



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

October 29, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

Well, our Falcons proved that their excitement for a “normal” Halloween experience in school knows no bounds! We had the best week anticipating today and all of the haunting fun this weekend will bring. Our Falcons’ spirit, creativity, and happiness this week were contagious. Fortunately, we still managed to work hard and accomplish so much in the classroom too! Happy Halloween everyone; have a fun and safe weekend!

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,  
*Mrs. Maura Nash*



## Important Announcements

- Our **7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Basketball** Teams had great success last weekend at the St. Gerald’s Tournament! Congrats to the members of our blue and white teams: **Rylee Clisham, Sadie Riley, Mary Clare O’Connor, Brigid O’Malley, Addy Moles, Grace Carmody, Erin O’Hara, and Ryanne Nolan and Bridie O’Connor, Rose Gilligan, Sophia McHugh, Erin O’Neil, Myranda Murdoch, Caitlin Kinnane, Birgitta Anderson, and Grace Vrablic-Barnhouse.** Go Falcons!
- **SJF’s Trunk or Treat** is tomorrow from 1-3 in the church parking lot. All pre-orders for Stan’s Donuts can be picked up from 1-3. If you cannot pick up your order, please email Corey O’Malley, [comalley2620@gmail.com](mailto:comalley2620@gmail.com).
- **Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** is a **1 p.m. dismissal** for all-students due to our Faculty In-Service! ***Students will have REGULAR LUNCH periods on 1 o’clock dismissal days.***
- **COMPLIANCE AUDIT** – St. John Fisher is currently undergoing a compliance audit which will be submitted on **NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>** for all volunteers who work with our students both on and off campus. Please see the below information that must be completed in order for you to be *in compliance* and eligible to participate as a volunteer and/or chaperone at St. John Fisher School. Thank you for your help and attention!
- **Holiday Raffle Ticket** sellers are needed! Please [visit this sign-up link](#) if you are able to participate. Thank you!

- **STUDENTS CAN NO LONGER WEAR SHORTS to school.** The fall weather is upon us! Please make sure your children wear their uniform pants to school. Girls are allowed to wear leggings under their uniform skirts/jumpers as long as they are a solid color: **white, navy, hunter green, or black.**
- **Weekend Mass Initiative:** St. John Fisher School and FSA are sponsoring a **weekend mass attendance incentive for our school children for the month of October.**
  - Any school child who attends any of the masses on Saturday or Sunday will receive a **voucher** to come out of uniform the following Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Help us show the Archdiocese what a vital community St. John Fisher is!
  - FSA is looking for volunteers to help pass out Dress Down Vouchers, please sign up on the following link: [Ticket Distributor.](#)
- **FSA Save the Dates:** *Santa's Coming to Town, 12.10 & 12. 11, Mother Son Bulls Game, 1.31, and the Father Daughter Dance, 2.5.*
- **Extended Day** : Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, [dogrady@sjschool.us](mailto:dogrady@sjschool.us).

## Did you know...

- SJF provides **countless opportunities for additional enrichment and remediation** after school?
- Students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> can take advantage of our **Homework Club** facilitated by Mrs. Ade, Mr. K, and junior high student mentors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the school year at no additional cost to our families.
- **Academic Eligibility Club** is open to our students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> who need additional support in one or more subject area. In the past at SJF, during progress checks at the mid trimester, if a student in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> had one (or more) F or two D's on their progress report, he or she would automatically be removed from any SJF sanctioned extracurricular activities until his/her grades were satisfactory. In today's climate, that policy simply isn't what is best for our Falcons. Now, students who fall into this category are automatically enrolled in our **Academic Eligibility Club** where they work closely with Ms. Dunlavy and Mrs. Larmon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school for an hour to receive the support they need to be and feel successful! While attending this club, students are allowed to remain in their extracurricular activities. This support is offered at no additional cost to our families.
  - **Homework Club and Academic Eligibility Club** allow our Falcons to receive the academic support they need, improve their executive functioning, organization, and communication skills. Through goal setting our students are able to plan for future success while building their confidence and self-esteem. During this time our students learn about and practice self-advocacy and how to successfully work with a partner or small group.
- This year we have expanded our **ETC classes to include Falcons in grades K-8.** Our ETC's include Chess Wizards, Novel Studies, Stem and Steam Classes, Holiday Cooking and Baking Classes, Games, and Arts and Crafts. *There is a fee associated with these classes.* Be on the lookout for information and registration for our ETC's in our newsletter.
- SJF Offers a prestigious **High School Entrance Exam Test Prep Class** that spans over 8 weeks leading up to the Catholic High School Entrance Exam. SJF's HSPT class is taught by 3 of our very own faculty members, Mrs. Condon, Mrs. Cummings, and Ms. Dunlavy who have a combined 40 + years of test prep experience. *There is a fee associated with this class.*

Our goal is that through these differentiated offerings, we are able to further support and prepare our Falcons for their bright future!



