



NOTES FROM MRS. NASH

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.


ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

JANUARY 12, 2024

Dear SJF Families,

We hope you had a restful and magical Christmas and New Years! We are back in the swing of things and focused on our academic goals in this new year! Next week students in kindergarten through 2nd grade will begin to take their 2nd iReady Diagnostic. Students in 3rd - 8th grade will begin their assessment on January 17th. Our Falcons have been working so hard this school year. We can't wait to see their growth! Students and teachers have been talking about the many ways to intentionally prepare for next week's assessment. Please take a minute to reiterate these tips with your child(ren) before he/she takes the assessment.

- Get a good night's rest! 7-9 hours is ideal before a test as sleep helps your brain function.
- Eat a good breakfast! Food is fuel and gives you energy to focus.
- Make sure you have your headphones/earbuds! Listening and reading the text helps comprehension.
- Take your time! Rushing leads to mistakes. Just do your best! You've got this!

In looking at our calendar of events, we are going to be a very busy school community over the next 5 months. We are so grateful for our vibrant and energetic community and appreciate all of the parent volunteers and organizations who are making all of these community experiences possible. Below you will find detail on the events that are just around the corner **including our first ever Falcon Fun Run with My Booster.com!!!** We look forward to the many opportunities we have to be together! Thank you for choosing St. John Fisher School and for entrusting your most precious gifts to us each and every day. *You belong here.* 

In unity and hope,
-Mrs. Maura Nash



Important Announcements

- **Please join us in wishing Mrs. Corley a safe and healthy delivery!** Mrs. Corley began her maternity leave today as her baby is due next week. We will miss her dearly and cannot wait to hear about the newest Falcon on the block! We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Vicky Argyropoulos (Mrs. A) taking over for Mrs. Corley for the remainder of the school year!
- **Smart Watches:** Many Falcons were lucky enough to receive a smart watch (apple, gizmo, gabb) for Christmas. Though they are great tools for communication, they are very distracting to the learning environment. **Smart watches will need to remain turned off and in the student's locker until the end of the school day.** Please contact Mrs. Houston in the School Office if you need to reach your child during the school day. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.
- Please see the flyer below if your son or daughter is interested in joining our **children's choir**. All Falcons in grades 2nd - 8th are welcome!
- **Extended Day:** Don't forget to sign-up your child here. If you have questions, please reach out to Mrs. O'Grady, dogrady@sjfschool.us.
- **The February Hot Lunch** menu is open and ready for ordering.

Catholic Schools Week 2024

- **Catholic Schools Week Mass and Open House is Sunday, January 28th. Open House: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., Family Mass: 11 a.m.** This is such a wonderful opportunity to celebrate St. John Fisher and Catholic education. We love having you in the building and look forward to spending the morning with you!
- **Now more than ever is the best time to join our Falcon Family!** Open enrollment begins Sunday, January 28th!
- **We are calling all families to be Fisher Family Ambassadors!** What does this mean? **The Fisher Community encourages you to share all of the great happenings about SJF with friends, family, neighbors and others - in conversation or on social media!** If you are active on social media: please share our posts on Facebook, and tag us in any of your SJF posts on Facebook and Instagram; feel free to use **#FalconsNOW**.



Manna Update

- **Thank you for all of the support the program received during the Holidays! Your participation is critical to the financial health of our school!**
- MANNA HOURS: Saturdays: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wednesdays: 6-7 p.m
- Stop in or use the Raise Right App on-the go! The best way to order physical cards (local too) is to order using the App! Place your order by Sundays at 10 a.m. and your order will be ready by Wednesday at 6 p.m.
- Skip the line to pick-up when you order ahead! Let us know if you'd like your order sent home with your child.
- Since May 1st, the program has raised more than \$18,000 for the school and \$26,000 directly to families to lower tuition. Thank you! Email the Manna team at sjfmanna@gmail.com with any questions. Visit the manna page on the website for more information.

