



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School ~ **Happy Thanksgiving!**

November 19, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

This past Wednesday was the first day of the second trimester. There is nothing in life like the blessings of a clean slate! Regardless of our age or position in life, a fresh start and clean slate is always welcomed. We have encouraged our Falcons to stay motivated and to continue working hard, but to also take this opportunity to identify and make the necessary improvements needed to make this trimester their best one yet!

As a school community and family, we have so much to be thankful for! We are thankful for the support of all of our parents and guardians as we partner together to ensure bright, happy, and successful futures for our children. We are thankful for the dedication of our hardworking and professional faculty who teach our children how to be good students and people each and every day. And we are thankful for our wonderful students who grace our lives each day with their presence, creative spirits, curiosity, sense of humor, intelligence, and desire to be good and kind kids.

You and your family are constantly on my mind and in my prayers. Please enjoy the time off next week and your Thanksgiving holiday. I am thankful for each of you. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,  
*Mrs. Maura Nash*



# SJF SCHOOL IS THE BEST!



**HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF OUR SUCCESSES SO FAR THIS YEAR:**

## **Earlier Parent Teacher conferences**

We met with parents earlier in the school year so challenges could be addressed sooner, helping our Falcons to be more successful learners.



## **EXCELLENT IREADY SCORES!**

**WOW!**

86% of our students scored at or above grade level - evidence that small group instruction is successful at SJF!

## **FUNDATIONS PHONICS + OUR NEW READING CURRICULUM = SUCCESS!**



Fewer students are needing our reading intervention program, and are advancing to higher levels in our Reading curriculum.

Quick evidence that our curriculum investment is paying off already!



And a few more things we're doing:

- Curriculum mapping to align our goals, content, and assessments
- Homework Club & Academic Eligibility Club for additional support
- High enrollment in ETC for enrichment
- High School entrance exam Test Prep sessions
- Smart posts sharing Falcon success and news across social media

**AND MORE! VISIT [SJFSCHOOL.NET](http://SJFSCHOOL.NET)**

## COVID GUIDANCE

*We know this is tough. We are in this together...thank you for your cooperation!*

- If your child or a household member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, **please call the school office, 773-445-4737, during the school office hours, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and/or email [attendance@sjfschool.us](mailto:attendance@sjfschool.us)**. We will respond during our regular scheduled office hours.
- A **close contact** constitutes being within 3 feet of a positive individual, un-masked for more than 15 minutes. If your child is considered a close contact, you will be contacted separately and will receive specific quarantine guidance.
- Please review the most recent communication from the archdiocese [linked here](#). These guidelines will be reviewed every two weeks and are subject to change.
- A few details to highlight:
  - All symptomatic individuals must remain home, regardless of vaccination status.
  - If symptoms last longer than 24 hours, individuals must receive a negative COVID-19 test or alternative medical diagnosis prior to returning to school.
  - Masks are required for all students and staff indoors regardless of vaccination status.
  - If you contact the school office via phone or email outside of regular scheduled office hours, **we will get back to you the next business day**. Thank you for your patience!

## Neighborhood Safety

- Our neighborhood has recently been rocked by the frightening incidents that have occurred over the past week at Munroe Park and 101<sup>st</sup> Washtenaw/ Fairfield. Our children are our most precious commodity and we care deeply about their safety and wellbeing. SJF is committed to educating and bringing awareness to ways in which our kids can remain safe in our neighborhood. Officers from the 22<sup>nd</sup> District will be coming to school over the next few months to discuss these topics and provide tips to our children for staying safe in the community.

## Important Announcements

- **Holy Shop!** Save the Date for the Women's Club Vendor Fair Event on **Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Kane Hall!**
- **Thank you to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents** for hosting this month's teacher breakfast. We felt so appreciated and the contributions were delish!
- **Have you purchased your [Holiday Raffle Tickets](#) yet?!** Tickets are available [online](#), after 11:00 mass, during MANNA hours, or at the Rectory. You can also buy a ticket from any of our 5 ticket sellers.
- The **December Lunch Menu** is open and available for ordering.
- **Extended Day** : Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, [dogrady@sjfschool.us](mailto:dogrady@sjfschool.us).
- **PLEASE NOTE**: Next week we have **TWO FULL DAYS: Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. There is no school November 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Reminder: **December 1<sup>st</sup> is a 1 p.m. dismissal** for our monthly Faculty In-Service!

