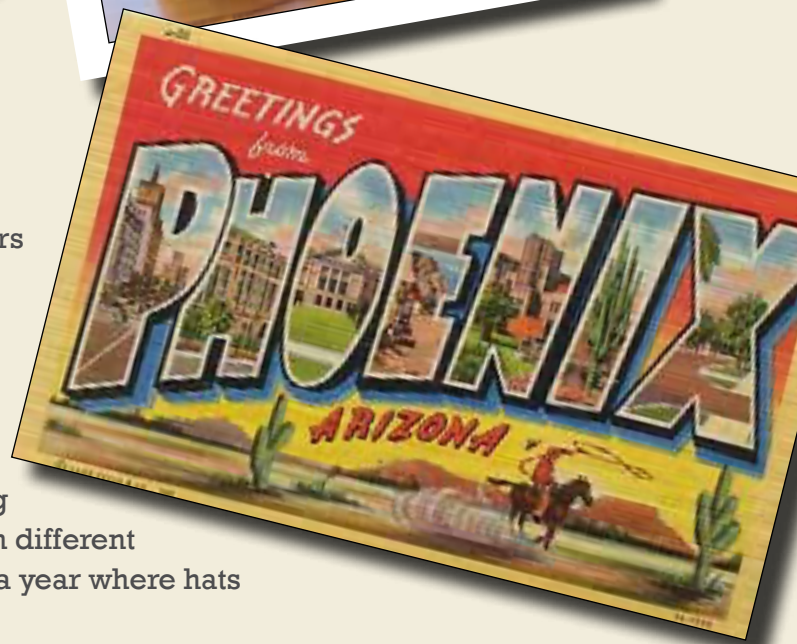
As a final note of interest,

when the Johnston house (which has been kept in the family all these years) recently came up for sale, Amy and her husband purchased it. They will refresh and rent it (potentially to another St Francis family!) and possibly move into it in their later years to be next door to sister Terry Flood who moved into the Flood family home after their mother, Dorothy Flood, passed in 2021. **It truly is a small world!**

Ann, Amy and other St. Francis grads of Classes 72 and 73 have a tradition of going to the Coach House around Christmas with different themes of dress. The above pictures were a year where hats were encouraged!

The vintage Halloween picture is of Ann and Janet Johnston, and Amy and sister Terry Flood. The next vintage picture is of Amy and Janet as Amy served as Janet's confirmation sponsor.

From childhood neighbors to lifelong friends, Amy and Ann's story reflects the enduring bonds that define the St. Francis community. Their shared memories rooted in family, faith, and friendship have come full circle in meaningful ways, reminding us that the connections formed in youth can shape a lifetime.





Fun Fest

Commonly called the best day of the year, our annual Fun Fest is a day for the whole family to enjoy. Our campus becomes a huge carnival with games, prizes, bounce houses, delicious food, yummy treats, and lots of fun surprises! Fun Fest is primarily a community-building event, but any funds raised go towards projects of the Parents' Association.



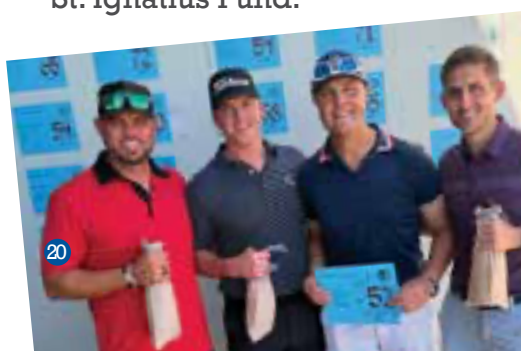
Annual Auction

Every year, our courtyard is transformed into a beautiful event space for our annual Auction. This event is our primary fundraiser and most significant driver of financial support for our school community. The money raised helps us get closer to our goal of supporting unparalleled student learning. Our SFX parent community comes together to enjoy a night of entertainment, food, and drinks, with both silent and live auctions.



Annual Golf Tournament

Each spring we have a Golf Tournament for our parent community. This fun, community - building event offers a little friendly competition, with proceeds benefiting the St. Ignatius Fund.



IN MEMORIAM

Patty Hassett

passed away on September 16, 2025, leaving behind a legacy deeply rooted in her love for others, but most importantly, her loving family. A devoted member of the St. Francis Xavier parish since 1958, Patty built her life, faith, and family within this community, marrying her husband there, raising her children, and dedicating 30 years to teaching generations of students at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School. Her classroom, like her faith, was filled with patience, joy, and unwavering care, and her impact on the school and parish she loved so dearly will be felt for years to come. Each day she prayed this prayer with her students — a beautiful prayer for all of us to share.



Terry Woods

who passed away July 25, 2025, had a lifelong connection to St. Francis Parish and School. As a boy, he showed up on his bike eager to serve as many Masses as he could. His mother kept an eye on the rectory and convent, often inviting priests and nuns to the family home, and his father founded the St. Francis Little League. The Jesuit foundation shaped his life as a student, athlete, seminarian, husband, father, attorney, military officer, and coach, and he carried it with him as a man for others. His children followed his lead, choosing Catholic schools in their own parish communities, and he enjoyed seeing his beloved parish come back into his family through his grandchildren. His grandsons Henry, a St. Francis graduate, Peter, in the 8th grade, and his granddaughter Mikey, just beginning in kindergarten, are part of St. Francis, where it all began for Terry, learning to live their faith in the same place he did.



Monnie Calfee

On December 5, 2025, Monnie Calfee passed away surrounded by her five daughters. Monnie's life was deeply intertwined with St. Francis; from her childhood just steps from the church to the many years she remained a devoted parishioner and volunteer. St. Francis was the heart of her faith, her friendships, and her sense of community, and she carried that love into raising her five daughters, whom she proudly sent to St. Francis, later followed by some of her grandchildren. She gave generously of her time and spirit, always showing up for others, and her legacy of faith, connection, and service lives on in the community she cherished so dearly.



SFX Highlights







St. Francis Xavier
Jesuit Elementary School
Preschool-8th Grade

4715 North Central Avenue | Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1796

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX, AZ
PERMIT NO. 1662



Stay in touch! Visit our website for the
latest news and information: school.sfxphx.org

Follow us!  facebook.com/sfxphx  [@sfxphx](https://instagram.com/sfxphx)

Professional photos taken by

allison anne johnson
photography

Discover the possibilities...

From preschool to 8th grade, we provide opportunities
for our students to cultivate excellence in mind, body and spirit.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
A Jesuit school forming Kids for Others
Preschool - 8th Grade

