

Nurturing  
**FAITH**

Challenging  
**ACADEMICS**

Fostering  
**SERVICE**



**St. Francis of Assisi School**

EDUCATING STUDENTS FROM GRADE PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 8

# Our MISSION



## MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating St. Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace."

Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

# Our STUDENTS

## WHERE THE STUDENTS COME TO LEARN

Students at St. Francis of Assisi School grow personally and intellectually under the guidance of faculty and staff committed to caring for each student as an individual created by God.

St. Francis of Assisi School is a private Catholic parish school for boys and girls, Pre-Kindergarten through grade eight. Founded in 1959 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the school resides in the town of Braintree. A convenient location, just miles from downtown Boston and surrounded by numerous communities from which we draw our students.

## EXPERIENCE

St. Francis of Assisi School strives to help children develop in all areas. Students are taught how to pray and study, how to interact with other members of their community, and how to serve one another. Activities such as attending a school liturgy to reflect on prayer or being a part of a club or team help children to develop these skills that they can apply to all areas of their lives.



# Our SCHOOL

## EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Children at every grade level are welcome to join our Extended Day Program, where activities continue until 6:00 P.M. and the fun quotient expands dramatically. The Extended Day Program and curriculum vary according to age. The youngest children explore at greater length the materials and games they utilize during their day such as art or dramatic play. Older children play games or dive into homework. All children have access to the computer lab and outdoor play. Healthy snacks are provided and enjoyed by all participants in the program.

St. Francis of Assisi School also offers a Before School Program, which runs Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 7:40 A.M.

Registration for both programs is offered daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly.

## SUMMER PROGRAM

The SFA Summer Program offers 7 weeks of fun from 7:45 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. The weeks revolve around specific themes and offer field trips every Tuesday to coordinate with the theme. In addition to arts & crafts, computers, gym games, library trips, themed literature, and outdoor play, a trip to the beach each Thursday is always a refreshing treat!





## UNIFORM POLICY

All St. Francis of Assisi School students are required to wear a uniform.

- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten wear a gym uniform
- Grades 1 – 6 Girls wear a blouse and jumper
- Grades 7 – 8 Girls wear a skirt and vest
- Grades 1 – 8 Boys wear a shirt and pants
- Gym uniforms are worn according to physical education schedules

## SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

St. Francis of Assisi School offers a nutritional lunch program which is delivered and served by the Braintree Public Schools Lunch Service. Checks are made payable to the Town of Braintree and may be paid in large blocks. Children may also bring their own lunch to school.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

St. Francis of Assisi School employs a full-time registered nurse who is certified in health education. Each classroom is equipped with an automatic hand sanitizer, and there are peanut free tables in the lunch room. We enforce a strict no-food celebration policy at our school to prevent allergic reactions and promote healthy habits. The school is also equipped with an emergency defibrillator.

The school remains locked at all times. A bell is located outside the school's main entrance. Once the bell is rung, our security monitor system goes into effect and admittance is permitted into the building, pending approved clearance. Upon entrance, visitors must sign-in and are appropriately directed by school personnel. All visitors wear badges. The school has a video camera system both inside and outside the property. No one is allowed access to the building without properly identifying themselves. In addition, a monitored burglar alarm is activated after hours.



# Our ADMISSIONS



St. Francis of Assisi School educates students from grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8; our school day runs from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. With over

350 students hailing from over 20 communities, our school has become one of the premier elementary and middle schools in the Archdiocese of Boston. The average number of students per grade is 25. St. Francis of Assisi School offers a rolling admissions policy, meaning that prospective students may apply at anytime during the year for any grade. Acceptance letters are mailed out within one month of registration. A non-refundable fee of \$250.00 (capped at \$500.00) is required for all new students to our school. This registration is only refundable if there is no room in the particular grade for which the prospective student has applied.

## Items needed to complete the registration process:

- Birth certificate
- Baptismal certificate (if applicable)
- Current medical records – immunizations and physical records

- Most recent report card / progress report
- National test scores (if applicable)
- \$250.00 Registration fee (non-refundable)

## Students will be accepted on the following basis:

State law requires children to be 3 years old by August 31 for the 3 year old program, 4 years old for the 4 year old program, and 5 years old for kindergarten.

- Review of academic records from previous school
- Grades 1-8 interview with principal and teacher
- Identified parishioners
- Parishioners within the Braintree Collaborative (St. Clare and St. Thomas More)
- Members of the wider community
- Numbered and dated application
- Letter of recommendation from previous school
- Discipline records

## Waiting List Policy

At the time of complete submission of all required materials, a child is put on the waiting list and is then accepted according to the school's admission guidelines.

