



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School COVID Planning Edition – Together, we've got this!

July 20, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

I hope you are finding time to enjoy your summer. It is hard to believe it is already the middle of July! I know that there is much anxiety and curiosity surrounding what the school year will look like this upcoming fall. Please know and understand that our team has been planning for the fall and working diligently since the archdiocese recently released our re-opening plan which can be accessed [here](#). Given the fact that we have over 600 students and staff members in the building every single day, there are many moving parts and considerations for the guidelines and stipulations that we have received. Be confident that we are working together to problem solve and ensure that every decision we make is done so with your child's best interest at heart. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. We are so eager to plan for our re-opening and cannot wait to see all of our students again for in-person learning!

Below is a summary of some of the highlights of SJF's Re-Opening Plan. As you likely are aware, given the circumstances of how quickly our guidance has changed over time, our plan is fluid and will adapt and shift as we learn more throughout the coming weeks and months. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey last week. Your feedback and perspective are of great importance. Many of your questions and concerns are addressed below. The majority of our parent-base (over 70%) is in favor of a later start to the school year. The later start will allow us additional time to plan and purchase the items we need to reopen safely, while also providing us all the opportunity to beat the late August heat! We recognized that communication is essential now more than ever and we will continue to share information and keep you abreast as to what the fall will look like as we inch closer to the start of school. Your partnership is cherished and appreciated. We know that we will successfully face and overcome this challenge together!

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.

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

COVID DETAILS

- **Re-Opening Teams:** We have created the following teams to re-open St. John Fisher as safely and successfully as possible: Health and Safety, Academics and Programming, Remote Learning. **Should SJF have to transition to remote learning at some point during the school year, our Remote Learning Team will be working with teachers, guiding them and educating them on best practice approaches for a seamless transition.*
- **Start Date:** Back to school **student orientation** will take place on **September 2nd, 3rd and 4th**. Grade levels will return on different days in order for us to best support each student as he/she learn about and slowly get acclimated to our new normal. Orientation days will be early dismissals. We will all be together for the first day of school on

September 8th which will be an early dismissal. More specific details on the orientation days and times will be shared in the coming weeks.

- **Start & End Times:** We are moving forward with the extended school day (7:55 – 2:55) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be a 12:45 dismissal to allow for disinfecting and deep cleaning. Lunch will not be served on this day, but students may bring a snack.
- **Classroom Cohorts:** This year students must remain in their classrooms throughout the day for instruction. Specials teachers and upper-level departmentalized teachers will travel to each classroom. Our staff has spent many hours creating these classroom cohorts, carefully pairing students and our passionate and competent teachers together, considering each students' strengths and needs to allow for everyone to thrive and have a fulfilling school year! Teacher assignments will be shared in the coming weeks. **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 will be assigned a specific door to enter with their class. Students are only allowed to enter that specific door each day. We are *considering* staggered start times to allow for these temperature checks due to the volume of students. Once our plan is solidified, it will be shared.
- **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. We recognize this foreign practice may be difficult for your child to adjust to. We encourage you to discuss mask wearing with your child and practice wearing the mask with your child in order to normalize this guideline.
- **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 with the exception of pre-school will have desks instead of tables this year to allow for social distancing in the classrooms. Additional tables will be added to the pre-school classrooms to allow for social distancing. 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.
- **Water bottles** are allowed and each student should bring a re-usable water bottle to school each day.