Holy Name Society

- **Please join us this Sunday, January 14th for the AFC / NFC Wild Card games at Cork & Kerry. *This is for the Wild Card Games.***
- We will not be hosting a Championship Party this year.
- Doors will open at 3:15 - \$50 entrance fee (wives are welcome) which will include food for both games and drinks. The party will end after the last game. As in years past, we will have plenty of pools and strip cards to participate in for both games.
- Save the date for the 2nd Annual Fight Night, Saturday February 3rd! See the flyers below for more information and learn how you can win the balcony for you and friends!



Athletic Update

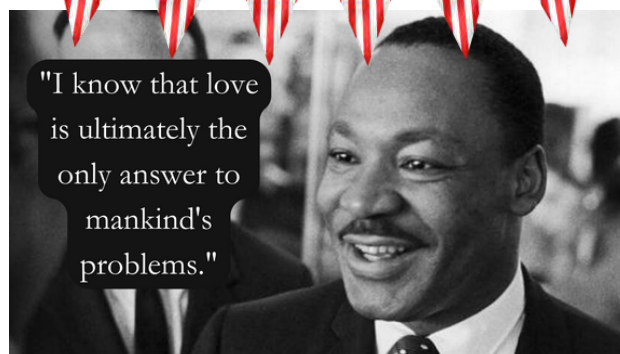
- We love having students at the gym to cheer on their fellow Falcons! **Please take a minute to have a conversation with your child(ren) about respecting the gym, adults, and each other.** The stage area and bathrooms are always a mess after games. Please help the gym and athletic coordinators and our maintenance staff by ensuring our kids are throwing out their garbage and not leaving a mess. Thank you for your help!

Be Respectful, Responsible & Safe.
Be a Falcon.



Looking Ahead

Saturday, January 13th	Manna Hours @ The Convent 8:30-9:30 a.m. 4 p.m. Mass All are welcome!
Sunday, January 14th	8 a.m. & 11 a.m. Mass All are welcome!
Monday, January 15th	No School: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 16th	* Homework Club w/ Mrs. Schiller, Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy 3-3:45 p.m. *Future Falcon Playdate 10 - 11 a.m. SAB Meeting @ 7p.m. in the Teacher's Lounge All are welcome!
Wednesday, January 17th	iReady Testing Begins K-2nd Grade * Homework Club w/ Mrs. Schiller, Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy 3-3:45 p.m. *Musical Try-outs in Ms. Hladik's Room @ 3 p.m. Manna Hours @ The Convent 6-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 18th	iReady Testing K-2nd Grade
Friday, January 19th	iReady Testing K-2nd Grade Falcon Fri-YAY! Wear your favorite spirit wear t-shirt or sweatshirt with your uniform bottoms!



"I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems."



FALCON OF THE WEEK

Ryan Massaro, 8th 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 eighth grader, Ryan Massaro.**

Ryan is a reserved and humble leader. He is conscientious and self-aware. Ryan cares about those around him, is a great conversationalist and always includes others. If you ask Ryan to help you, no matter what the ask, he always enthusiastically says yes. Ryan is confident and happy to pave his own path. Ryan is a kind classmate and a very intelligent and hard working student. Recently, Ryan was complimented by another school for his sportsmanship on the basketball court. He has the perfect balance of a competitive spirit while still being an empathetic teammate. Ryan leads by example and is a friend to all. Thank you Ryan for inspiring all of us to be our best. Keep being a great role model and example for your classmates. Your hard and thoughtful work does not go unnoticed and your kindness is contagious! Keep flying like a Falcon, Ryan. You are making a difference!



St John Fisher School Families!

Our Falcon Fun Run fundraiser is kicking off soon! Our school has always relied on fundraising to provide exceptional opportunities to enhance student learning. Donations will go toward supporting our school and can be given throughout the entire experience. There is no pressure to give, but we invite you to help our school by registering your student(s) and sharing with friends and family. Lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

For now, mark your calendars with these key dates!