## Manna Update

**Signing up for the App is as easy as Venmo!** Get started today to help the school fundraise on your everyday purchases without a cost to you! Would you rather sell wrapping paper or popcorn?

- Manna App: [Raise Right](#).
- Need more help, check out the [Manna Overview](#).
- Quick videos to make it easy: [Video demo for the app](#) or [Video to help understand the rebates](#).

## Looking Ahead

<b>Weekend Mass</b> October 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Join us for Mass: (4 p.m. on Saturday), 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday
<b>Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Trunk or Treat: 1-3 in the Church Parking Lot
<b>Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Chess Wizards 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Schiller Academic Eligibility Club 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy ETC's 3– 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fidget Fun w/ Mrs. Altman</li> <li>• Baking Buddies w/ Ms. Mc Andrews</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. Academic Eligibility Club 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy ETC 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkey Bowl w/ Mrs. Altman</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>*1 pm dismissal for all student!</b>	Faculty In-Service – 1 p.m. Dismissal for all Students *Students will have their REGULAR LUNCH period today!
<b>Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup></b>	ETC 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendsgiving Club w/ Mrs. Altman</li> </ul> HSPT Class 3:00 – 4: 30 p.m.

## COVID GUIDANCE

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

- 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.

# Be Positive

## Compliance Update

### 2021-2022 SCHOOL VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

The following guidelines are mandated by the Archdiocese of Chicago and apply to all volunteers, chaperones, coaches, scout leaders, and catechists that will help out in our parish and school programs. The Archdiocese of Chicago conducts an annual audit to ensure that all are in compliance with these mandates. That audit is happening now. If you wish to participate with our students as a volunteer, chaperone, and/or coach, please make sure you have completed all the necessary tasks.

If you are planning to volunteer, chaperone, and/or coach at St. John Fisher School this year, here are the Safe Environment Requirements:

- New volunteer/chaperone/coach: Create an account on the Virtus System at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org).
- If this is a new account, you will be assigned the online **Protecting God's Children Training**.
- Register and attend the training within 15 days of beginning volunteering.
- If you have a VIRTUS account from another parish/school, please notify Mary Margaret Redmond to add St. John Fisher School to the existing account.
- If your Protecting God's Children is older than 2018, you will be assigned the online recertification training, **Keeping the Promise Alive** through the [VIRTUS website](#). This recertification is *done online*.
- **Name-based Criminal Background Check** by S2Verify submitted in [VIRTUS](#) which is a one-time requirement, but rechecked every three years.
- **Archdiocesan Standards of Behavior for Church Personnel working with Minors and Vulnerable Adults** (Formerly Archdiocesan Code of Conduct). This must be read, signed and re-acknowledged yearly through [VIRTUS](#).
- Completion of a **CANTS 689 Form** [linked here](#). This must be completed every year and turned into school; DO NOT MAIL.
- Complete the online **Mandated Reporter Training** through [www.archchicago.org](http://www.archchicago.org).
- **Any questions or concerns please contact our Compliance Officer, Mary Margaret Redmond, at [mredmond@sjfschool.net](mailto:mredmond@sjfschool.net)**



# WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **AMY SCHILLER** FROM SIXTH 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. Amy Schiller!



1. How long have you been at SJF? **This is my 23rd year at SJF! I am so grateful for the wonderful people I've worked with over the years, including our current team. I have taught 5th through 8th grade while at SJF.**
2. What do you love about SJF? **The students! What a privilege for me to encounter them each day! When we are engaged in discussion of a novel or other topic at hand, I feel energized. The students' enthusiasm is contagious!**
3. What is the secret to your successful classroom management? **I credit those I've worked with over the years, learning strategies that work for different personalities and varied learning styles. Teachers at SJF collaborate with each other to ensure the best learning for our kids.**
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? **I love seeing and hearing about students after they graduate. My own kids are working in the neighborhood: DJ at County Fair and Nathan at Roseangela's. It is great when students give back to the community that helped them become who they are!**

## 2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



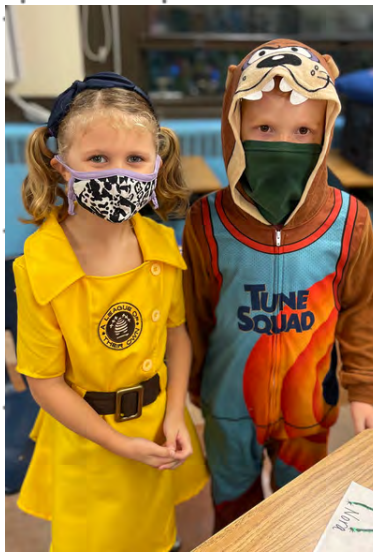
*\*Because of the unpredictable world we live in, these dates are subject to change.*