## St. Francis of Assisi School Non-Discrimination Policy

*It is the policy of the Department of Education that the Roman Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Boston, inclusive of private and parochial schools, admit students of any race, color, national, or ethnic, origin to all rights, privileges, programs and*

activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. The schools of the Archdiocese of Boston do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and in the hiring of school personnel. The goal of our Catholic schools is to present Catholic faith and Catholic teaching to our students in a rigorous academic, spiritual, and moral educational program. Catholic school students strive for high academic achievement, are taught to love and worship God, and live the Gospel teachings. Catholic school students work together, build community, and give service to others.

- Applications will be accepted from families wishing to enroll their child in St. Francis of Assisi School regardless of race, color, national, or ethnic origin, or religion. All students, Catholic and non-Catholic, must attend Religion classes and participate in all religious activities conducted in and by the school.
- All admissions to St. Francis of Assisi School will be appointed by the principal.

## **TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID**

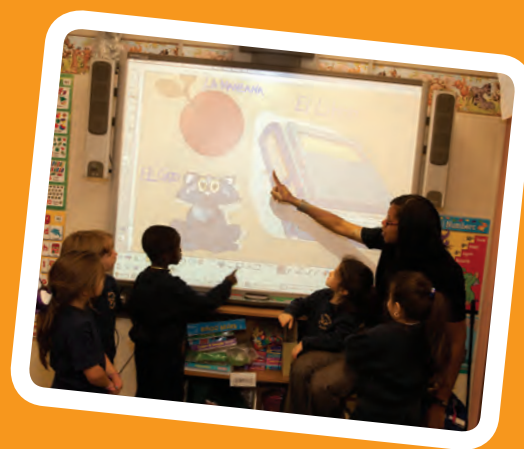
Tuition rates for the upcoming school year are posted in April. St. Francis of Assisi School keeps competitive with our tuition rates in comparison with our peer schools. There are two methods of tuition payment:

- Payment in full by July 1
- FACTS: This is a 10 month payment plan beginning on July 5, and is managed by FACTS Management Company.

St. Francis of Assisi School is committed to being a diverse and inclusive community. Tuition assistance is offered through the Fr. Sheehy Scholarship Fund to talented students based on need, providing access to children from a broad range of economic backgrounds throughout Braintree and surrounding communities.

Tuition assistance applications can be obtained from the principal during registration and re-registration time.

A W-2 form must be provided before the application for admission is viewed by the tuition assistance committee.



## **CURRICULUM**

St. Francis of Assisi School offers the following subjects:

- Religion
- English
- Math
- Science (\*virtual labs on the SMART Boards)
- Social studies
- Reading
- Spanish
- Italian
- Art
- Music
- Computer technology
- Physical education

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

St. Francis of Assisi School offers many clubs, sports, and extra-curricular activities such as the following:

- Basketball
- Football
- School Choir
- Walking Club
- Yearbook Club
- Newspaper Club
- Drama Club
- Girl Scouts

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Books, blocks, colors, numbers, letters, play time, and prayer are the essential ingredients of St. Francis of Assisi's early childhood program. Teachers guide students using a nurturing approach as they begin to develop skills that will lead to reading, writing, mathematics, and a lifelong love of learning. Students are taught with all mediums including SMART Boards and iPads in each classroom. Spanish, art, music, physical education, trips to the library, and computer lab are all part of the Pre-Kindergarten curriculum at St. Francis of Assisi School.

Children learn at an age appropriate pace with one lead teacher and two full-time aides to guide them.

With many options to choose from, our Pre-Kindergarten program is an excellent foundation for any child.

### **5 Day Pre-Kindergarten** (Monday through Friday)

Full Day: 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (3 or 4 years old by 8/31)

Half Day: 8:00 A.M. to Noon (3 or 4 years old by 8/31)

### **3 Day Pre-Kindergarten** (Mon., Wed., Fri.)

Full Day: 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (3 or 4 years old by 8/31)

Half Day: 8:00 A.M. to Noon (3 or 4 years old by 8/31)

### **2 Day Pre-Kindergarten** (Tuesday and Thursday)

Full Day: 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (3 or 4 years old by 8/31)

Half Day: 8:00 A.M. to Noon (3 or 4 years old by 8/31)

## KINDERGARTEN

Looking through a child's eyes, kindergarten is about art projects, playing with friends, reading books, looking at pictures, discovering science and math, and the first chance to read with and look up to 5th grade buddies.

Looking through a teacher's eyes, kindergarten is about building an educational foundation in a safe and contained environment that fosters one-on-one interaction. Academically, reading is the central focus of the year as students develop letter and sound recognition, and as they begin the process of blending letters into words, and then words into sentences. Vocabulary enrichment, story time, and other activities develop a firm basis of future reading ability. Kindergarten is when Italian is introduced into the curriculum in addition to all other subjects offered at St. Francis of Assisi School, including frequent trips to the computer lab and library. Each kindergarten class employs one full time teacher and one full time aide. The numbers are kept low with about 18-20 students per class.







