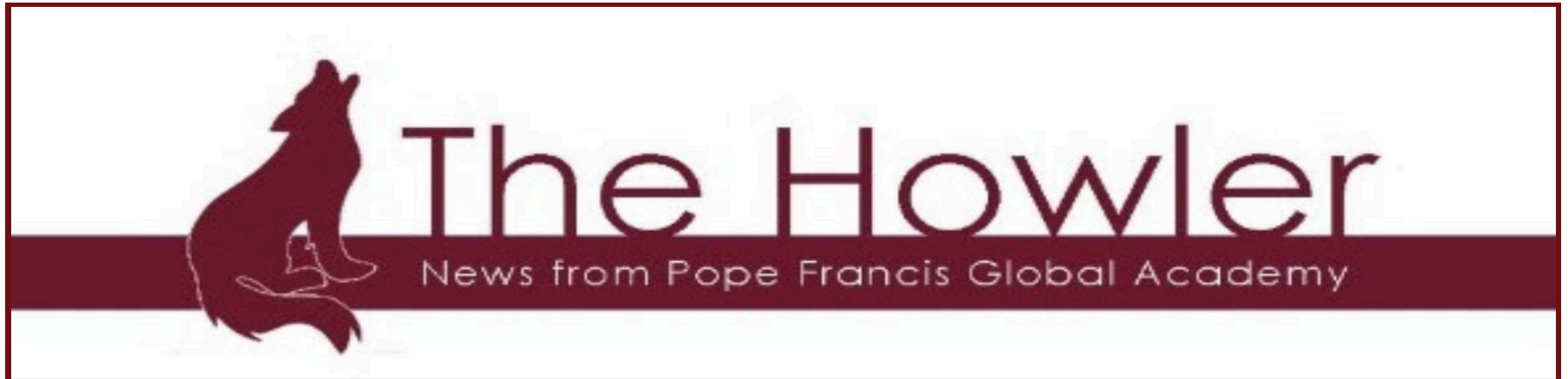

Howler for July 12, 2019

1 message

Notifications <notifications@pfgacademy.org>
Reply-To: Notifications <notifications@pfgacademy.org>
To: jthyen@pfgacademy.org

Fri, Jul 12, 2019 at 2:13 PM



July 12, 2019

[School Calendar](#)

[PFGA Website](#)

[PFGA Facebook Page](#)

[PFGA Parents' Club Facebook Page](#)

HEAD OF SCHOOL *happenings*

Dear Pope Francis Global Academy Families,

I hope that you are all enjoying your summer break! Here at Pope Francis it has been a BUSY summer as we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year!

As we look to the new school year, I would like to share the following important updates and changes with you for the coming year:

- Thirty new Chromebooks have been purchased for each campus for the fourth and fifth graders to share.
- Thirty new iPads have been purchased for each campus for the kindergarten through fifth graders to utilize in their centers in their classrooms.
- The Willson Foundations Program is expanding to third grade this year.
- The junior high math classes will be utilizing the IXL Math Program to support and reinforce math concepts.
- The North Campus gym renovations are underway thanks to the St. Tarcissus Parish.
- The South Campus gym wall padding is being finalized and will be in place by September.

- **Beginning this year, students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm every Tuesday. The remaining hour of those school days will be devoted to teachers from both campuses participating jointly in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at each campus.**
- **Students will not lose instructional minutes as the time will be deducted from the built-in resource periods that we currently have in our daily schedule and their mass day will count as their religion class.**
- **For those students who are unable to be picked up at 2:00 pm on those days, free Extended Day will be available from 2:00-3:00 pm.**
- **A schedule of dates will be provided to all families at the start of the school year and will be included on the monthly school calendar.**

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES EXPLAINED

As stated above, starting this year, teachers will be participating in Professional Learning Communities as part of our Strategic Plan initiative to grow teachers' professional development and allow more time for collaboration and input. This model of professional development will allow teachers to meet regularly, share expertise, and work collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students. The model flows from the assumption that the core mission of formal education is not simply to ensure that students are taught, but to ensure that they learn.

As the school implements the Professional Learning Community model moving forward, teachers will engage in the ongoing exploration of crucial questions that drive the work of those within a PLC:

1. What do we want each student to learn?
2. How will we know when each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning?
4. How will we enrich and extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

The teachers will work together to achieve their collective purpose of learning for all. Therefore, they will create structures to promote a collaborative culture across both campuses and will work together to analyze and improve their classroom practice by working in teams, engaging in an ongoing cycle of questions that promote deep team learning and data analysis. The process, in turn, will lead to higher levels of student achievement.

The most beneficial result of the common learning team time is a change from a focus on how we teach to how students learn. The results of these discussions will be beneficial to both students and teachers, and this early release time will be a wonderful investment in the success of our Pope Francis Global Academy students!

Again, many thanks go to our school community for your commitment to our school! I wish everyone an enjoyable summer and will send you more updates in August.

As you continue to enjoy your summer, I hope that wherever you may travel, "the wind is always at your back."

All my best,

Margaret Kinel
Head of School

REMINDERS

[School Calendar](#)

\$300 FAMILY REFERRAL BONUS FOR BRINGING IN NEW FAMILIES!