- End of First Trimester: **11.16**
- Make-up School Picture Day: **11.18**
- 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 & 1.25**
- 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>.**

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN











**7TH GRADE  
GIRL  
SCOUTS  
AT FEED  
MY  
STARVING  
CHILDREN**

# CONGRATS

## CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP AT ST. GERALD'S TOURNAMENT



**7TH GRADE  
1ST  
PLACE**



**7TH GRADE  
2ND  
PLACE**

*Great Job*





**SJF Trunk or Treat**

**October 30th**

**Fundraiser with Stan's Donuts**

**Van Arrives @ 1:00**



**Preorders strongly encouraged. Scan QR code to order**

**Any questions email [comalley2620@gmail.com](mailto:comalley2620@gmail.com)**

# Inaugural SJF Spring Formal Fundraiser Information Night

Saint John Fisher School is excited to announce the Inaugural Spring Formal Fundraising Event to be held in May of 2022 at Ridge Country Club. This is an exciting and important time for the future of SJF. The school leadership has asked the parent organizations to coordinate two fundraisers annually. These efforts will help the school to achieve its strategic plan. Oktoberfest was held in the fall as the 1<sup>st</sup> School focused fundraiser and hosting a Spring Formal is our next goal.

This event is more than an attempt to raise needed funds for our school. It is a unique opportunity to celebrate the success of the school half-way thru the 5- year strategic plan and to bring a sense of excitement, pride, and commitment to the school's goals for future generations of Falcons.

**Please join us on Tuesday night November 2, 2021, at 7:30PM at Cork & Kerry located at 10614 S. Western Avenue** for an informal presentation regarding the goals and logistics of this fundraising campaign. There will be the opportunity to volunteer for the spring event and be part of the planning committee. We will be looking for volunteers to assist in the following capacities:

- Event Coordination (Food & Bev, Decorating, Entertainment)
- Silent/Live Auctions
- Alumni Committee
- Tickets Sales
- Social Media/Advertising/Marketing
- Donor/Sponsors

If you are unable to attend the November 2<sup>nd</sup> informational night and would still like to be a part of the planning committee (in any capacity) please contact John O'Connor at 773-480-2210 or email at [jpo11380@icloud.com](mailto:jpo11380@icloud.com).

Sincerely, Leaders of FSA, Holy Name Society, School Board, Women's Club, and SJF Faculty





# 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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**Early Bird Raffle \$500**

**October 31st at 11:00 a.m. Mass**

1 entry per 5 tickets sold will be entered into a \$1,000 prize raffle

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**





# 2021-2022 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern...

- Assignments
- Homework
- Class Activities

Contact [Classroom Teacher](#) by email or note.

- Discipline
- Classroom Behavior
- Specific Incidents

Start by contacting the [Classroom Teacher](#) for an appointment.  
If further assistance is needed, contact SJF Assistant Principal, Mrs. Claire Larmon: [clarmon@sifschool.us](mailto:clarmon@sifschool.us)

- Reporting Attendance

E-mail [attendance@sifschool.us](mailto:attendance@sifschool.us)

- Schedules
- Calendar
- Arrival/Dismissal
- Miscellaneous Questions
- Hot Lunch

Mrs. Kate Spadoni: [kspadoni@sifschool.us](mailto:kspadoni@sifschool.us)

- Registration
- Admissions
- Medical Forms

Contact the school office at 773-445-4737, or Mrs. Linda Murray: [lmurray@sifschool.us](mailto:lmurray@sifschool.us)

- Powerschool
- Tuition
- Fees
- Technology

Mrs. Delphine Maxwell: [dmaxwell@sifschool.us](mailto:dmaxwell@sifschool.us)

- Virtus Training and Compliance
- Religious Education
- Extended Day Program
- Manna Program

Virtus, Mrs. Redmond: [mredmond@sifschool.net](mailto:mredmond@sifschool.net)  
Religious Education, Dr. Chermak: [echermak@sifschool.us](mailto:echermak@sifschool.us)  
Extended Day, Mrs. O'Grady: [dogrady@sifschool.us](mailto:dogrady@sifschool.us)  
Manna Team: [sjfmanna@gmail.com](mailto:sjfmanna@gmail.com)

- Counseling, pre-k – 4th

SJF Counselor, Mrs. Lauren Lordo: [llordo@sifschool.us](mailto:llordo@sifschool.us)

- Counseling, 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- iReady

SJF Counselor and Assistant Principal, Student Support  
Mrs. Nichole Carey: [ncarey@sifschool.us](mailto:ncarey@sifschool.us)

- Student Accommodation Plans

Mrs. Win Biernacki (K-4): [wbiernacki@sifschool.us](mailto:wbiernacki@sifschool.us)  
Mrs. Karen Brogan (5-8): [kbrogan@sifschool.us](mailto:kbrogan@sifschool.us)





## 2021-2022 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern...

