



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

February 11, 2022

Dear SJF Families,

This week has been incredibly difficult to navigate the ever-changing guidance and updates from the Archdiocese as it relates to the masking policy. Making a system-wide mask-optional decision that doesn't apply to all of the schools in the Archdiocese system is confusing and frustrating to many. As stated in the letter from the council principals earlier this week, we have and will continue to reach out to the leaders of the Archdiocese and our local health department to discuss this challenge and get answers to your questions. The one thing that has been made clear is that St. John Fisher School (as well as the other council schools in Chicago) cannot change or control this masking policy. Because SJF is located in the boundaries of the city of Chicago, we are still under the city ordinance for masking per Mayor Lightfoot's mandate. This decision and issue are emotional and have added frustration and angst to many. Regardless of where we stand on the masking policy, we can all agree that we are tired of the pandemic, COVID-19, and all that accompanies it. This issue will remain a priority for the SJF Leadership Team, but we have to continue to focus our efforts on that which we can control: providing your children with an excellent education and supporting our faculty and staff. I believe with my whole heart that our school is exceptional. Amazing things are happening at SJF each and every day. Our community is filled with wonderful families and dedicated and talented teachers. I hope and pray that despite yet another frustrating and confusing moment in time, we can continue to collaborate, work together and support one another in the very best interest of our children which is our most important job.

As I say every single week, thank you for entrusting your children to us each day. We are grateful for you and for the privilege of in-person learning. Thank you for choosing Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,

Mrs. Maura Nash

A graphic with a light gray background. The text "WE ARE" is in black, "MORE POWERFUL" is in red, and "TOGETHER." is in black. The text is centered and stacked vertically.

WE ARE
MORE POWERFUL
TOGETHER.

Important Announcements

- **Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open now for **current & NEW school families!**** If you have a child entering pre-school or kindergarten, [please complete this form](#) to reserve your spot and share this information with anyone interested in attending SJF. Now is a great time to be a Falcon!
- We invite you to participate in our **TECHNOLOGY DETOX CHALLENGE!** Now is the time to stop scrolling and start living! See the attached flyer for participation details. *Less technology, more everything else.*
- **Valentine's Day:** Students are allowed to pass out store-bought pre-wrapped Valentines and treats on Valentine's day and **wear a touch of red in celebration!**
- **Optional Parent Teacher Conferences** are **Thursday, February 17th from 1-4 p.m.** [Click this link](#) to register for your conference today! *Due to the scheduling format, conferences should be scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher; however, you can reach out to any teacher at any time to schedule an appointment or phone conversation.*
- **Save the Date** for **SJF's BLUE Mass on Sunday, February 27th @ 8 a.m.**, honoring police officers before the Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast which is from 9-11 a.m. in Kane Hall.
- The **March Hot Lunch Menu** is open for ordering.
- FYI, SJF will resume its normal lunch routine; ***all students will return to the lunch room beginning Monday.***
- **Your family's MANNA earnings update** will be sent home in the form of a letter with your child today or Monday. Please check your child's folder.
- **Extended Day:** Make sure to [register your child\(ren\) here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, dogrady@sjfschool.us.

FSA Corner ~ Save the Dates!

- **8th Grade Polar Plunge:** March 4th, St. John Fisher parking lot
- **St. Baldrick's:** March 5th, 5 – 10 p.m., Conner T. Lowry Gym. [Click here](#) to register a shavee and *see attached flyer for additional information.* Shavee's registered by Tuesday, February 15th will receive a St. Baldrick's T-shirt!
- **Father Daughter Dance:** March 19th, Ridge Country Club ~ *see attached flyer*

Spring Gala Update

- **Tickets for the **SPRING GALA** go on sale Monday, February 14th!** Please see the attached flyer for additional information. All proceeds go to the Fisher Falcon Foundation. [Click this link for more information regarding the foundation.](#)
- **The next Gala meeting is Wednesday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m. @ Cork and Kerry.** If you are interested in getting involved, please join us! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Fisher Family Ambassadors!

