



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

St. John Fisher School

August 30, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

We are off and running into the new school year! Teachers and students are getting back into the groove of their routines and we are all gaining more confidence each day in our new roles. SJF certainly isn't lacking for excitement or events all of which are outlined below. One of our new school-wide initiatives is the *Falcon of the Week* which is directly tied to our school theme, "Fly Like a Falcon." We are so excited and looking forward to welcoming all of you to our **Back to School Night** this upcoming Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. For now, have a wonderful Labor Day weekend with your family and friends and don't forget to "Fly Like a Falcon!"

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education and specifically St. John Fisher.

In unity and hope,

*Mrs. Maura Nash*

## Important Announcements

- This week ***please enjoy a counseling update from Mrs. Carey*** below.
- **For general school questions**, please feel free to call Kate Spadoni in the school office at 773-445-4737 or email at [kspadoni@sjfschool.net](mailto:kspadoni@sjfschool.net)
- Students are *allowed to wear shorts until October 1<sup>st</sup> - Stay COOL!*
- Be safe when walking to and from school! Students should cross 103<sup>rd</sup> street with the crossing guard at the stop light.
- ***Donuts on the Lawn*** will take place immediately following 10am mass on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **ETC classes** begin Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a **School Advisory Board (SAB)** meeting on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in the Teacher's Lounge.
- **Fisher Fest** begins Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>! *\*There will be **NO SCHOOL** on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.*
- **Save the Date! September 17<sup>th</sup>**: Roy Petitfils, Licensed Counselor, will be presenting to the students during the school day and parents in the evening. Mr. Petitfils is an internationally recognized expert in understanding and raising teenagers. He is a therapist at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, LA and holds a Masters in Mental Health and School Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.
- **Like us & follow us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago](https://facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago) & **Instagram:** [stjohnfisher!](https://instagram.com/stjohnfisher)

### Peek at the Week

Monday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labor Day (<i>No School!</i>)</li></ul>
Tuesday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hot lunch begins</li></ul>
Wednesday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Special Lunch – <b>Barracco's</b></li><li>• <b>Back to School Night!</b> 6:30-8 (event begins in Church)</li></ul>
Thursday, September 5 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty Meeting @ 2:30</li></ul>
Friday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All School Mass @ 1pm, all are welcome!</li></ul>

### Celebrate!

#### Thank You

- In collaboration with the **Conner T. Lowry Memorial Foundation**, Holy Name Society and the Athletic Association, thank you so much for the generous donation to renovate our gym in honor of Conner. The Conner T. Lowry Gym is now officially open!



Fisherfest



- **SAVE THE DATE:** Fisherfest is upon us: September 12th - 15th!
- We are in need of security volunteers who are Chicago Police Officers & have children at SJF. Contact Mike Poppish if you are able to help: 773-418-4214



- Get your Fisherfest raffle tickets after all masses or in the school office!
- Megabracelets will be for sale in Kane Hall on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 and Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-8





# FALCON OF THE WEEK

Isabella Barsch, 3rd Grade



## **SJF's Inaugural Falcon of the Week is 3rd grader, Isabella Barsch.**

This year, our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing what it means to be a falcon. Falcons soar above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. As St. John Fisher Falcons, 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 "Be the Nice Kid" and "Fly Like a Falcon", lifting

one another up and celebrating the positive interactions and kind behavior that our students demonstrate each and every day. This week, Isabella was in class when a peer grew ill. Completely unprompted, Isabella consoled her classmate and left a sticky note on his desk saying, "I hope you feel better" - from Isabella. This small thoughtful act made Bella's classmate feel better and cared for. Thank you, Bella, for looking out for your friend and showing him that you care! Fly like a falcon!





Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Labor Day weekend! As the cycle of pool days, block parties and flexible bed times comes to a close I look forward to all fall has to offer; crisp, sunny days, football games and a new school year full of opportunity and potential. A lifelong school enthusiast, I am usually more excited for the start of a new school year than most, however even I can't help but feel inspired by the excitement our Falcons have showcased over the past two weeks. They have demonstrated enthusiasm in their work, enthusiasm for their teachers and peers and enthusiasm for four day weekends and Fisher Fest!

These first (unseasonably cool!) weeks back to school provided me the opportunity to meet many of our wonderful students, observe our incredibly talented faculty "in action" and revel in the incredibly electric SJF school culture. Fisher is an amazing place! Needless to say, I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve as the Counselor and Assistant Principal of Student Support!