During these formative years at St. Francis of Assisi School, students learn what it is like to become part of a team through physical education, sports, and classroom group work. They learn how to help others and think beyond themselves through service projects and class work. Students also develop essential study skills and a commitment to school work that will follow them to junior high, high school, and beyond. As children grow, they also learn respect for others and the importance of each individual in the eyes of God.

## ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

From preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion to learning songs for the annual Christmas show and spring concert, St. Francis of Assisi School's elementary and middle school years are filled with events that turn childhood moments into lifelong memories.

Elementary and middle school students continue to grow intellectually with daily instruction in Religion, mathematics, science, reading, English, and social studies. Classes in the arts, music, foreign language, library, computers, and physical education round out the learning process. Our sequential math program and inquiry based science instruction, including instruction on our SMART Board virtual labs, help children progressively build a solid foundation in all areas. In reading, our curriculum focuses on phonics and is rich in literature, providing the tools for students to be strong readers and develop a lifelong love for reading.

## JUNIOR HIGH

The educational experience at St. Francis of Assisi School in grades seven and eight stretches beyond the core curriculum. It is during these years that students solidify the foundation they will carry onto high school, college, and beyond. Teachers blend rigorous academics with a curiosity and concern about the world. They challenge students to not only master science but also to learn to appreciate the stroke of a paintbrush and the sound of a musical note. At the core of each day, intertwined throughout all at St. Francis of Assisi School, is the model of Christ and Catholic faith.

It is the quiet prayer before class that begins to define St. Francis of Assisi School's junior high program. Encouraging words from peers as the science fair winners are announced, concentration shown at the SMART Board or on an iPad as students tackle individualized math problems or participate in lively literary discussions demonstrate the ongoing preparation for life beyond. And the outstretched hand that leads a first grader to Mass reveals the natural leadership developing in each student.

# Did you **KNOW...?**

## **Here are some interesting facts about our curriculum and services:**

- We are accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- We have a comprehensive academic program including:
  - Religion, English, language arts, John Collins Writing Program, Open Court Reading Program
  - Mathematics, pre-algebra and algebra, social studies, and science
  - Art, music, physical education, and computer education
  - Italian, Spanish, and Thayer Public Library as a resource
  - Our students participate in school liturgies, parish celebrations, and Sacraments
- We have indoor and outdoor security cameras
- We have a fully equipped state of the art computer lab
- We have a computer in every classroom with Internet connections
- Each teacher has an iPad in the classroom for instructional use
- We have SMART Boards in all classrooms from Pre-K through grade 8
- SMART Boards are used for virtual labs in upper level science classes
- We have a full time nurse
- We have two math and reading specialists

- We have half and full day Pre-Kindergarten programs for 3 and 4 year olds with a teacher and two aides
- We have a full day kindergarten program with a teacher and teacher aide for each kindergarten classroom
- We have a hot lunch program in collaboration with Braintree Public Schools
- We have TeacherEase (online grading program/web based for teachers and parents)
- We have a chapter of National Junior Honor Society
- We have the Fr. Sheehy Tuition Assistance Fund
- We have a full time guidance counselor
- We have a director of advancement
- We are part of an educational alliance with Archbishop Williams High School

## **Interesting facts about our faculty:**

- Every faculty member is state certified and many hold a master's degree
- The faculty/staff are CPR trained
- Every teacher moderates an after school club, activity, or project

## **Interesting facts about our students:**

- Numerous members of our graduating class receive scholarships to high school

- 100% of our graduating class is accepted into a high school of their choice
- Several of our graduates have received a four year scholarship
- Our 8th graders scored on an 11th grade math level
- Our 8th graders take an annual trip to Washington D.C.

## **Interesting facts about our extra curricular activities:**

- We have a Before School Program from 7:00 - 7:40 A.M. and Extended School Day Program from Monday to Friday until 6:00 P.M. Students can participate on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis
- We have an seven week summer program

## **Our students participate in:**

- Science Fair (in house and regional)
- Christian service projects
- Spelling bees
- Art Fair
- Christmas Show
- Drama Club
- Walking Club
- Newspaper Club
- Yearbook Club
- Middle School Dance Committee
- Family events
- Girl Scouts
- Basketball
- Football
- School Liturgies
- Field Day

Important

**DOCUMENTS**



# St. Francis of Assisi School

EDUCATING STUDENTS FROM GRADE PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 8

850 Washington Street • Braintree, MA 02184 • Phone: (781) 848-0842 • Fax: (781) 356-5309 • [www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)