Now more than ever is the best time to join our Falcon Family! Open enrollment began Sunday, January 30th and 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 (+ Twitter); feel free to use #FalconsNOW

Looking Ahead

Weekend Mass	4 p.m. on Saturday & 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday ~ <i>We hope to see you there!</i>
Monday, February 14th <i>GALA tickets go ON SALE TODAY!</i>	Happy Valentine's Day: store bought treats, valentines & a <i>touch of red!</i> Academic Eligibility Club 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy ETC Valentine Science Lab 3 – 4:30 p.m. w/ Mrs. Altman
Tuesday, February 15th	Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. with Mrs. Ade & Mr. K ETC Fidget Fun 3-4:30 p.m. w/ Mrs. Altman
Wednesday, February 16th *Gala Meeting, 7:30 @ Cork & Kerry – ALL ARE WELCOME!	Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. with Mrs. Ade & Mr. K Academic Eligibility Club 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy ETC Wednesday Edible Art 3 – 4:30 p.m. w/ Mrs. Altman
Thursday, February 17th	12 p.m. Dismissal Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences 1-4 p.m.
Friday, February 18th	No School Girls Volleyball Pack The House!
Monday, February 21st	No School – President's Day
Tuesday, February 22nd	No School – OCS Flex Day
Wednesday, February 23rd	Classes Resume

COVID GUIDANCE & REMINDERS

- If your child or a household member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, **please call the school office, 773-445-4737, during the school office hours, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and/or email attendance@sjfschool.us.**
 - If you contact the school office outside of regular scheduled office hours, ***we will get back to you the next business day.*** Thank you for your patience!
- **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.
 - Students who tested positive or were exposed to COVID-19 can now return to school after completing a 5-day quarantine.
 - Positive students must quarantine from athletics through days 6-10.
 - Exposed students may participate in athletics but must provide proof of a negative test in order to attend events on days 6-10 following the 5-day quarantine.
 - A presumed **90-day immunity window** follows proof of a positive test result for individuals who complete(d) the minimum 5-day isolation and remain symptom free.

*We continue to pray for those impacted by COVID and any other illness.
Hang in there – we are all in this together.*

2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17** ~ 12:00 dismissal
- **President's Day Break: 2.18 – 2.22** *classes resume **2.23**
- End of Second Trimester: **3.8**
- **No School – OCS Flex Day: 3.11**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.14**
- School Family Open House & Mass: **3.27**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** *classes resume **4.25**
- First Communion: **4.30**
- May Crowning: **5.6**
- 8th Grade Ribbon Mass: **5.20**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8th 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 3rd, December 1st, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th.**

The *most important work* you will ever do
will be within the walls of *your own home.* ~Harold B. Lee





Faculty & Staff Wellness Initiatives CONTINUE

Our school culture prioritizes self-care and wellness for our students, faculty and staff. As the old saying goes, you cannot pour from an empty cup. And let's face it, our cups are often empty as we all head into year two of a world-wide pandemic. Therefore, we are welcoming and encouraging the following behaviors of our St. John Fisher Faculty and Staff.

- **Dress Down February** ~ Teachers and staff can dress down the entire month of January.
- **Yoga Thursdays** ~ Cathy O'Grady from Treadfit and CORE Fitness will be joining us after school on Thursdays in February & March to lead us in an hour-long Yoga session to further foster our sense of community and end our week with a sense of calm.
- **Social Media Detox Challenge** ~ We are encouraging our staff to "stop scrolling and start living"! We intend to kick this initiative off with all of our students and the entire SJF community during Catholic Schools Week at the end of this month.
- **Creating a home life and work life boundary** ~ Our faculty and staff are being encouraged to only respond to emails during their working hours during the week and to totally disengage from email on the weekends. If you send an email to a teacher or staff member outside of his/her working hours, you will receive a response the following business day. Thank you for your patience and continued support of our hard-working faculty and staff!