As fabulous as St. John Fisher is, it is inevitable that students will face challenges this school year and need support in their journey to becoming their best selves. *My primary responsibility as a school counselor is to be that support; to promote the academic, personal, and social development of all students.* Productive and comprehensive school counseling programs are, both, reactive and proactive so you can expect the counseling interventions implemented this year to be multi-dimensional. A counseling curriculum will be delivered to students via in-class counseling lessons, all-school social emotional learning initiatives and grade level programming. In addition, I will provide short-term, individual counseling services to students as needed, as well as small group counseling which will address behavioral or emotional trends. I will also serve as a resource to parents as it relates to the academic success and/or social/ emotional needs of their child(ren).

### Services Provided

**CLASSROOM COUNSELING LESSONS:** Classroom lessons will be presented in classrooms, grades PreK-8. The curriculum is informed by teacher and parent feedback (as received from a needs assessment survey last spring) as well as the National Model for School Counseling (ASCA). Lessons will be delivered in a developmentally appropriate manner, addressing various academic and social-emotional topics. Examples include: healthy peer relationships, coping with difficult emotions and effective study skills.

**GROUP COUNSELING:** Group counseling is provided for small groups of students experiencing similar concerns. Group topics may include coping with anxiety, anger management, organization and executive functioning skills and improving self-esteem. Counseling groups generally service 4 to 6 students and last for 6 to 8 sessions. Students can be recommended by parents/guardians, faculty members or the counselor. If your child has been recommended to participate in a small group you will be contacted, informed of the group's goals and asked for signed consent.

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING:** Short term, one-on-one counseling support is available to all students in grades PreK- 8. Students may self-refer or be referred to the counselors by teachers/staff, administrator and/or parents. **Confidentiality\* is respected.**

**CONSULTATIONS:** I am available to meet with teachers, administrators and/or parents to discuss the needs of individual students. I am here for **all students** and want to ensure that your child has a productive and positive school year. If I can support your child in anyway, please don't hesitate to contact me.

BLOG: Please note that I will be updating my blog on the SJF website; it will highlight upcoming counseling lessons, school-wide social emotional learning initiatives, book recommendations and more!

I am thrilled to begin this school year and grateful for the opportunity to serve St. John Fisher students, staff and families. **Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.**

Kindest Regards,

Nichole Carey, MEd, LPC  
Assistant Principal of Student Support & Counselor  
ncarey@sjfschool.net

**\*Confidentiality: As defined by the American School Counseling Association** Please note that all information discussed in session is in confidence, meaning it is confidential between me and your child, unless they plan to hurt themselves, hurt someone else or someone is hurting them.

The tone and spirit of a counseling session as well as a student's overall wellness can and will be discussed with parents.

Welcome back!! I am so excited to get our new Reading Intervention Program (RIP) started and getting our students working with the Leveled Literacy Intervention system! I believe this intervention, along with active reading in school and at home, will help our students achieve reading success

At this time we are using teacher referral as well as the STAR Reading Assessment to determine a baseline score for students in grades 1-3. Those students who score at least one grade level below, or for whom their teacher is most concerned, will be further assessed using the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. The BAS data will help us determine which students are likely to benefit most from our small group intervention work.

However, that does not mean we are leaving behind students whose scores do not necessarily indicate they need a reading intervention. Students that are identified by their teachers as struggling readers will still have additional classroom and resource support available to them on a regular basis.

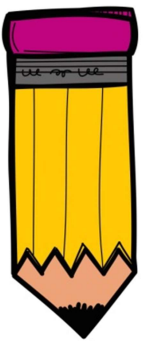
I am in the process of assessing students now, and registration letters will be sent home to parents soon whose children will be participating in the intervention program. I am very much looking forward to working with our students and teachers to not only improve reading skills, but to help instill a love of reading as well.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child. Working together will allow us to ensure a lifetime of reading and learning fun!

Thank you,

Ms. Schiavone





## September 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 September session runs from September 9-25th. 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 **Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>**.

### Monday Classes Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

**LEGO LAB** This class is designed for kids who love to create, build, and discover using LEGOS. Join the fun as we build towers, bridges, villages or anything you can dream of. We will go online and look at some amazing Lego creations as well as play games. If you love Legos come to the Lego lab!

Mrs. Altman & Mrs. Lindgren Room 107 Grades Preschool – 2<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**SPORTS CLUB: Dodgeball** Are you ready for some Dodgeball?! This ETC will be a blast! We will meet and play Dodgeball – (with soft balls) – each week. Please wear gym shoes because we will be in the GYM. The children will be grouped according to their age.

