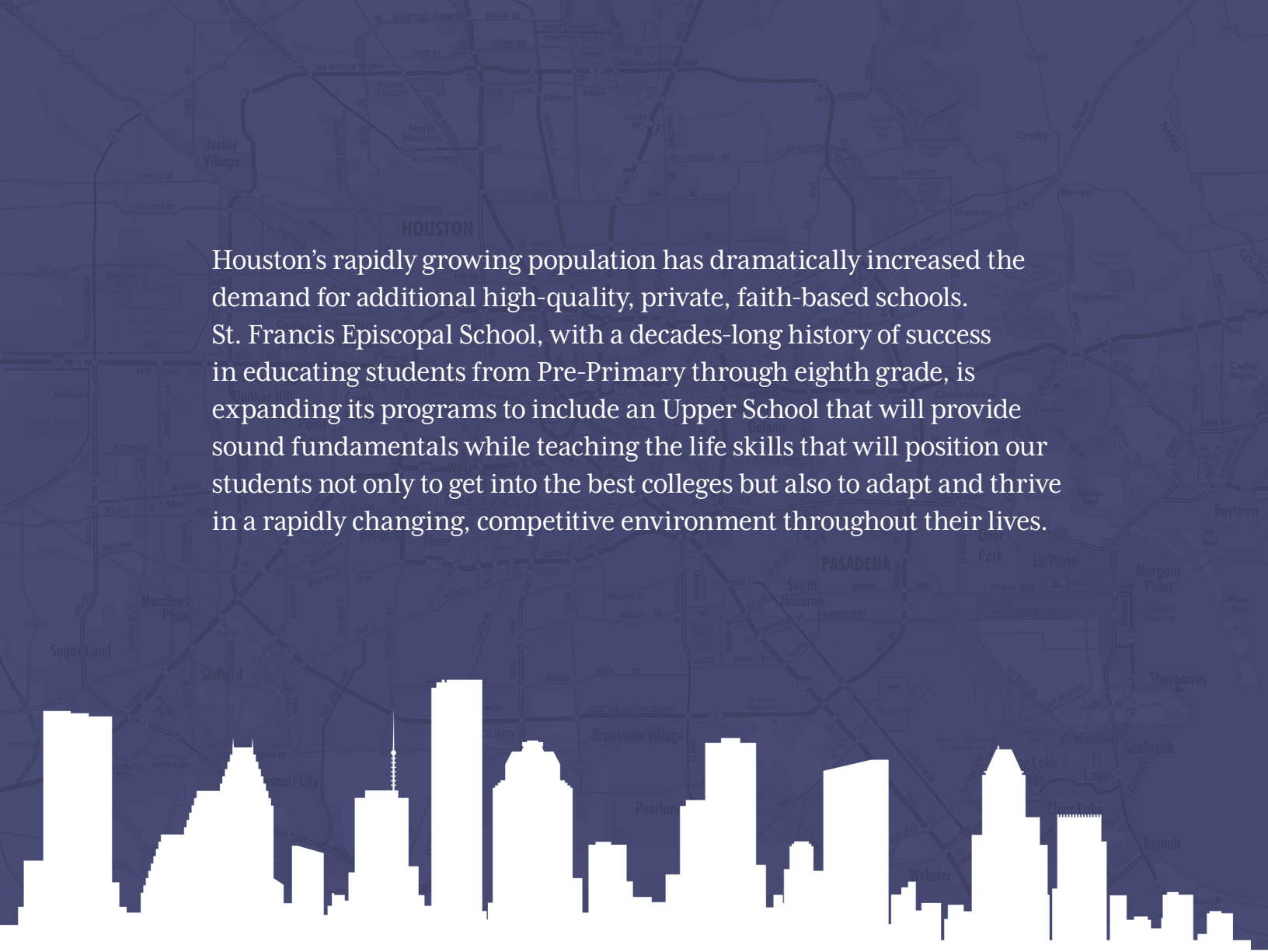




forward in faith

The Campaign for St. Francis





Houston's rapidly growing population has dramatically increased the demand for additional high-quality, private, faith-based schools. St. Francis Episcopal School, with a decades-long history of success in educating students from Pre-Primary through eighth grade, is expanding its programs to include an Upper School that will provide sound fundamentals while teaching the life skills that will position our students not only to get into the best colleges but also to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing, competitive environment throughout their lives.

### WHAT IS IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE?

In a fast-track world of unprecedented global change and speed-of-light technological advances, our children must be equipped with the necessary skills to think creatively, assimilate information, adapt, and collaborate to help prepare them for unknown challenges and opportunities certain to come their way.