FSA Corner

- **FSA Save the Dates:** *Santa's Coming to Town*, **12.10 & 12. 11**, and *Mother Son Bulls Game*, **1.30**
- Want to **update your SJF Fashion for Christmas?!** Check out these **new designs and items in our Squad Locker Store, linked here!** Squad Locker gives a percentage of every purchase back to the FSA. Don't delay and get your new swag today!



## Athletics

### Reminders from the SJF Athletic Board

**To ensure SJF is able to host athletic competitions and that our teams are eligible to compete, we need everyone's cooperation and assistance in adhering to the COVID protocols established by the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools.**

- **ALL spectators, coaches, players and gym staff must wear masks** in the gym and school building.
- **Just a reminder**, if your child misses school due to an illness (fever, throwing up, headache, etc.), **he or she cannot attend that day's athletic practice or game.**
- Please remind your children to ***represent SJF well*** as they compete and cheer on other Falcon teams. Good sportsmanship matters!
- ***Student conduct in the gym and on the stage has been an issue all fall.*** Please remind your children to pick up after themselves and throw garbage away.
- ***Students should not attempt to enter any part of the school building*** while they are attending athletic competitions at SJF.

## Looking Ahead

**\*Homework Club is Cancelled this week!**

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Join us for Mass: 4 p.m. on Saturday, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday
<b>Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	ETC 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. • Friendsgiving w/ Mrs. Altman
<b>Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Full-Day of School</b> Chess Wizards 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Schiller
<b>Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Full-Day of School</b> December ETC Registration Due Today
<b>Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup></b>	No School – Thanksgiving Break!
<b>Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Happy Thanksgiving!
<b>Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup></b>	No School – Thanksgiving Break!

**\*Regular classes resume on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**







# FALCON OF THE WEEK

Quinn Collins, 7th grade



One of our school themes is "Fly Like a Falcon". Falcons SOAR above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "SOAR above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon", lifting one another up, celebrating the positive interactions, and kind behavior that our students and staff demonstrate each and every day. **This week we recognize 7th grader, Quinn Collins.**

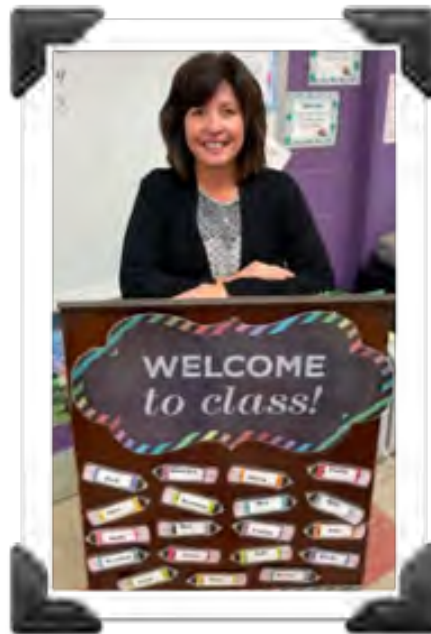
Quinn is a member of our S.O.A.R. program and hands down one of the most positive and enthusiastic kids you will ever meet! Quinn is kind, thoughtful, and empathetic. He is passionate about helping others, especially those in his community. In January, SJF will roll out Quinn's monthly charity fundraising plan that will specifically benefit charities that have touched students and/or families in our community. Quinn takes initiative and makes every effort to make not only a big impact on his community, but also to make the lives of his teachers and peers better every single day. Quinn leads with integrity and humor which no doubt adds to his overall success in his ability to connect with and positively influence others. Quinn, you are a wonderful role model to us all. Keep flying like a Falcon. You are making a difference!

# WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **SALLY CAULFIELD** FROM **3RD GRADE**.

Schools in our country are suffering from a significant teacher shortage. SJF is fortunate to be fully staffed with some of the best teachers around. We are proud of our incredible faculty and want to pause to celebrate them! This week we celebrate, **Mrs. Sally Caulfield!**



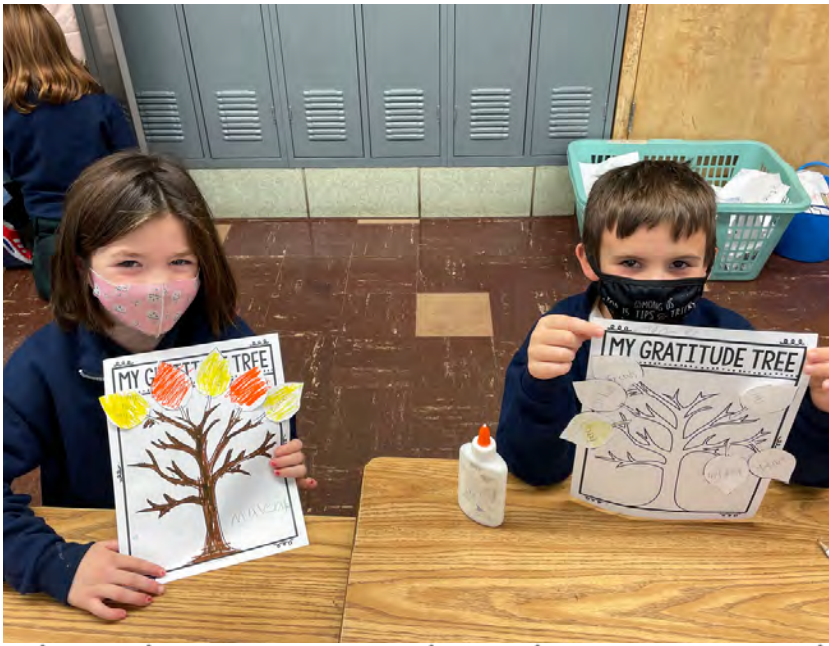
1. How long have you been at SJF? **This is my 15<sup>th</sup> year at SJF!**
2. What do you love about SJF? **I absolutely love the students and staff at SJF! The students are eager to do their best, and the staff is dedicated to the students' education. I am also the proud mother of two SJF graduates.**
3. How do you keep your students interested in learning? **Our third grade curriculum keeps us very busy, but we make time for creative projects to complement our work. The students also love when I read from a novel every day.**
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? **I grew up on a farm about 30 miles from Wisconsin Dells. It is fun to share my knowledge of rural life with my students.**



it's fall

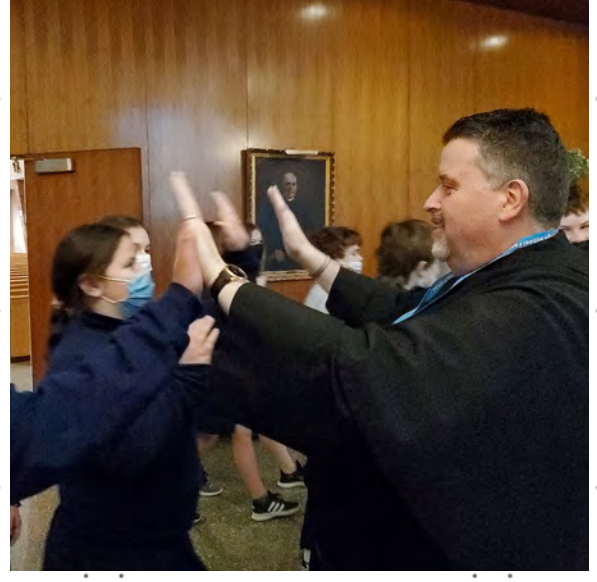








# 7TH & 8TH GRADE RETREAT AT ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL



## 2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



*\*Because of the unpredictable world we live in, these dates are subject to change.*

