

St. Francis Solanus School

Beginning of the 2027-2028 School Year Newsletter

June 4, 2026

2026-2027 Tuition Payment Plan Due in FACTS Soon

The family 2026-2027 tuition bills will be in FACTS by Friday, June 19.

By **June 30, 2026**, the families of school students **MUST** do one of the following:

1. Pay the lump sum of 2026-2027 tuition in FACTS
2. Set up a 2026-2027 tuition payment plan in FACTS. There is an additional fee in FACTS for multiple payments.

There is a late fee if a tuition plan and a payment is not complete by June 30, 2026.

If you have a question about your tuition bill, contact Jill Tompkins, Business Manager:

jtompkins@stfrancissolanus.com. The school office staff can answer questions about FACTS.

St. Francis Solanus School **requires** the June and July tuition payments to be paid, or the lump sum paid, by the Friday before school begins which is August 14. If the tuition bill is not current, the student will wait to attend school until it is paid up-to-date.

Attached is the 2026-2027 tuition rates for Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools for reference.

Summer Office Hours at School

St. Francis Solanus School summer office hours for school business for families are **8:00am-12:00pm** on **Wednesdays**. If you need a different time, please email, school@stfrancissolanus.com with your suggestion of a different day and/or time. The parish office is also open on Wednesdays from 8:30-4:30pm.

School phone number **217-222-4077** You may leave a voicemail anytime.

Kris school@stfrancissolanus.com

Lindsey lcarrier@stfrancissolanus.com

Julie Radel, Principal jradel@stfrancissolanus.com

Dr. Christopher Gill, Chief Administrative Leader of Quincy Catholic Schools, may be reached by email: dcgill@quincycatholicschools.org or Chris may be reached by using the parish office number at 217-222-2898.

School Health Exams: Preschool, Kindergarten, Second Grade, Sixth Grade

PreK: Physical Exam and Immunizations Kindergarten: Vision, Dental, Physical Exam & Immunizations

Second: Dental Exam

Sixth: Dental and Physical Exam & Immunizations

**Forms are due to the school no later than Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 unless a note from the physician is on file or they have already been uploaded during enrollment.

Dental Forms ONLY may be faxed to 217-222-5049

Physical Exams: On the **Illinois Child Health Exam Form**, a parent is required to complete the Health History section, then date and sign the form. If this is not complete, the school must return the form to the parent to finish.

New families: “What does SFSS mean?”

In some of our school correspondence, we shortened **St. Francis Solanus School** to **SFSS**.

SFSS August 2026 Dates for Families

Wednesday, August 5 PTO Play in the Park 6:00-7:30pm Upper Moorman Park

Tuesday, August 11 New Family Orientation 6:30pm cafeteria-*optional*

Wednesday, August 12 Preschool Orientation Preschool Room 6:30-7:30pm.

Preschool families do not need to come to New Family Orientation or All About School Night.

Sunday, August 16 Blessing of the Backpacks and Prayers at School 4:00pm—church and school

Tuesday, August 18 First day of school—half day— 8:20-11:30am dismissal—Preschool through 8th grade

Wednesday, August 19 First full day of school —Preschool through 8th grade 8:20am-3:00pm

Tuesday, August 25 All About School Night for Adults of Students

Grades 5-8 in the cafeteria at 6:00, Grades K-4 at 6:30, 7:00, or 7:30

School Calendars for 2026-2027

1. The 2026-2027 Quincy Catholic Schools Calendar is on the school website. Go to **School ->Current Families -> Downloads and Forms**. This is the link. All four Catholic elementary schools have the same calendar. Quincy Notre Dame High School has a different one.

<https://stfrancissolanus.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-2027-QCS-calendar.pdf>

2. There is a more detailed SFSS calendar that shows school events and days school is not in for families in the **FACTS family portal**. See dates from August 2026 through May 2027. It will be updated during the school year.

School Supply Lists for St. Francis Solanus School

1. The 2026-2027 school supply lists are in the **FACTS Family Portal**.
2. The school supply lists are on the parish and **school webpage**: stfrancissolanus.com Go to School ->Current Families -> Downloads and Forms.
3. Paper copies of the lists have been taken to local stores such as WalMart, Target and Staples. However, one can't count on the paper lists being available.

+Please contact Julie Radel, Principal, if buying school supplies is a financial hardship for your family.

+Specific Catholic planners have been purchased for fifth through eighth grade students.

+Preschool student school supplies are in their Resource Fee.

+Teachers request certain brands of supplies because the supply consistently performs well and is the most durable. Examples: Ticonderoga pencils and Crayola markers

Midwest Central Supply—Custom School Supply Kits-optional

SFSS is again partnering with **Midwest Central Supply** to offer customized grade level school supply kits for SFSS students. They are a locally owned and Better Business Bureau approved company. The deadline to order is **Friday, July 17**. The kits are delivered to school in early August labeled with student names. We take the kits to the homerooms. Please visit this link if you are interested.

