



Frequently Asked Questions  
St. Francis de Sales High School  
Southeast Side Experience Incubator (SSEI) Work Study Program

***What is the status of the St. Francis de Sales Work Study Program***

St. Francis de Sales High School Work Study program run through the **Southeast Side Experience Incubator (SSEI) launched in September of 2022.** Each week we have sophomores, juniors and seniors that head to work, while others and our freshmen class receive Work Study development training in the classroom.

***What is the Southeast Side Experience Incubator (SSEI) work study program?***

SSEI is a blended high school experience where students have the opportunity to engage in a traditional high school's academic curriculum and spend five days per month in a work setting. Students have the best of both worlds as they have access to a rigorous college preparatory curriculum taught by dedicated and passionate faculty as well as experiential opportunities to excel in the workplace. Studies have shown that graduates from a work study program are more likely to go on to successful college careers.

In the work study programs, students are placed in jobs at area companies where they work five days per month from approximately 8:30am - 4:30pm. The students' academic schedules are modified so that four students work in one organization in an entry level job without missing academic class time.

Because students are working, tuition is reduced significantly. Although the cost to educate a St. Francis de Sales graduate is approximately \$15,000 per year, on average families pay no more than \$2,000 per year to attend St. Francis de Sales because of the money received through the SSEI work study program and other donations.

***Why is St. Francis de Sales beginning a work study program?***

The reason we're doing this is primarily because we asked ourselves "*how can we best serve the community?*" And the answer came back that we can best serve the community by giving students a fundamentally different academic experience, by



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adding a work and life experience, than they would receive at a traditional high school.

A work study program provides students a tremendous access to opportunity – not only the opportunity to afford a Catholic high school college preparatory education that prepares students for success at great universities, but also the opportunity to gain valuable life and work experiences in a professional setting. Students take ownership of a quality, college prep education while also developing real world job skills. These experiences have been shown to help student achievement and universities show great interest in this experience as a differentiator in admissions and scholarship decisions.

***Will every student participate in the Southeast Side Education Incubator work study program?***

Yes, every St. Francis de Sales student will participate in some way in SSEI. Some head to work, others work at school on projects for business and others receive work force training that complements their academic work.

***How will the academic program work with the SSEI work study program? Does the work schedule interfere with the academic program?***

The academic program continues to be college preparatory, with schedules adjusted accordingly to make sure that the curriculum is fully delivered and covered in fewer days. This means that the students will have a longer school day and school year.

The academic program is arranged such that instructional time is maximized and the work does not interfere with the academic program. ***In fact, the work is considered part of the academic program because of the skills students develop.*** See the chart below to see how the schedule works.



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**Student Work Schedule –**  
**All Grade Levels**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Frosh	Soph	Junior	Senior	Frosh
Week 2	Frosh	Soph	Junior	Senior	Soph
Week 3	Frosh	Soph	Junior	Senior	Junior
Week 4	Frosh	Soph	Junior	Senior	Senior

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Students receive grades for both academics and the SSEI program.

***What are the benefits of work study programs?***

The benefits of a Work Study Program are many, including:

- Student scholars receive professional, real-world experience to enhance a student’s college and career readiness,
- Student scholars are provided job skills training and ongoing support,
- Graduates are more likely to go on to successful college careers; and
- Students are motivated to excel in school and pursue professional careers.

Payment from employers for the effort of the job-sharing team offsets a portion of the cost to educate the students. Our initial efforts indicate to us that there are a good number of employers that want to employ students to support their business and help the students through the work experience and skill development.

There is another subtle benefit that Work Study students have experienced. In many cases, employers have kept students on during breaks and the summer period – where students are paid an hourly wage directly and can begin saving for their college education.



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***In what kinds of jobs will students work?***

Students work in law firms, hospitals, distribution centers, universities, businesses, car dealerships, banks, financial services firms, and manufacturing offices. Students may answer phones, or file papers, work in social media, and perform various department level projects. Students are trained before they head to work, and are mentored over the year.

This year, we have students working at finance companies, in real estate, insurance, banking, supporting non-profit work and more.

***Where will the jobs be located?***

The jobs are located within a 30-mile radius of St. Francis de Sales High School; transportation to and from the jobs will be provided.

***How will students get to the work place?***

The SSEI work study program transports students to their jobs. Students are driven to the business and picked up after their work day ends.

***Will my child need to obtain a work permit for themselves?***

The SSEI work study program will procure and ensure completion of all necessary paperwork.

***I have more questions, who do I contact?***

Anyone from the Work Study team can answer your questions as well as Principal Facen:

Roni Facen Principal and CEO SFDS - [rfacen@sfshs.org](mailto:rfacen@sfshs.org)

Hugo Chavez, Director SSEI - [hchavez@southeastsideincubator.org](mailto:hchavez@southeastsideincubator.org)

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