- Thanksgiving Break: **11.24 – 11.28** \*classes resume **11.29**
- Christmas Break: **12.22 – 1.5** \*classes resume **1.6**
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.17**
- First Reconciliation: **1.25, Ms. Surin's Room & 1.26, Mrs. Kellam's Room**
- Catholic Schools Week: **1.30 – 2.5**
- Confirmation: **2.6**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pictures: **2.9**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17**
- President's Day Break: **2.18 – 2.21** \*classes resume **2.22**
- End of Second Trimester: **3.8**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.14**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** \*classes resume **4.25**
- First Communion: **4.30**
- May Crowning: **5.6**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ribbon Mass: **5.20**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes: **6.1**
- Graduation Dance: **6.3**
- Graduation Mass: **6.5**
- End of Third Trimester, Last Day of School: **6.8** ~ 10:30 dismissal

\***1 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings and PLC work: **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**





**MANNA**  
has your  
*Christmas List*  
**Covered!**



**Visit MANNA 'Cash and Carry' Hours at the Convent** (on Fairfield side)

Monday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Thursdays 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Friday 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (school days only)  
Saturdays 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
Sundays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Or buy online at [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com)

All online orders (including local stores) must be placed **by noon on Sunday**  
for pick up starting Wednesday evening.



# St. John Fisher Holiday Grand Raffle

**Tickets are \$100 each**

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**First prize: \$25,000 Second prize: \$5,000 Third prize: \$2,000**

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Tickets can be purchased **October 16th-December 4th** in person at the rectory, after 11:00 a.m. mass, or online through the church and school websites <https://www.sjfschool.net> or <https://www.stjohnfisherparish.net>

**Winners will be  
drawn December 4th**

**@**

**4:00 p.m. Mass**





# Respect Life Wreath Sale

The Respect Life committee will be selling wreaths/gift items after mass on **Saturday, December 4th** and **Sunday, December 5th**. These items will fill your home with the spirit and love of the Christmas season and make the perfect hostess gifts for friends and neighbors. All proceeds help support the work of the Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. Through your generosity, hundreds of teens and young woman facing a crisis pregnancy will receive the compassionate counseling, social service referrals and material goods assistance they need to help them through this most difficult period of their lives. Your support is greatly appreciated.

*Listed below are available items:*

Be Merry Centerpiece    \$25.00	26" Noble Fir Wreath w/cones    \$35.00
14" Winter White Candle Ring    \$30.00	48" Canella Berry Mantel Piece    \$45.00
26" Cinnamon Wreath    \$45.00	<b><i>Cash and checks accepted</i></b>



Please contact Courtney Connors or Kerry McNicholas with any questions.

[courtneykconnors@gmail.com](mailto:courtneykconnors@gmail.com)

(773) 396-4896 (Courtney)

[Kerrymcginnis@yahoo.com](mailto:Kerrymcginnis@yahoo.com)

(708) 525-0705 (Kerry)

*Each child is sent into the world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, and a personal act of love to bestow.*



**Pop's Special Lunch**  
**Tuesday December 7th**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Room # \_\_\_\_\_

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hot Dog	\$4.50	_____	_____
Beef Sandwich 5in.	\$6.00	_____	_____
Chicken Tenders 4pcs.	\$5.50	_____	_____
Meatball Sandwich 5in.	\$6.00	_____	_____
		Total:	_____

All orders include bottled water, chips and cookies.

Payment: Cash, Check or Zelle to [Michellebw27@hotmail.com](mailto:Michellebw27@hotmail.com) (Michelle Klimowski)

If making a Zelle payment, please indicate date of payment \_\_\_\_\_

Name Zelle payment was made under \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders Due Wednesday December 1st- Please no late orders**

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# DECEMBER ETC

The *St. John Fisher Enrichment and Tutorial Center (ETC)* is an after-school program designed to offer students a wide variety of classes not normally covered in the regular curriculum. Classes are a fun way for friends to explore areas of interest. The December session runs from November 29 - December 17th. Classes meet in the designated classroom for the designated times. The cost is \$30.00 per class. Please return all registration and payment to the SCHOOL OFFICE in an envelope clearly marked ETC by Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*Monday class November 29<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>*

FESTIVE FIDGET FUN YOUR HOLIDAYS will be POPPIN as we set up some holiday sensory stations and play with fidgets. Join the fun as we play with POP Its, squishys, and even make our own snow and Grinch Slime! Each week you will get a blind bag with a different festive fidget! Have fun fidgeting with friends.