Unplug to Recharge

SJF Technology Detox

Calling all SJF families! Who is ready to kick off the new year with a challenge that will boost your child's mood, increase motivation, improve sleep and unleash creativity!?

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the average eight to ten year old spends almost eight hours a day in front of various digital media while teenagers spend more than eleven hours per day in front of screens-that's more time than they spend doing anything else, including sleeping!

Let's see exactly how life changes when we all unplug to recharge. Join the SJF community this month as we choose intentionality and connection with one another.

How does participation work?

- Next week, students will be sent home with a screen time recording form.
- Fill the form out daily and return to school on Fridays.
- Each classroom will have a battery poster, based on participation and logged screen time, classrooms will try to "fully charge" their battery
- As I'm sure you expected, there will be incentives and prizes for those that participate and ultimately complete the challenge!

Less technology, more everything else.



THE
FISHER
FALCON
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Join us for an evening benefitting

THE FISHER FALCON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH 2022
6:00 PM TO 11:00 PM

Ridge Country Club

OPEN BAR . HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES . LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

\$200 PER PERSON

VISIT [HTTPS://SJFGALA.GIVESMART.COM](https://SJFGALA.GIVESMART.COM)

OR

TEXT SJFGALA TO 76278

TICKETS ON SALE FEBRUARY 14TH @ 9:00 AM

Southern Formal Attire Suggested

ST. JOHN FISHER



VOLLEYBALL

PACK THE HOUSE

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 18TH

DOORS OPEN @ 4:45PM

5pm - 5:15	Welcome & Rules
5:15 - 5:30	4th Grade (all 3 teams combined)
5:45 - 6:15	5th Grade Lotito vs Martin
6:30 - 6:45	6B Remegi vs 6B Serpe
7:00 - 7:15	7B Ewers vs 7B O'Connor
7:30 - 7:45	6A Cahill vs 7A Canavan
8:00 - 8:15	8th Grade Introduction
8:15 - 8:30	8B Dooley vs 8B Mr. K
8:30 - 8:45	8B O'Hara vs 8A Harris
9:00pm	8th Grade Rose Ceremony

Invite family and friends to come cheer on our girls!

PRIZES!

SERVING CONTESTS!

Volleyball Sweatshirts!

12 MINUTE GAMES!



**ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S
GET BEHIND THE VEST
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

GUESTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER KANE HALL, FILL A TO GO CONTAINER WITH PANCAKES AND SAUSAGE, AND RETURN HOME TO ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL IN SUPPORT OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

9:00AM-11:00AM

SJF KANE HALL

\$20 PER FAMILY

CARRY-OUT

**I PROTECT THOSE
WHO PROTECT ME.**



ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CHICAGO POLICE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION'S GET BEHIND THE VEST CAMPAIGN.



ST. JOHN FISHER
ST. BALDRICK'S SHAVING EVENT

March 5th following 4:00 mass

If you would like to participate
as a shavee, please use this QR code.



Conner T. Lowry Gymnasium
10200 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago, IL

More details to follow
closer to event date.

ST. BALDRICK'S APPAREL COMING NEXT WEEK!

WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND OUR SOCIAL
MEDIA PAGES FOR THE LINK TO ORDER.

AVAILABLE IN ADULT AND YOUTH SIZES



**ST. JOHN FISHER
FATHER DAUGHTER
DANCE**

SAVE THE DATE

'Over the Rainbow'

March 19, 2022

RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

OUR 8TH GRADERS VOLUNTEERED AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS!



