



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School 2020-2021 School Year– Together, we've got this!

August 31, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

We cannot wait to welcome your children back into our school building this week! SJF has been working harder than ever to prepare for this school year, making sure that the safety and success of both our students and staff is our number one priority. Things are going to look a little different this year, but our love for and dedication to our students and school community remains. As we enter into this unprecedented school year, let's remember to adjust our mindset and goals accordingly. Our plan is fluid and will need to change and adapt with our world as we continue to receive additional guidance and direction. Let us all remember to treat one another with grace and flexibility. We have never done this before. There will likely be hiccups along the way, but together, we will get through this. Our students will be challenged, they will learn and they will achieve. Despite our restrictions, our incredible teachers have NEVER been more excited to meet their students and start a school year. We can do hard things and together, we've got this!

Below is a summary of some of the updates to SJF's Re-Opening Plan, answers to frequently asked questions and what to expect when coming back to school this week. New information and changes are highlighted in yellow. As always, we are so grateful for your commitment to Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher. Thank you for remaining loyal to us during this surreal time. It means the world!

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

Orientation Details

- Orientation begins this week on September 2nd & 3rd! [Here is the schedule in case you missed it.](#)
- **Students should bring all of their school supplies to orientation.** Because we cannot have visitors in the building, you cannot escort your children into the building.
- While on campus, **everyone (parents included) above the age of 2 must have a mask on at all times!**
- Parents and guardians, please help our littlest falcons be successful and feel reassured by reminding them who their teacher is. There will be several staff members available to help with temperature checks and to ensure your child gets to his/her correct classroom.
- Students should arrive for orientation in their gym uniforms.
- Extended Day Care begins September 8th. We are only allowed to provide care for 50 or less students at a time. This year, you will have to reserve your spot. Stay tuned for additional information regarding Extended Day.

COVID DETAILS

- Remote Learning Team:** Our teachers have been back in the building the past two weeks preparing their classrooms and participating in professional development sessions focusing on Remote Learning. Our students in grades kindergarten-8th will be one-to-one with technology this year. We will be utilizing Google Classroom and Google Meet as our all-school Learning Management System. Each grade level will also have additional extensions to support our students' learning and to ensure that remotely, our students will continue to experience the high quality SJF education you have come to expect in the classroom.
- Start & End Times:** To start the year, we are utilizing a staggered arrival and dismissal time for our falcons while we get used to our new normal! The arrival and dismissal times are as follows:

Monday - Friday

Arrival Times	Last Name
7:40 a.m.	A - E
7:45 a.m.	F - L
7:50 a.m.	M - R
7:55 a.m.	S - Z
8:15 a.m.	ALL Preschool

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Dismissal Times	Last Name
2:40 p.m.	All Preschool & A - E
2:45 p.m.	F - L
2:50 p.m.	M - R
2:55 p.m.	S - Z

Wednesday – Early Dismissal Schedule

Dismissal Times	Last Name
12:30 p.m.	All Preschool & A - E
12:35 p.m.	F - L
12:40 p.m.	M - R
12:45 p.m.	S - Z

*As a reminder, NO LUNCH will be served on our early dismissal days, but ALL STUDENTS may bring a snack.

*Parents and students **cannot congregate** around the building. **When students arrive, they are to walk directly to their door and enter upon arrival.** Parents and caregivers are encouraged to remain in their cars or on the perimeter of campus in order to adhere to our social distance and safety guidelines.