<https://mwsupplycentral.com/product-category/schools/st-francis/>

PTO Board 2026-2027

These parents volunteered to serve as PTO officers for 2026-2027.

President **Liz Lammers**

Secretary **Sarah Andrew**

VP **Meagan Goodwin**

Treasurer **Casey Grave**

Fundraising Chairperson: **Laura Lawrence**

The new officer team has been planning some fun events for this summer and the 2026-2027 school year. They will need adult and teen help. Helping at any PTO activity counts towards service hours for 2026-2027. This is their email:

pto@stfrancissolanus.com

2026-2027 Service Hours:

During 2026-2027, **15 service hours are required per family K-8** or \$225. to opt out payable in FACTS only.

All DAY Prek 3 & 4 families are required to complete 7.5 hours or opt out \$112.50 payable in FACTS only.

Any questions, please call the school office.

There are PLENTY of ways to earn service hours at all hours of the day and night, as well as weekends. Helping at a PTO event or serving as an officer counts. Serving on the School Advisory Board counts. Working at the St. Francis Solanus Parish Picnic counts. Moving school materials and furniture during the evenings will count as service hours. Supervising noon recess counts.

Cafeteria Lunch Costs for 2026-2027:

+During the 2026-2027 school year, the **price per lunch per student is \$3.50 Milk is .40** with a cold lunch.

+Families may apply for free or reduced price (\$0.40) lunches each year. Please look for this information in an email in July after income guidelines are released. Applications are due to the school office on or before Tuesday, August 17, the first day of school.

+The National School Lunch Program provides guidelines for schools on setting lunch costs. It is not purely a school decision.

Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools Dress Code Updates 2026-2027 for Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

There are changes to note.

1. All students will be wearing QCS Dress Code Clothing most school days. Students will not wear sports jerseys, uniform tops, athletic team sweatshirts and t-shirts, etc. on game days. The principal will designate **one day per month** for students to wear QCES Crusaders clothes, Little Raider gear, QND Trap Team t-shirts, etc.
Reason: We have so many students in alternative clothing, it defeats the purpose of having a dress code. It is a challenge for school staff to track which students are permitted to wear alternative clothing on school days.
2. **Beginning in August 2026, all shorts are required to have a 7 inch inseam.** Due to the smaller clothing sizes, students in kindergarten through second grade may wear shorts that are no shorter than three inches above the knee.

Preschool students are asked to wear any play clothes with athletic shoes.

There will be a separate email about the Quincy Catholic Schools Dress Code coming.

Remember to Use The Gene Grawe Fund

Families are now earning money towards the 2027-2028 school year tuition by using the Gene Grawe Fund. This will continue until the end of April 2027. Purchase gift cards at the Gene Grawe Fund office or use the Raise Right app to purchase e-gift cards to begin earning dollars towards tuition. If you want to begin using the Gene Grawe Fund for 2027-2028 tuition, go to their office inside the front doors of St. Peter Church to sign the paperwork. You also get the number for the Raise Right app from here. The GGF website has a lot of information. Visit : genegrawefund.org

School Advisory Board 2026-2027

Fr. Steven Arisman, Pastor

Mandy Carpenter

Justin Gerhardt

Lindsey Kelly

Nathan Lunt

Saleem Mamdani

Mark Reuschel

Amber Terwelp

Julie Radel, Principal

We thank **Steve Eling** and **Brock Sousa** for serving on the School Advisory Board. They have concluded their terms. Two more people will be added.

St. Francis Solanus School Staff 2026-2027

Preschool through Fourth Grade

Preschool—"Miss Jen"—Jen Mast *There is one preschool class due to enrollment.*

Kindergarten: Mrs. Sarah Hull and Miss Taigen Felker

First Grade: Mrs. Lesley Failor

Second Grade: Mrs. Julie Tuley

Third Grade: Mrs. Marsha Collins, including S.T.R.E.A.M. 3

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Amy Wiewel

K-4th Literacy Intervention, Religion 1st, Intervention Plans K-4th:—
Mrs. Jamie Marshall

Teacher aides will be assigned this summer.

Fifth through Eighth Grade

Some classes may be assigned to a different teacher this summer. The schedule is not final.

Mr. Shaun Carey—Science 6th, 7th, 8th , S.T.R.E.A.M. , Dean of Students 5th-8th,
Homeroom 8th

Mrs. Linda Dawson- Religion 6th, 7th, 8th , Kindergarten-Felker; English 5th;
Homeroom 6th

Mr. Chris Holbrook- D.A.R.E. and BIZTOWN-6th, P.E-all grades. , S.T.R.E.A.M.

Mr. Brian Miller- Reading 5, Social Studies 5, Math 5-one section, Homeroom 5

Mrs. Rochelle Neuman- Reading 6th, 7th 8th, English 7th , Homeroom 7th

Mrs. Rebecca Wear, Religion 5th, Science 5th, English 6th, Homeroom 6th,
Intervention for select K-4 classes.