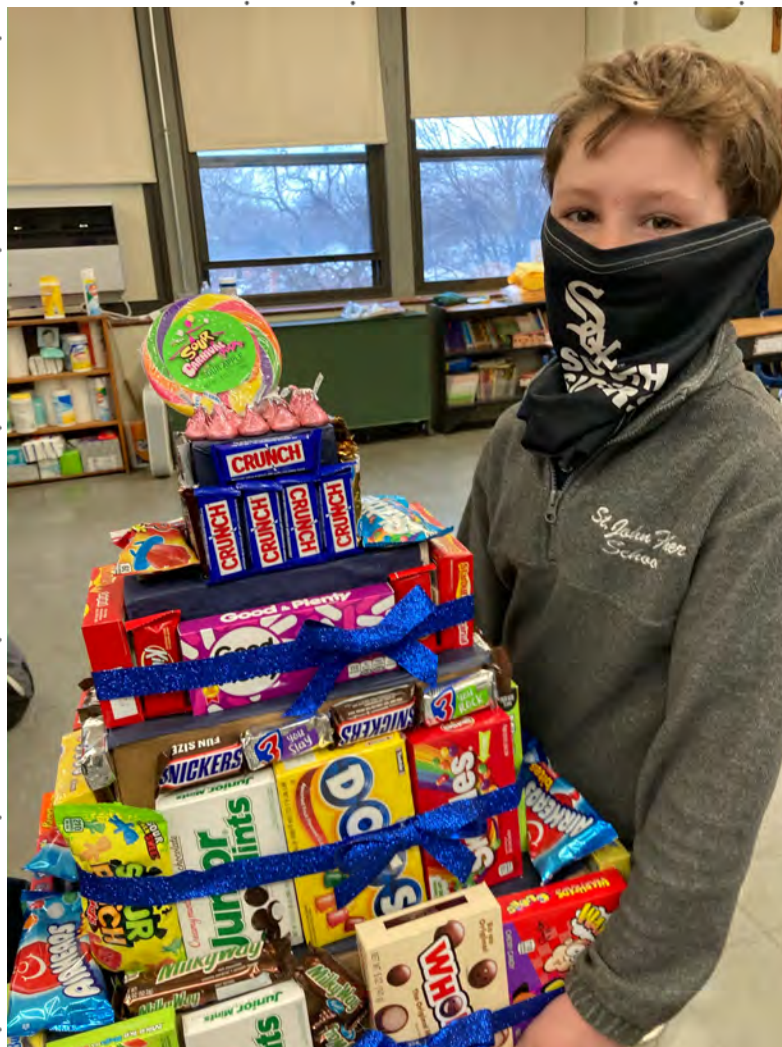
100 DAYS SMARTER!







**CONGRATS TO 5TH GRADER
BRIAN BOWEN FOR WINNING THE CANDY TOWER!
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS!**





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

- Reporting Attendance

E-mail attendance@sifschool.us

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

Mrs. Kate Spadoni: kspadoni@sifschool.us

- Registration
- Admissions
- Medical Forms

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

- Powerschool
- Tuition
- Fees
- Technology

Mrs. Delphine Maxwell: dmaxwell@sifschool.us

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

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

- Counseling, pre-k – 4th

SJF Counselor, Mrs. Lauren Lordo: llordo@sifschool.us

- Counseling, 5th – 8th
- iReady

SJF Counselor and Assistant Principal, Student Support
Mrs. Nichole Carey: ncarey@sifschool.us

- Student Accommodation Plans

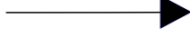
Mrs. Win Biernacki (K-4): wbiernacki@sifschool.us
Mrs. Karen Brogan (5-8): kbrogan@sifschool.us



2021-2022 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern...

- Reading Intervention



Ms. Mary Schiavone, mschiavone@sjschool.us

- Math Intervention



Ms. Molly Cummings, mcummings@sjschool.us

- Public Relations



Mrs. Megan Corley, mcorley@sjschool.us

- Parent Newsletter
- Financial Aid Applications
- School Procedures
- Administrative Matters
- Policy
- Further assistance on any matters listed above



Contact SJF Principal,
Mrs. Maura Nash: mnash@sjschool.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: sjsab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: fsa@sjschool.us
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com