Please don't forget that you can earn \$300 for EACH family that you refer to Pope Francis who enroll and remain in good standing through Christmas. There is no limit to how many referral bonuses you can earn! Your referral bonus/es will be applied to your January FACTS bill.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES TO SEE THE SCHOOL THIS SUMMER

This summer we have 2 organized group tours set for each of our campuses. Please invite your friends with young kids to join us for one of these tours, or to set up a personal visit of either of our campuses. [RSVP to one of our summer group tours HERE.](#)

NORTH CAMPUS

- Wednesday, July 24 • 6-7 pm
- Tuesday, July 30 • 9 am (Join us prior to the tour at 8 am for a FREE Wolf Pups Music and Movement Class for toddlers and pre-K aged children)

SOUTH CAMPUS

- Thursday, July 25 • 6-7pm
- Wednesday, July 31 • 9-10 am (Join us prior to the tour at 8 am for a FREE Wolf Pups Music and Movement Class for toddlers and pre-K aged children)

For a personal tour on another day this summer, contact our Director of Admissions, [Jodi Thyen](#) at jthyen@pfgacademy.org.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER LUNCH ORDERS

This year we are asking that ALL families register with an FSP/Boonli account even if you are not ordering lunch at this time.

Registration and ordering for August lunches will begin on July 22 and will be lock out on August 4. **If you don't get your orders in by August 4 you will need to send a lunch with your students for all of August.**

Ordering for September will begin on August 5 and lock out on August 19.

- [North Campus lunch order info](#)
- [South Campus lunch order info](#)

FORMS REMINDER

Each year there are several forms that our office needs updated. Some of them are health forms required by the state and some are our own school forms. Please review the following requirements and return new forms by August 1, 2019.

REQUIRED SCHOOL FORMS FOR ALL FAMILIES BOTH RETURNING AND NEW - COMPLETE ONE PER FAMILY

- [Medical and Emergency Notification Form](#)
- [Pick-up Authorization Form](#)
- [Neighborhood Walking Permission Form](#)
- [Family Directory Form](#)
- [Technology Acceptable Use Agreement](#)

REQUIRED STATE MEDICAL FORMS - COMPLETE ONE FOR EACH STUDENT WHERE INDICATED

- [Child State of Illinois Health Exam Form](#) (All students new to PFGA at all grade levels, plus all

returning rising Kindergartners and rising 6th graders)

- **Child State of Illinois Dental Exam Form** (All students new to PFGA at Kindergarten and above, plus all returning rising Kindergartners, rising 2nd graders, and rising 6th graders)
- **Child State of Illinois Eye Exam Form** All students new to PFGA at Kindergarten and above, plus all returning rising Kindergartners)
- **School Medication Procedures Explanation** (read but do not return)
- **Medication Authorization Form** (read and return if medicine is required to be administered at school)
- **If your child has an ALLERGY, ASTHMA, DIABETES, OR ANY OTHER MEDICAL CONDITION REQUIRING ONGOING MEDICATION OR MEDICAL TREATMENT**, in addition to indicating the condition/s on their Medical and Emergency Notification and Authorization for Medical Treatment Form, please complete and return **the Medication Authorization Form and Physician's Order form**. Also, read and retain a copy of our **School Medication Procedures**.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

You could potentially bang out ALL of your volunteer hours for the year before school even begins...[check out the list of opportunities HERE](#). None of them require Virtus Training. They include both the Portage Park Farmers' Market and the Jeff Park Farmers' Market school booths, and the JeffFest and Throwback Fest beer tents, the St. Tarcissus Festival school tent, and canvassing of your neighborhood with school door hangers (which can be done at your leisure and is GREAT exercise!

VIRTUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

While our parishes will be offering Virtus training at both campuses in the fall (August 28, September 7, and September 14 at the North Campus and we are working on a South Campus date) you CAN get yours done this summer wherever a class is offered. [Check out the upcoming sessions around the city, or sign up for the St. Tarcissus/North Campus sessions HERE](#).

FLAT FRANCIS

If you were here the summer we transitioned to Pope Francis Global Academy, you may remember we participated in the Catholic Extension's celebration of the visit of Pope Francis to America. We loved that project so, as a Pope Francis namesake school, we're doing it again just for fun! Wherever you travel this summer, please take a print out of **Flat Francis** with you and snap a photo of your kids holding Flat Francis and wearing their Pope Francis Global Academy gear. Post your photos on the Parents' Club Facebook page or email them to jthyen@pfgacademy.org, and they may be chosen to go on our public facebook or twitter posts! Small prizes will be given to students who participate!

SCHOOL TOOL BOX - ORDER YOUR SUPPLIES FOR NEXT YEAR

There is still time to make life easy and order your school supplies online through School Tool Box. Online sales are now open. At this point any orders submitted will be shipped to your home. A separate link is provided for each campus. **PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE EMPOWER ILLINOIS OR BIG SHOULDERS SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR.**

[School Tool Box - North Campus](#)

[School Tool Box - South Campus](#)

WOLVES DANCE CAMP

Summer dance camp for students ages 4 - 12 years old. August 5th - 8th.

[Wolves Dance Camp](#)



QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE

Our first Queen of Hearts Raffle is complete but we have begun a new board and the tickets are still \$5 each; 5 for \$20; or 8 for \$30. We pulled the 5th round of winners this past Tuesday and we'll be taking next week off from drawing. The next drawing will be on Tuesday night, July 23 at 7:30 at Trattoria Porretta. [MORE INFORMATION IS HERE.](#) Thank you all again for your support of our school!!

Chicago Archdiocese would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Chicago Archdiocese directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students, and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.