Mrs. Kelly Wheeler-Math one 5th, 6th. 7th, 8th; Homeroom 5th

Mr. Jeff Zanger-Social Studies 6th, 7th, 8th English 8th, Homeroom 7th

Mrs. Tiffany Steinhauser–Intervention 5th-8th, Intervention Plan Coordinator 5-8, *part time*

Special Classes

Title One Teacher: to be announced...in process

P.E.: Mr. Chris Holbrook

General Music and Instrumental Music : Mr. Josh Crowl and Mrs. Jill Steinkamp

Mrs. Rebecca Wear–S.T.R.E.A.M. for K, 1, 2,

Library Coordinator: Ms. Erin Carey

Other staff

Kris Eyler, Lindsey Carrier: Administrative Assistants in the school office

George Moore: Maintenance Coordinator

Lydia Wheeler and one more person Cafeteria Team

Marsha Collins-Childcare Coordinator for morning and afternoon

Mrs. Julie Radel: Principal

St. Francis Solanus Parish staff who are often connected with the school

Fr. Steven Arisman, Pastor

Fr. Ken Ahanonu, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Dennis Holbrook and Deacon Wayne Zimmerman

Director of Religious Education: Grant Wilson

Business Manager: Jill Tompkins Accounts Payable : Dee White

Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools

Dr. Chris Gill, Chief Administrative Leader

Teacher/Class Assignments for Students and Special Requests

The teachers of the students will be listed in FACTS beginning Monday, August 3.

The principal will listen to requests for teachers from parents of students. However, there are so many things taken into consideration when creating a class, that every request cannot be honored. These are things our teachers and the principal take into consideration when creating class lists:

+Split the number of total students so there are close to 50% of the total students in both classrooms.

+Divide the girls and boys between the two classrooms.

+Consider how children needing academic or behavioral intervention needs will be served.

+ Equalize the learning levels of students among two classes.

+ Make sure each student has at least one friend in their class.

+Separate students who have frequent peer conflicts.

+Some teachers have specialized training in an area that would benefit a student or students.

Examples: special education certification, trauma-informed training, endorsement on a teaching license in a subject area, etc.

+For kindergarten, we divide the students who have been at St. Francis Solanus Preschool. We also divide the children who will be having their first experience with any type of school setting.

Some teachers may not be well known to a family, but will meet the child's social-emotional and academic needs. Please give a teacher a chance. We have some hidden teacher gems on staff!

At the fifth through eighth grade level, the classes are departmentalized. Students are with a teacher one to three class periods per day. Teachers differ by subject and sometimes grade level.

If there are two sections of a grade level at St. Francis Solanus School, those teachers usually meet and create plans for learning for all the students.

Sports Explanations—*optional reading*

Catholic Youth Organization

CYO is a recreational sports organization made up of players mostly from Quincy Catholic Schools players and some public school and homeschool players. The emphasis is on learning to play the sport, exercise, and good sportsmanship. Players of all ability levels are accepted. The fee is reasonable and often includes a team t-shirt. Parents are volunteer coaches.

Little Raider Sports

Little Raiders sports are private teams, sometimes called club teams. Little Raiders teams are NOT sponsored by Quincy Notre Dame High School. However, most of the players on these competitive teams intend to play that sport while he/she is a student at QND. Prospective players could be cut from teams. Coaches tend to have experience playing this sport at the high school or college level, and some coaching experience.

Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Quincy Catholic Crusader Sports and Activities

All four Catholic elementary schools in Quincy make up the Quincy Catholic Crusaders. QCS has teams for golf, cross-country, softball, baseball, girls volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball. Sometimes, there are try-outs for some teams. These teams are competitive and travel to different cities to compete. They are governed by Illinois Elementary School Association guidelines. Students who are failing a class are ineligible to practice or compete. Visit iesa.org to see the general IESA guidelines or the regulations for a sport. The QCS Athletic Director is Mr. Eric Orne. He is at QND High School. It depends on the sport. Students in Seventh and eighth grade make up the teams. Some are as young as fifth grade.

If your child is participating in IESA Quincy Catholic Crusaders sports later this summer, there is a set of three forms to complete. These are the “fall sports”: cross-country (distance running), softball, baseball, and golf. Watch your email for details about joining these sports. **One is a QCES waiver, there is a sheet on concussions to sign, and there is a St. Francis Solanus School form making athletes aware they are going to be required to follow IESA guidelines. The forms are in the school office. We will place some in the gathering space to the side of the church. A student in a QCES Crusader sport is required to have a sports physical before the season begins. Sixth graders use their school physical.**

Point of contact during the summer...

If you have questions or concerns about the upcoming school year, please email me. We can either schedule a phone call, meet, or communicate via email. In June and July please give me 24 hours to respond.

Email: jradel@stfrancissolanus.com.

Julie Radel *Pronunciation of last name: "ray-dull"*
Principal