- REGISTRATION OPENS - 01/12/2024
- Register on MYBOOSTER.COM
- Falcon Fun Run Kickoff - 01/24/2024
- Event Day - 02/02/2024



*Thanks for your support,
St John Fisher School families!*



FUTURE FALCONS

PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

**EXPERIENCE THE FALCON WAY THROUGH
PLAY AND...**


- **EXPLORE THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS**
- **INTERACT WITH THE STUDENTS**
- **MEET YOUR FUTURE FALCON'S TEACHERS!**

TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 2024

10:00-11:00AM

\$5 PER CHILD, NO RSVP NECESSARY

PAY AT THE DOOR!









JOIN US

ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH'S

Family Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 ST @ 11 A.M.

HOSTED BY MEMBERS OF
OUR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL AND
BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS



Falcon Fight Night

St. John Fisher

10200 S.

Washtenaw

Saturday February



3rd



DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

FIGHTS START AT 7 PM

Balcon Seating Raffle - \$50 per entry.

Winner receives full access of the balcony in the Fisher gym for Fight Night with 19 of their guests. Winner and their guest will also have food and drinks included, which will be served in the balcony. Also, all raffle entries will receive on ticket for admittance to Falcon Fight Night. Raffle winner will be drawn on the AFC/NFC weekend.

Please Venmo entry fee @Michael-Perry-220 or use the QR code on the right.





LIVE AMATEUR BOXING AT ST. JOHN FISHER • 10200 S. WASHTENAW AVE., CHICAGO

FEBRUARY 3, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

FIGHTS START AT 7 PM



Adults \$20 In Advance / \$25 At The Door
Under 21 Years \$10



<https://donorbox.org/events/535109>



Sanctioned by USA Boxing and the Illinois Local Boxing Committee



Homework Club!

Grades 1-6

**Who do you
contact?**

Mrs. Ade

kade@sjfschool.us

Mrs. Schiller

aschiller@sjfschool.us

Ms. Dunlavy

cdunlavy@sjfschool.us



When is it?

Tuesdays &

Wednesdays

2:55pm-3:45pm

Begins October 10th

**Homework Club is a
great opportunity for
students to...**

- *Begin* their homework
- Study for tests or quizzes
- Review math facts
- Receive help with iReady
- Get organized
- Develop friendships and community with older SJF students!



**Our dedicated 7th and 8th grade
helpers will work one-on-one with your
student(s) to complete homework in an
accurate and timely manner!**

Children's Choir Information

2024 Spring Choir Season



Happy January! This fall semester has been so much fun growing our Children's Choir! We learned lots of great music and lead the 4pm Christmas Mass. It's certainly not too late to join in the excitement! We have lots of great music planned for the Winter/Spring Seasons!

Here's some choir details...rehearsals are scheduled 2 – 3 times a month and are just under an hour. We prepare the children for school masses, scheduled Sunday Masses, Holidays and special concerts or events that may pop up. It's so much fun getting to know each other, listening to each other sing and growing in music together. Children from **2nd through 8th grade** are invited to join. On the back of this letter is a schedule of rehearsals and scheduled liturgies January - May. Interested choir members must be willing and able to commit to attending a majority of scheduled rehearsals and liturgies.

Our choir rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays from 3pm to 3:50pm (right after dismissal). Our next Children's Choir rehearsal is **Tues., January 16th from 3:00pm to 3:50pm**. Pick-up will be from the glass church parking lot doors nearest to the rectory.

Please fill out the permission slip below and return it through school or drop it off in the Parish Office or bring it to rehearsal. In order to join, you must have a completed permission slip. If you've already been in choir this year, you do not need a permission slip. We look forward to singing with you!

Phil & Amy Switalski
Music Directors

My son/daughter (name) _____ in grade _____ has permission
to join the St. John Fisher Children's Choir.