- **Lunch:** Students will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- **All-School & Grade Level Masses** currently cannot take place because the state guidelines do not allow for more than 50 people to gather at once. We intend to stream mass live or view recorded masses together once a week during the school day.
- **Physical Education Class:** Gym will take place outside as often as possible. We are repairing the church parking lot to allow for a safer space for students to participate in gym outside. Equipment will be sanitized in between classes.
- **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 will be sent to the office and quickly directed to our quarantine room.
 - Our office staff will contact you immediately.
 - It is recommended that the student sees a doctor to assess symptoms and/or administer a COVID-19 test. According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include: *fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.*
 - For students that see a doctor and is determined the illness is not COVID-19, either through a test or the doctor's diagnosis, the student may return to school when symptoms subside with a doctor's note confirming the negative COVID-19 diagnosis.
 - If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or does not seek medical attention, students must isolate and not return to school until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation, which currently includes: three days with no fever **and** other symptoms improved by 75 percent **and** it has been 14 days since symptoms first appeared.
 - Students will be allowed to complete and submit work remotely during time away from school.
 - If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, a COVID-19 Exposure Letter will be distributed to all parents and employees, keeping the privacy of the individual protected.
 - The student or employee's classroom/work area will be thoroughly cleaned. The health of students and teachers who are part of the infected individual's cohort will be carefully monitored.
 - If a second individual in that cohort is diagnosed with COVID-19, the entire cohort will quarantine and shift to distance learning.

- A Quarantine Letter will be shared with all families and employees.
- If the infection appears to be widespread infecting multiple cohorts, it is possible that the entire school may need to be quarantined. Students will be allowed to complete and submit work remotely during time away from school.
- **E.T.C.'s and Sports** are currently on hold. SJF must follow the IHSA guidelines as they pertain to sports. Sadly, **we cannot offer our soccer program this fall.**
- **How are we combatting these restrictions?:** We are still brainstorming with our teams, but currently we are purchasing pop-up-tents for outdoor classroom space allowing each class to have at least one full class period outside each day, scheduling formal all-school mindfulness, motivation, mediation and movement breaks frequently throughout the day, opportunities for lower level classes to utilize Kane Hall for snack time, one class at a time (the space will be disinfected before and after each class), potential scheduled opportunities for one class at a time to utilize church space to allow for air-conditioned class periods throughout the week, scheduled walking breaks outside throughout the day, resource and reading specialist push-in when possible and relocating the primary Resource Center to allow for proper social distancing. There are many other items on our list that we are working through and will be shared when we are able.
- **Who should I contact?**
 - **General School Inquiries:** Kate Spadoni, kspadoni@sjfschool.net
 - **Enrollment, Tuition & FACTS:** Linda Murray, lmurray@sjfschool.net, Delphine Maxwell, dmaxwell@sjfschool.net
 - **Technology Support:** Delphine Maxwell, dmaxwell@sjfschool.net
 - **Academic Support:** Claire Larmon, clarmon@sjfschool.net
 - **Student Support:** Nikki Carey, ncarey@sjfschool.net
 - **Athletics:** Steve Scarsella, stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
- **Remote Learning:** If your family chooses to begin the year remote learning, rather than in-person learning, remote learning curriculum will be provided by a third-party vendor, Catapult, through the Archdiocese of Chicago. SJF teachers will not be providing remote learning for families who choose to engage **in remote learning ONLY** at the start of the school year. Please contact Mrs. Nash if you have additional questions: mnash@sjfschool.net.
- **Social Emotional Learning:** SEL is central to our approach in every aspect at SJF. Mrs. Carey collaborates with our staff and faculty to ensure SEL is always top of mind in the classroom. [Here is a message](#)

from the Director of Social and Emotional Learning for the Office of Catholic Schools, Yesenia Maldonado, as she discusses ways to reduce your child's anxiety surrounding the transition back to in-person classes.

