



St. Francis Cathedral School



From the Desk of Principal Kathleen Dalton

October 8, 2025

Finding the Gift of Literature through C.S. Lewis

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate once again the importance of reading both at home and in school. It has been such a joy for me to see so many students over the past month lost in a really good book. I am so grateful that our teachers are encouraging this in the classroom. Please take the time to ask your child about what they are reading. I also encourage you to foster an atmosphere of reading at home. Fifteen minutes a day can benefit your child in so many ways.

Here are a few ways reading can benefit your child:

Boosts Language and Literacy:

- Reading exposes children to new words, sentence structures, and ideas, which helps develop their vocabulary and literacy skills.

Expands Imagination and Knowledge:

- Books act as a bridge to new worlds and cultures, allowing children to explore diverse perspectives and ideas they might not otherwise encounter. It develops that imagination.

Develops Empathy and Social-Emotional Skills:

- Stories can teach children about handling problems and understanding emotions, fostering emotional intelligence and empathy. It also shapes their character and helps them grow in maturity.

Improves Academic Performance:

- Children who read regularly tend to perform better academically, as reading strengthens cognitive growth and is crucial for school success. It also helps to lengthen their attention span.

When I taught 5th grade, I had the great privilege of teaching literature by using the great literary master, C.S. Lewis. C.S. Lewis wrote mostly books for adults but he did write a children's series called, *Chronicles of Narnia*. My fifth graders read the whole *Chronicles of Narnia Series*. C.S. Lewis had the gift of shaping children's imagination into a supernatural worldview that cannot be taught otherwise. He was able to teach truths about life in a nonthreatening way. The students were able to enter into a world that taught them the distinctions between good and evil, the good always conquering evil. They were introduced to a figure Aslan (Christ), who portrayed heroism and strength. The students grew in their vocabulary usage. This series not only changed my students, it changed me.

We are excited to dive into the world of literature. Thank you for encouraging your child's curiosity and love of reading!

Respectfully,

Ms. Kathleen Dalton

Principal

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From the Desk of Dean of Academics Dr. Stephanie Macaluso

Dear St. Francis Cathedral School Families,

As the leaves begin to turn and a crispness into the air, St. Francis Cathedral School is embracing the rhythm of Fall - a season that reminds us of God's constant presence and the beauty of change. With the shift in season comes a renewed sense of purpose, structure, and opportunity to grow in wisdom and grace. Our classrooms are alive with the energy of students eager to learn, and the joy of witnessing their growth - both academically and spiritually - has been truly inspiring.

Autumn is a natural time to establish and reinforce healthy routines - both at school and at home. As we settle deeper into the school year, consistent daily habits become even more important in helping students feel secure, supported, and ready to thrive. With your partnership, we strive to nurture not only strong minds but faithful hearts.

We encourage our families to continue prioritizing prayerful moments, regular bedtimes, nutritious meals, and limited screen time. These simple yet powerful practices create a firm foundation for success - in the classroom and in life. This season of life offers a sacred opportunity to help our children build lifelong habits rooted in well-being, resilience, and a love of learning guided by faith. As we continue this journey together, may we keep Christ at the center of all we do.

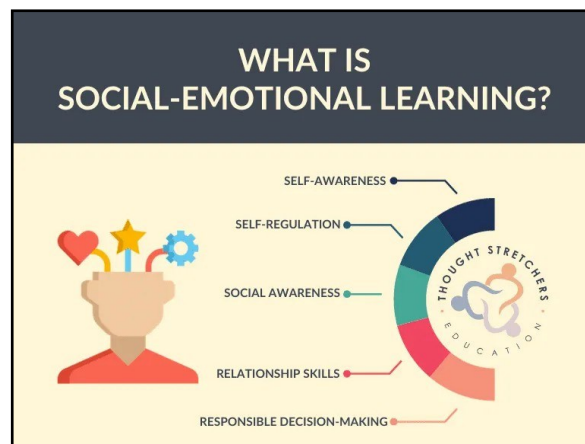
Please know that I am always available should you have any questions, concerns, or simply wish to connect. Working in partnership with you is a blessing and an essential part of helping every student grow into the person God has created them to be. My email address is macaluso@stfranciscathedralschool.org.

Let us welcome Fall with gratitude and purpose, and continue to nurture the God-given gifts in each of our students, helping them grow into their best and truest selves.

Dr. Stephanie Macaluso
Dean of Academics
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"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."
— St. Francis of Assisi

From the Desk of Director of Student Life Shira Barbone



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is a framework of self-awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. This learning can be done in a variety of ways. Whether it be in counseling, a novel you've read, or through navigating life, these skills are priceless and it encourages a well rounded individual. My role is to help support the Social-Emotional Learning of all students to allow them to be not only great students, but great individuals as well.

Mrs. Shira Barbone
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