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Phone Number where adult can be reached during choir practice _____

Parent's email address _____ (please print clearly)

Student's teacher _____

Children's Choir Information

2024 Spring Choir Season
CALENDAR

January

Tues., January 16th – FIRST Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Tues., January 23rd - Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Sun., January 28th – 11am Mass, choir sings (Catholic School's Week Mass)
Tues., January 30th - Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm

February

Tues., February 6th – NO REHEARSAL
Tues., February 13th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Wed., February 14th – Ash Wednesday School Mass, 1pm
Sun., February 18th – 11am Mass, choir sings (1st Sunday of Lent)
Tues., February 20th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Tues., February 27th – NO REHEARSAL

March

Tues., March 5th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Saturday, March 9th – 4pm Mass, choir sings (St. Patrick's Mass)
Tues., March 12th – NO REHEARSAL
Tues., March 19th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Sun., March 24th – 11am Mass, choir sings (Palm Sunday)
Tues., March 26th – 1pm All School Holy Week Prayer Service
Tues., March 26th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Sun., March 31st – 11am Mass, choir sings (Easter Sunday)

April

Tues., April 2nd – NO REHEARSAL
Tues., April 9th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Tues., April 16th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Sun., April 21st – 11am Mass, choir sings (Spring Sports Mass)
Tues., April 23rd – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Tues., April 30th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm

May

Tues., May 7th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm
Fri., May 10th – 10:30am School May Crowning
Sun., May 12th – 11am Mass, choir sings (Mother's Day)
Tues., May 14th – Rehearsal, 3pm – 3:50pm (Last Rehearsal of Season)
Sun., May 19th – 11am Mass, choir sings (Pentecost)



Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher Abbreviated Calendar

*Below is a list of important dates for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.15**
- Graduation Pictures: **1.23**
- Catholic Schools Week Mass & Open House: **1.28**
- Confirmation: **2.10** ~ 11 a.m.
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.15**
- All-Staff Professional Development – No School: **2.16**
- President’s Day – No School: **2.19**
- First Reconciliation: **2.27 & 2.28**
- All-Staff Professional Development and Planning Day: **3.4**
- Graduation Picture Make-up: **3.5**
- All-Staff Religious Professional Development – No School: **3.27**
- Spring Break: **3.28 – 4.7** *classes resume **4.8**
- First Holy Communion: **5.4** ~ 1 p.m.
- May Crowning: **5.10** ~ 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. All-School Early Dismissal
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.27**
- Last Day of School for 8th Grade: **5.31**, 10:45 a.m. “Clap-out”
- Graduation: **6.2** ~ 1 p.m.
- Last Day of School: **6.6** ~ 10:30 a.m. dismissal

***1:30 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings, PLC work and council collaboration: **January 31st, February 28th, March 20th, April 24th, May 29th.**

Contemplative Day of Prayer: Awakening to the Presence of God

Presented by Bill and JoAnne McElroy,

Contemplative Outreach Chicago

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

St. Cajetan Church

2445 W. 112th Street

Chicago, IL 60655

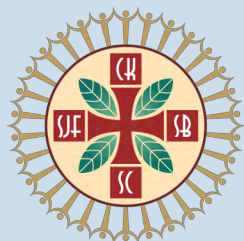
8:30 Gathering/Light Breakfast

9:00—3:00 Workshop (lunch provided)

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

If you are new to Centering Prayer or would like to deepen and reinvigorate your practice, please consider participating in this workshop. Introductory workshop presenters are specifically trained in this course. The days program explores the place of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition, the conceptual background of Centering Prayer, psychological processes and insights into establishing Centering Prayer as a way of life. To register visit our web site at www.cajetan.org or contact Deacon Joe at jroccasalva@cajetan.org or 773-474-7814



SOUTHSIDE PARISH RENEWAL

CHRIST THE KING • ST. BARNABAS • ST. CAJETAN • ST. JOHN FISHER



**Contemplative
Outreach**

**PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT OUR SCHOOL
TRANSITIONED TO GMAIL 3 YEARS AGO. WE NO
LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO OUR .NET ACCOUNTS. OUR
CONTACT INFO & CHAIN OF COMMAND IS ALWAYS
POSTED IN THE WEEKLY NOTES BELOW AND CAN BE
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE. PLEASE BE SURE TO USE
OUR SJFSCHOOL.US EMAIL ADDRESS. WE DON'T WANT
TO MISS ANY OF YOUR IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION!**

THANK YOU!