Important Announcements

- **New Employees:** We are so excited to announce the hiring of Mrs. Katie Ball, 2nd grade, Mrs. Colleen Dunlavy, 5th grade ELA and Mrs. Eileen Cahill, 8th grade ELA. These three dynamic and passionate teachers are coming to us with unique experiences and are certainly going to add to the high-quality instruction you have come to expect from SJF. Specific teacher placement and more information regarding these new hires will be shared in the coming weeks.
- **School Supply List:** Due to COVID, we were unable to secure a vendor for our school supply kits this year, however [here is a link](#) to the School List Assist through Target where you can drop everything you need right in your cart!
- **Summer Packets:** The summer packets will be posted next week.
- **Open Enrollment:** We are still accepting new students for next year! All interested families should reach out to Mrs. Murray, lmurray@sjschool.net. **Thank you for being our biggest supporters and ambassadors!**
- **Summer Enrichment:** [Here is a link to our summer enrichment padlet](#) created by our Resource Department. Below please see the list of SJF summer tutors. *Keep calm and get a tutor!*
- **MANNA Hours:** Beginning August 16, MANNA will re-open for its regular scheduled hours. Masks **MUST BE WORN** while in the building. If you have any questions, please e-mail the MANNA Team, sjfmanna@gmail.com.
- **Tuition and FACTs:** We have finalized all of the FACTs tuition agreements for the 2020-2021 school year. All of your past banking information and your payment schedule from 2019-2020 school year has been rolled over to the new year. Feel free to log into your account and verify all of your information. The first payment, which consists of all of the school fees and your first month of tuition will be deducted from your account on August 15th, 2020. If you have any questions at this time, feel free to reach out to our FACTs customer service team or SJF's tuition administrator, Delphine Maxwell, dmaxwell@sjschool.net *If you are due a MANNA credit from the previous school year, the credit will be applied to your first payment once you have finalized your agreement.*

- **First Communion:** Our First Communion make-up date is September 19th. Masses will be held at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.
- **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:** [stjohnfisher](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnfisher) and like us on **Facebook:** [facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago](https://www.facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago).





NEW NORMAL SOCIAL DISTANCING



Talk to your kids about wearing a mask



Help kids get used to masks: As much as you can, give kids time to practice wearing their masks before they might need to wear one outside of your home. Teach them how to put them on and take them off.

Encourage kids to decorate their mask: This might help them feel a sense of ownership and control over the situation. A personal touch can make it more of a normal part of their routine, and make it more likely they'll wear their mask. Depending on the type of mask, kids can draw on it with markers or put stickers on it.

Help make it fun: With younger kids, introduce a sense of play. Kids can pretend to be a doctor or nurse while wearing their masks. They might want to use a doctor kit and “take care” of a stuffed animal or doll.

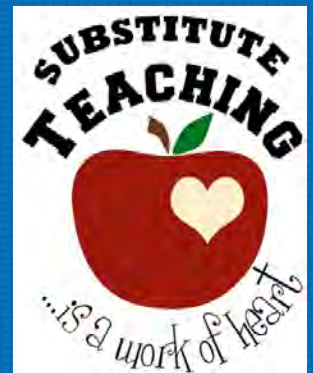
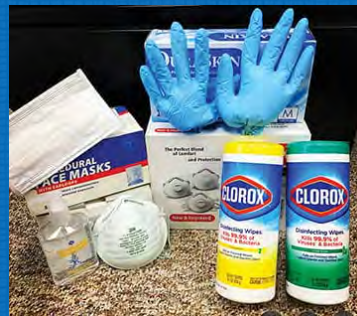
Have a few masks handy while kids play: This lets them use their imagination about how to use them during playtime. It also helps make masks a more normal part of their everyday world.



How can I help?

☀️ If you can provide additional financial resources:

- **Cleaning supplies** to disinfect the school daily and other **PPE resources**: masks, gloves, wipes, funding for signage, etc.
- **No-touch thermometers** for each classroom and building entry in order for our students to safely enter the building and prevent the spread of illness
- **Pop-Up-Tents** to create outdoor classrooms
- **Toys and Recess Supplies** for your child's classroom to keep within their cohort
- **Cooling Fans** for classrooms
- **Donations** for additional gym equipment.



☀️ If you can provide your time:

- Become a **substitute teacher**: competitive pay, small class sizes, supportive staff and teaching partners!
- Help us with our **on-line fundraising** efforts!

Thank you for any extra assistance you can provide!