Mrs. Ade Room 217 Grades Preschool- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### Tuesday Classes September 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

**Super Hero Training Camp** Calling all Super Heroes - join the fun as we turn ourselves into Super Heroes. We will make up our own Super Hero names and special powers. We will make our own Super Hero masks and other super crafts. We will learn all about Spiderman, Batman and Batgirl, Superman and much more. Have a super time in Super Hero Club!!

Mrs. Altman & Mrs. Lindgren Tuesday Grades Pre K – 3 Preschool Room 107

### Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

**Little Einstein's Club/STEM Lab** If you're looking for fun and engaging STEM activities (science, technology, engineering, and math), you've come to the right spot! STEM is our "thing" and we're excited to pass along our favorite activities so that you can be a little Einstein too!! We are very hands-on and we will make some Back to School SLIME do some color mixing experiments and Apple science as well!

Mrs. Altman & Mrs. Lindgren Tuesday Grades Pre K – 3 Preschool Room 107



## Registration for September ETC

Please return by Thursday September 5th

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

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

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*\*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 Classes September 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Lego Lab

\_\_\_\_\_ Sports Club/Dodgeball

Tuesday Classes September 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Super Hero Training Camp

Wednesday Classes September 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Little Einstein's STEM Lab







# 2019 HELP BUILD HOPE

Hosted by SJF/MHR Youth Ministry Program

**Whole Family Mission Project Celebrating 15 Years of Youth Ministry!**

*Sign Up Today To Participate - Individuals and Whole Families Welcome! No Special Skills Required!  
Children 5th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult.*

## Housing is a basic human need.

Sadly, many people are without a simple decent place to live in dignity and safety.

## What We Are Building

Our job will be to construct a house frame - the basic walls and infrastructure - in ONE weekend in the SJF parking lot. The structure will then be transported to CHICAGOLAND Habitat for Humanity. They will coordinate the completion of the project, in hopes we can assist on the build day! The home will then be dedicated to a family in need.

## When & Where

**September 20 - 22, 2019**

**St. John Fisher  
10234 S. Washtenaw Ave.**

During the weekend, we will do more than build a house. We will pray, laugh, renew old friendships, and build new relationships.

If you would like to make a donation towards this project please visit:  
[www.mostholyredeemer.org/youth-ministry.html](http://www.mostholyredeemer.org/youth-ministry.html)

## Weekend Schedule

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

3:30 - 5:00PM - Project Set-Up  
5:00 - 7:00PM - Measure and Cutting  
7:00 - 8:00PM - Crew Leader Training

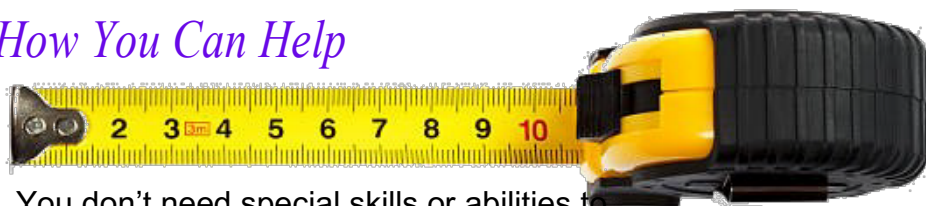
### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 AM - Check in  
8:30 AM - Opening Prayer & Info  
11:30 AM - Lunch & Write Blessings on the frame of the home.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

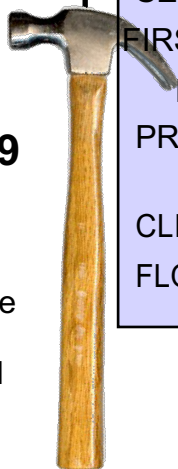
12:00 PM - Celebratory Mass  
1:30 PM - Load House for transport.  
2:00 PM - Clean up

## How You Can Help



You don't need special skills or abilities to be a participant. We need children, teens, adults, and seniors alike for a variety of roles. Register to participate online by visiting our registration page: [www.helpbuildhope.com/sjf\\_mhr](http://www.helpbuildhope.com/sjf_mhr)

- PREPARERS: Measure and cut lumber (Friday only).
- CREW LEADERS: Oversee work crews (Friday and Saturday).
- BUILDERS: Swing a hammer; assemble the house frame (Sat only).
- SECURITY: Help keep our supplies and site safe.
- FIRST AID STATION: Be available if needed in our first aid area.
- FOODIES: Help plan, prepare, or distribute food.
- PROMOTERS: Get the word out with parishioners, friends, Youth Ministry alumni etc.
- CLEANERS: Help keep area neat and safe during and after event.
- FLOATERS: Help out with miscellaneous duties throughout event.



# ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Kim Madonia, Director of Youth Ministry, via call/text: 708-275-8922