- **Classroom Cohorts:** This year students must remain in their classrooms for instruction throughout the day. Specials teachers and upper-level departmentalized teachers will travel to each classroom. **The cohort model maintains a safe environment by eliminating the interaction between cohorts, which allows single classes to be quarantined in the event of infection, rather than closing the entire school building.*
- **Entering the Building:** *Students will need to wear a mask and have their temperature checked prior to entering the building each day.* Specials teachers and other staff members will be stationed at each door to conduct these checks. Similar to the past, students have been assigned a specific door to enter with their class. **Students are only allowed to enter that specific door each day. During these checks, students will be asked the following questions: Do you feel sick in any way? Do you have a cough or a sore throat? Please discuss this with your children and help them get used to this new way of entering our building. *If you are running late, and anticipate an arrival AFTER 7:55 a.m., please contact the main office: 773.445.4737. In an effort to follow safety precautions and protocol, please do your absolute best to arrive on-time during your scheduled arrival time.**
- **Masks** will be required to be worn throughout the entire day for every student and staff member. Students can remove their masks to eat lunch, during a water break, **while outside** and **safely social distancing** during physical education class, recess, breaks, walks, etc. Each student will be provided with one SJF mask. However, you will likely want to have more than one mask for your child. Our kids are encouraged to choose masks that reflect their personality, interests, etc., but I want to remind everyone that masks should not display anything inappropriate or be political in nature. Our goal is to make sure every child at SJF feels safe and comfortable, and what appears on masks needs to reflect the utmost sensitivity, especially during these very challenging times. Triple layered gator masks are allowed.
- **Lanyards:** Students will be provided with a lanyard to attach their mask to in order to prevent it from falling on the floor during the times in which they can remove their masks throughout the day.
- **Social Distancing:** Every classroom **including pre-school** will have desks instead of tables this year to allow for social distancing in the classrooms. All desks will be spread out as much as possible and all excess furniture, area rugs, etc. have been removed in order to allow for this stipulation. Classrooms with more than 19 students in a classroom are equipped with plexi-glass barriers on each desk.
- **Lunch:** Students will eat lunch in their classrooms and/or outside whenever possible! **Our Hot Lunch Program is suspended for the immediate future, including milk. Students may bring their lunch in a lunch box or disposable bag.**

- **Water bottles** are allowed; each student should bring a re-usable water bottle to school each day. We are researching installing water bottle refilling stations.
- **Back-up Care-givers & COVID-19 Symptoms and Cohort Exposure Guidance per Archdiocesan Guidelines:** It is necessary for your family to have a plan in place for if/when your child becomes ill or is exhibiting a fever or two or more of the COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. **If this occurs, the student AND HIS/HER SIBLINGS will be sent to the office and quickly directed to our quarantine room in order to be sent home.**

COVID-19 DECISION TREE:

Situation	Actions/ Involvement	Potential Outcomes
<p>A child is exhibiting symptoms during Wellness Check or while in school</p> <p><i>Symptoms of COVID- 19</i></p>	<p>Teacher: Removes student from class.</p> <p>Principal: Isolate student in isolation room; calls parents to pick up student.</p> <p>Parent/Guardian: Required to pick up student from school as well as siblings or any other member of household that may be working or volunteering at any OCS school; recommended to have student tested for COVID.</p> <p>Student: Remains home until cleared.</p>	<p>STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal contacts Task Force Team at the Arch • Principal sends an Exposure Letter to school community and Cohort Quarantine Letter to cohort. • Cohort quarantines for 14 days from last contact. • Student must complete 10 days isolation from date of first symptom and be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing meds and other symptoms 75% improved. <p>STUDENT TEST NEGATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must be fever-free for 24 hour with no fever reducing meds and other symptoms 75% improved. Follow health care providers directions, recommended treatment and return to school guidance. • Dr’s note documenting alternative diagnosis or negative Covid-19 test required to return to school. <p>STUDENT DOES NOT TEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student remains in self- quarantine for 10 days from symptoms onset, must be fever-free for 24 hour with no fever reducing meds and other symptoms 75% improved before returning. • Depending on evaluation of factors, decision may be made to quarantine cohort.
<p>Student household member exhibits symptoms</p>	<p>Parent/ Guardian: Notify school that student will remain home pending family member’s test results.</p>	<p>HOUSEHOLD MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student quarantines for 14 days at home from last exposure to household member