**Embracing Curious Minds.
Nurturing Compassionate Hearts.
*Now and in the future.***



St. John Fisher School - We set our sights high

- **600** students enrolled
- **19:1** average student teacher ratio
- **9:1** average student teacher ratio in pre-k
- School Counselor, Reading Specialist, Robust Resource Program
- **100%** Graduate admittance to high school of their choice
- **1/3** of the Class of 2020 earned merit-based high school scholarships
- **Exceed National Average** standardized test scores consistently out perform regional, state and national results in all grades and subjects tested
- **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN - It is a great time to be a falcon!**

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

SJF Manna Program

"It's a Win-Win"

We Need Your Support

The Manna Program is the #1 School Fundraiser. Tuition alone does not cover the school's expenses. SJF proceeds from Manna help to make up the difference between school operating costs and tuition. Participation is necessary and appreciated to balance school budget and maintain competitive tuition rates. We need to increase participation especially for school families to enable SJF to be accessible & affordable to all families, for generations to come.

Every Effort Counts

If Every Family purchased Manna all year for 4 places they frequently spend (One Restaurant, Groceries, Retail, Liquor), we'd meet our goal.

Example:

If you spend \$200/wk @ County Fair, \$100/wk @ Rosangela's, \$25/month @ Town and \$300 /year at Dick's Sporting Goods = \$475 tuition credit and \$315 school funds raised (annually)



How does it work?

1. You buy Manna gift certificates and shop with them.
2. The store gives a percentage of the card value to SJF (2-12%)
3. You get 60% of the store rebate credited to your tuition at SJF, high school or college.
4. SJF gets 40% of the store rebate towards meeting operational costs



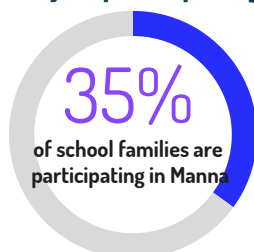
The Manna team is open to suggestions to make it easier to participate. Email @ sjfmanna@gmail.com. Check out <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/> or buy with cash/check at the convent. Also, check out special order form for events or other needs.

We are behind goal in 2020

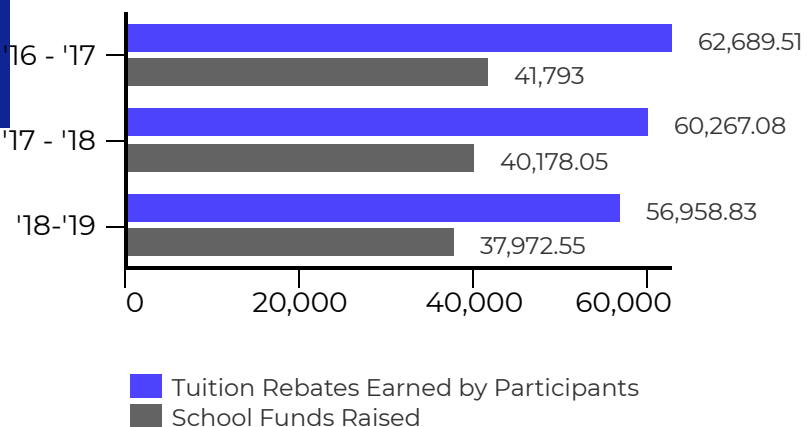
Did you know?

- Our top 5 spots for sales are Jewel, County Fair, Shell, Kohl's Amazon, Binny's. Join in!
- Tata's offers a 12% rebate?
- There are 25 restaurants that offer a 6% rebate? It adds up quick!

Are you participating?



Manna Sales and Funds Raised (annual \$ estimates)



Manna Sales are declining as parishioners "graduate" from the program. We need to enroll school families for continued success. Free Money for you and our school.

Manna Hours: Location @ Due to School Closing, Same day Manna Sales in the Convent are shut down. We are accepting manna forms in Rectory by 9 AM tuesdays for Curbside Pick Up on Tuesdays between 12-2 PM.