Mrs. Altman & Mrs. Lindgren

Pre K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

ROOM 107

MULTIPLICATION MADNESS Join Mrs. Sefcik to review or master multiplication facts. We will play hands on games, learn strategies and have fun competitions. Who says learning your facts can't be fun?

Mrs. Sefcik

Grades 3-4

ROOM 216

GAME NIGHT Get your gang together for some afterschool fun and get your game on! Come join us to play Mancala, Connect Four, and Jenga. We will start with some practice and then we will have head-to-head competition each and every day.

Mrs. Dunlavy

Grades 3-6

ROOM 206

*Tuesday class November 30<sup>th</sup>. December 7<sup>th</sup>. & December 14<sup>th</sup>*

JINGLE MINGLE jingle. jingle come and mingle! We will decorate some Christmas cookies and rock around the Christmas tree while singing some of our favorite Christmas carols and having fun with our friends. While mom and dad are busy doing some holiday shopping you can be an elf in training. We will make snow and Christmas crafts. Join us for good friends. Good cheer:  
it's the most wonderful time of year!

Mrs. Altman

Pre K- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Room 107

CHRISTMAS CLAY CLASS Get early access to clay this year with a Christmas themed clay class. Join us as we make a special Christmas gift for a loved one or a decoration to add to the festivities at home. You don't want to miss the fun in this festive art class with friends!

Mrs. Corley

Grades 4-8

Art Room

*Wednesday class December 8<sup>th</sup>. & December 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:30*

*(NO Wednesday class on Dec. 1st due to early dismissal)*

REINDEER GAMES Join the fun as we get ready for Christmas. We will have so much fun playing games like stack the Christmas presents. Jingle Bell Toss. Wrap the snowman. Find Santa's reindeer and Santa says. Plus so much more! We will decorate Christmas cookies for snack and have fun with friends!

Mrs. Altman

pre-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Room 107

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS HO HO HO! Let's get into the holiday spirit! Join the fun as we create Christmas crafts while we listen to holiday music. We will turn our classroom into Santa's workshop and make a present for your family or just make a craft that you can enjoy during the season.

Mrs. Dunlavy

Grades 3- 6

Room 206





Thursday class December 2<sup>nd</sup>. December 9<sup>th</sup>. & December 16<sup>th</sup>

BAKING BUDDIES Holiday Edition- Christmas is right around the corner! TO get ready for the Holidays. one of my favorite things to do is bake cookies. we will be making sugar cookies. snowflake cookies. gingerbread cookies. and more!

102 MS. MC Andrews Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> ROOM  
REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form and return to the School Office no later than Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> in an envelope marked ETC.

Registration for December ETC

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies (please list all and if child carries an EPI Pen and or/inhaler  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*If your child has a food allergy please send him/her with his/her own snack

Child's Grade and Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Monday class: NOV. 29<sup>th</sup>. DEC. 6<sup>th</sup> & DEC. 13<sup>th</sup>. 3:00-4:00

\_\_\_\_\_ Festive FIDGET FUN

\_\_\_\_\_ MULTIPLICATION MADNESS

Tuesday class: NOV. 30<sup>th</sup>. DEC 7<sup>th</sup> & DEC. 14<sup>th</sup>. 3:00-4:00

\_\_\_\_\_ Jingle Mingle

Wednesday class: DEC. 8<sup>th</sup> & DEC. 15<sup>th</sup>. 3:00-4:30

NO CLASS ON DEC 1<sup>st</sup> due to early dismissal

\_\_\_\_\_ Reindeer Games

Thursday class DEC. 2<sup>nd</sup>. DEC. 9<sup>th</sup> & DEC. 16<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00

\_\_\_\_\_ Baking Buddies