At St. Francis, we believe that this know-how is most successfully developed in the context of a progressive, caring community that nurtures the spirit, ignites the imagination, builds character, and offers a unique, empowering balance between conventional and experiential innovation. We also know that providing a stable environment grounded in faith will enhance our children's ability to make good choices for themselves and others.

What better way to help our students fully prepare for their future than to sustain the momentum of a superior, faith-based education *all the way through high school?*

This is why we are stepping *Forward in Faith* to build St. Francis Episcopal Upper School.

### OUR VISION

The vision to establish an Upper School for St. Francis took root twenty years ago. Even then, the demand for additional faith-based educational choices in Houston beyond middle school was high. With commitment, diligence, and thoughtful deliberation, our board of trustees began responding to the need by formulating strategic, long-range financial plans, market analyses, institutional readiness studies, and comprehensive community surveys.

Now, with all the pieces in place, and as our world—and our youth—face transformative changes no one could have predicted two decades ago, the time has come. With a confident leap of faith, St. Francis Episcopal is moving forward into the reality of an Upper School vision, guided by our time-treasured mission that stands as relevantly strong as ever.

St. Francis is moving Forward...  
*in Faith.*

By embarking on our *Forward in Faith* campaign, we will offer our students the full continuum of a progressive, superior faith-based educational model, giving them an outstanding Upper School experience that strengthens essential academic *and* life skills as they prepare for a world beyond high school.



## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Since 1952, St. Francis Episcopal School has educated young scholars in an environment that nurtures mind, body, and spirit. Now the largest primary–8 Episcopal parish day school in the United States, we are recognized for our accomplishments in teaching, leadership, curriculum, student achievement, parental involvement, and community support. Shaped by our four cornerstones—faith, scholarship, courage, and honor—we love our work and the children we teach, and we find that this spirit inspires a true love of learning in our students.

In 2008, our board of trustees initiated a search for additional property to meet existing program needs and to anticipate the future reality of an Upper School vision. In 2011, we purchased an additional 23.7 acres—the former homestead of Fred and Mary Francis Couper—just one mile south of our Main Campus.

Concurrently, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas made it known that it wanted to step forward boldly by establishing not just one, but three high schools in the greater Houston area—in the Memorial area, Katy, and The Woodlands—in order to respond to high demand illustrated by capacity ceilings, long waiting lists, and lack of locational availability.

By commencing with St. Francis, an existing parish school with a proven track record, the Diocese put its faith in the strength of our leadership to shape a forward-thinking learning environment that will serve as a model for future schools.

St. Francis's reputation as an educational leader is supported by a history of achieving our financial and capital goals. In June 2016, we completed the *A Time to Grow* campaign, which raised approximately \$13 million for our new South Campus. Now, we turn *Forward in Faith* to achieve Phase I of our Upper School vision.



## OUR APPROACH

St. Francis Upper School will be built on foundations of deep and abiding faith balanced with 21<sup>st</sup> century approaches to:

- Self-directed, passion-fueled learning
- Project challenges and design thinking
- A focus on the essential skills of collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical analysis
- Broad opportunities for internships and entrepreneurship
- Faculty who mentor and teach to their passions
- Schedules that allow for in-depth study and exploration

## OUR STUDENTS

The new St. Francis Upper School is targeted to open in the fall of 2018. We will accept our inaugural freshman class of 45–67 students, adding a grade level each year until we are serving students through grade 12. For the first few years, we will intentionally keep our class sizes small. Ultimately, as we add facilities, we will build capacity to 125 students per grade.

The new Upper School will welcome students from our Middle School and other excellent Houston middle schools. All students will partake in progressive, collaborative courses that value depth over breadth and enable them to branch out and explore as they progress through high school.

## OUR FACULTY

Strong, accomplished leadership will lay the foundation for a powerful school experience for our students. Our Upper School faculty will provide rich, engaging instruction, as well as serve as mentors and resources for our students as they work on team and individual projects.

## OUR FAITH

St. Francis embraces worship and faith as an integral foundation of our school community. Through chapel, Eucharist, and an array of religious course offerings, the Upper School will sustain an atmosphere of growing

*people for others.*

We will also encourage and support student-driven, dynamic religious life in our extracurricular programming. Just as we have for more than sixty years, we will continue to work hard to instill our students with confidence, meaning, and fulfillment.

*Finally we will have the opportunity to continue the momentum all the way through high school.*





## OUR CURRICULUM

The categories below, which describe St. Francis Upper School curriculum goals and plans, are designed to be interwoven in the daily experience of every student.