	<p>Student: Remains home until cleared.</p> <p>Principal: Communicates regularly with the family to get updates on the symptoms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If student continues contact with the infected household member, the quarantine for 14 days from the time when their family member has met the criteria for release, or from last close contact from positive household member. It's possible for student quarantines for up to 24 days. • If student tests positive, follow guidelines above.
<p>Student's household member travels to a state listed on the Chicago Travel Quarantine list</p>	<p>Parent: Monitor health</p> <p>Student: Permitted to attend school</p>	<p>TRAVELING HOUSEHOLD MEMBER TEST POSITIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as household member tests positive (above). <p>TRAVELING HOUSEHOLD MEMBER SYMPTOMATIC BUT DOES NOT TEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student quarantines for 14 days from last contact. <p>TRAVELING HOUSEHOLD MEMBER TESTS NEGATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student returns to school
<p>Student travels to a state listed on the Chicago Travel Quarantine list</p>	<p>Student: Quarantines for 14 days.</p>	
<p>Student's teammate on travel sports team, who attends a different school, tests positive.</p>	<p>Parent/ Guardian: Informs principal that students will be quarantining due to possible exposure.</p> <p>Student: Quarantines for 14 days from last contact.</p> <p>Principal: Inform teacher student will be remote learner.</p>	
<p>Cohort Teacher is symptomatic</p>	<p>Teacher: Removes self from classroom, isolates immediately and stays home pending test results.</p> <p>Principal: Arranges for substitute teacher to step in.</p> <p>Students: Remain in school unless/until teacher tests positive, then quarantined.</p>	<p>TEACHER TESTS POSITIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal notifies the Arch. • Principal sends an Exposure Letter to school community and Cohort. Quarantine Letter to cohort. • Teacher must complete 10 days isolation from date of first- symptom and be fever- free for 24 hrs without fever reducing meds and other symptoms 75% improved. • Cohort quarantines for 14 days from last contact. <p>TEACHER TESTS NEGATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher must be fever- free for 24 hours with no fever-reducing meds and symptoms 75% improved. Follow healthcare provider directions,

		<p>recommended treatment and return to school guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor's note documenting alternative diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test required to return to school.
<p>Specials Teacher/ Substitute Teacher is symptomatic</p>	<p>Teacher: Removes self from classroom, isolated immediately and stays home pending test results.</p> <p>Principal: Arranges for alternative teacher, confirms teacher has not been in close contact with other faculty/staff/ students and volunteers (Special teachers are to stay 6 feet away in the classroom since they are not considered part of the Cohort).</p> <p>Students: Remain in school unless substitute teacher tests positive, then quarantine.</p>	<p>TEACHER TESTS POSITIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal notifies the Arch. • Principal sends an Exposure Letter to school community and Cohort. Quarantine Letter to cohort. • Teacher must complete 10 days isolation from date of first- symptom and be fever- free for 24 hrs without fever reducing meds and other symptoms 75% improved. • Any staff/ faculty/ volunteers/ students who were in close contact must quarantine for 14 days from last contact. <p>TEACHER TESTS NEGATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher must be fever- free for 24 hours with no fever-reducing meds and symptoms 75% improved. Follow healthcare provider directions, recommended treatment and return to school guidance. • Doctor's note documenting alternative diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test required to return to school.

Important Announcements

- **New Employees:** In case you missed it, [here is general information about our new faculty members!](#) Also, please join me in welcoming SJF Alum, Chris Zackavek, our new Director of Maintenance.
- **Summer Packets:** Please make sure your students in grades 2nd – 8th have their completed [summer work](#) with them on September 8th.
- **Yearbook:** Please see the attached flyer for more information on ordering a 2019-2020 yearbook. Reach out to Mrs. Maxwell with any additional questions, dmaxwell@sjfschool.net.
- **Stay connected with us:** follow us on **Instagram: stjohfisher** and like us on **Facebook: facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago**.

Together, we've got this!

Do not go into this school year
with 2019 goals. This is 2020.
Have 2020 goals.

Safety.
Connection.
Mental wellness.
Physical health.
Maintain relationships.

EMILY W KING, PH.D.

Capture Your Memories in This Year's St. John Fisher Yearbook



Customize Your 2 Free Pages

- Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.
- Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.
- The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to www.treering.com/validate
- 2 Enter your school's passcode:
1015271802074961

Regular Price: **\$24.00**

*Does not include sales tax, if applicable

Deadline: Jul 24

TreeRing