You Are Important!



2023-2024 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 & Academic Support *after* contacting the teacher
- 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@sjfschool.us

- Reporting Attendance

E-mail attendance@sjfschool.us

- Schedules
- Calendar
- Arrival/Dismissal
- Miscellaneous Questions

Mrs. Kris Houston: khouston@sjfschool.us

- Registration
- Admissions
- MedicalForms

Contact the school office at 773-445-4737, or Mrs. Linda Murray: lmurray@sjfschool.us

- Powerschool
- Tuition & Fees
- Technology
- Hot Lunch

Mrs. Delphine Maxwell: dmaxwell@sjfschool.us

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

Virtus, Mrs. Redmond: mredmond@sjfschool.net
Religious Education, Dr. Chermak: echermak@sjfschool.us
Extended Day, Mrs. O'Grady: dogrady@sjfschool.us
Manna Team: sjfmanna@gmail.com

- Student Services

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Claire Larmon: clarmon@sjfschool.us

- Student Accommodation Plans

Ms. Mary Schiavone (K-4): mschiavone@sjfschool.us
Mrs. Karen Brogan (5-8): kbrogan@sjfschool.us



2023-2024 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

- Reading Intervention

Ms. Mary Schiavone, mschiavone@sjfschool.us

- Math Intervention

Ms. Molly Cummings, mcummings@sjfschool.us

- Public Relations

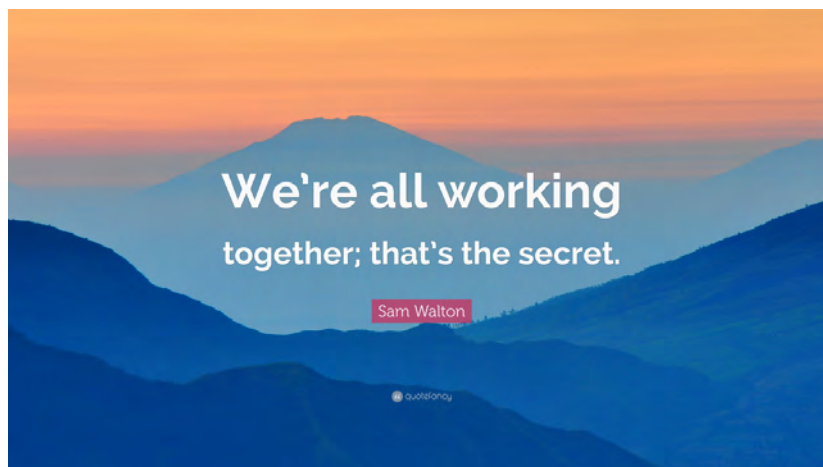
Mrs. Megan Corley, mcorley@sjfschool.us

- Parent Newsletter
- Financial Aid Applications
- School Procedures
- Administrative Matters
- Policy
- Further assistance on any matter listed above
- Academic/Classroom support following communication with Mrs. Larmon

Contact SJF Principal,
Mrs. Maura Nash: mnash@sjfschool.us

- Band
- School Board
- Athletic Programs
- Family School Association
- Women's Club
- Holy Name Society

Mr. Bill Gula: mr.gula@aol.com
School Advisory Board: sjfsab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: sjffsa103@gmail.com
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com



Although no
one can go back
and make a
brand new start,
anyone can
start from now
and make a
brand new
ending.

— — *Carl Bard*