### *Thematic Connections*

St. Francis Upper School will provide an environment in which administrators, faculty, and staff model collaboration, curiosity, resilience, organization, and flexibility. Also, since students learn best when they see connections between school and daily life, thematic topics will serve as touchstones that facilitate cross-curricular dialogue and interdisciplinary projects. These thematic inquiries will extend beyond the academic classroom into the arts, wellness and fitness, advisory, religion, and service. For instance, a course focused on Shakespeare could also incorporate elements of history, science, culture, geography, and the religion of the Elizabethan Age.

### **Examples of Cross-curricular Collaboration**

- A spectrum of thematic units will balance instruction from the humanities to the sciences.
- Planning and flexibility will be key in curriculum coordination, often using Houston as our classroom.
- A freshman orientation retreat will introduce the year's theme and how the community will explore an idea. Through team-building exercises and an outdoor component, students will become acquainted with the theme intellectually and physically.
- Advisory, chapel, and religious education will intersect with and support the thematic model.

### *Signature Programs*

St. Francis Upper School will distinguish itself among competitor schools through individualized, high-interest learning opportunities that begin in the ninth grade and introduce students to uniquely in-depth learning and development opportunities.

### *Innovations in Learning Seminars*

Research on brain theory, learning styles, and pedagogical models will help students better understand how they think and learn, increasing cognizance of how knowledge is conveyed and received.

### **Spiritual Education**

We embrace worship and faith as an integral part of our school life through chapel, Eucharist, and religious course offerings. We further support student-driven, faith-focused extracurricular involvement that merges students' spiritual life with their academic and social reality.

### **Wellness Program**

Our wellness curriculum will serve as a bridge across disciplines, promoting education regarding self-care and self-awareness. This four-year program (designed around National Health Education Standards) will be integrated into formal health, advisory, and religious lessons to educate the *whole* student: mind, body, and spirit.

### **Experiential Travel**

Students will study and serve locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Freshman year will center on the Houston community. Sophomore year will see students acting at a state level, and junior and senior years will offer flexibility for national and international adventures. In step with our commitment to civic engagement, every graduate will benefit from these programs.

### **Internships**

Internships, Shadow Days, and Career Days will be made possible through relationships with community partners, alumni, and parents. Because the Upper School values practical work experience, these will take place during the school day, with the possibility of additional summer programs.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship courses will introduce students to the process of creating and launching business models under the guidance of mentors. Students will work in teams to solve real-world business challenges.

## FORWARD IN FAITH

Our Upper School's focus on digital technology and entrepreneurship will put our graduates a step ahead as they pursue and embrace their life's passions, preparing them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce and for jobs we cannot yet imagine.

Our Upper School will give our team of dedicated teachers and administrators ample opportunity to preserve and expand the gifts of a progressive, faith-based education.

Our Upper School will allow students to thrive in the continuum of a supportive high school environment that applauds curiosity, enables mentoring opportunities, and encourages compassionate choices.

Our Upper School will allow St. Francis to challenge and motivate students within a nurturing environment of sustained support and academic excellence—so important during the crucial years of a teen's exponential growth and exploration.

St. Francis Upper School will truly allow us to prepare our students as fully equipped *people for others*.

*“Faith makes all things possible”*  
—Dwight L. Moody

With faith, confidence, and the generous support of the St. Francis family, we are moving forward to pioneer new educational opportunities for our students.







## CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Phase I of *The Campaign for St. Francis—Forward In Faith* has three main fundraising goals:

- Provide the remaining funds needed to furnish classrooms in the Crum Athletics Center—the first new building of the Upper School—supplying vital classroom space along with practice and competition facilities for Middle and Upper School athletics;
- Finance major renovations to the South Campus's historic Andrews House that will accommodate Upper School classrooms;
- Provide funding to recruit top faculty from across the nation; provide classrooms with state-of-the-art curriculum and equipment; and recruit mission-appropriate students.

Phase II of *Forward In Faith* will focus on raising funds for a 30,000-square-foot academic building, a 30,000-square-foot fine arts center, a 700-seat chapel, and a health and wellness complex with competition gyms and playing fields for football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and track.

Phase III of *Forward In Faith* will raise funds for renovations and new construction on the Main Campus.

Your investment in the St. Francis Upper School is an investment in our children's future, in coming generations, and in our community. By moving *Forward in Faith*, you are playing a priceless role in helping shape Houston's children as *they* move forward, inspired, to live fulfilling, meaningful lives—for themselves and as people for others.

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