



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

October 22, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

We cannot thank you enough for the overwhelming support at last week's Oktoberfest! When the planning for this event began, the committee was hoping to raise \$10k for the school. Well, thanks to all of you and our incredibly generous local sponsors, we netted \$30k for our amazing school! This money will go directly toward the continuation of modernizing our classrooms and improving our resources to enhance your child's learning experience at SJF! We will be sure to share the specific improvements we make with these funds.

Our community has so much to be thankful for. During a time when the world around us often seems upside down and so many schools are struggling to simply keep their schools fully staffed, we have found a way to rise above, collaborate, and work together for the success and betterment of our children and community. Together we should take pride in and prioritize building a culture that embodies kindness, inclusivity, and mutual respect. We all play a role in building this culture and share in its success. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,
Mrs. Maura Nash

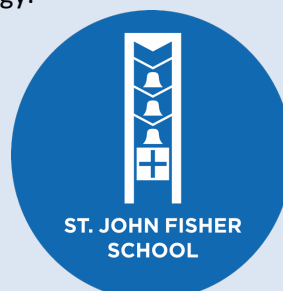


Important Announcements

- **COMPLIANCE AUDIT** – St. John Fisher is currently undergoing a compliance audit which will be submitted on **NOVEMBER 1st** for all volunteers who work with our students both on and off campus. Please see the below information that must be completed in order for you to be in compliance and eligible to participate as a volunteer and/or chaperone at St. John Fisher School. Thank you for your help and attention!
- **STUDENTS CAN NO LONGER WEAR SHORTS to school.** The Fall weather is upon us! Please make sure your children wear their uniform pants to school. Girls are allowed to wear leggings under their uniform skirts/jumpers as long as they are a solid color: **white, navy, hunter green, or black.**
- **Holiday Raffle Ticket** sellers are needed! Please [visit this sign-up link](#) if you are able to participate. Thank you!
- **Weekend Mass Initiative:** St. John Fisher School and FSA are sponsoring a **weekend mass attendance incentive for our school children for the month of October.**
 - Any school child who attends any of the masses on Saturday or Sunday will receive a **purple ticket** to come out of uniform the following Monday, October 25th.
 - Help us show the Archdiocese what a vital community St. John Fisher is!
 - FSA is looking for volunteers to help pass out Dress Down Vouchers, please sign up on the following link: [Ticket Distributor.](#)
- **The Hot Lunch Menu** for November is available and open for ordering.
- **Forgotten Items:** SJF **will accept:** forgotten lunches, medication, glasses; but we **cannot accept:** Chromebooks, projects, materials for projects, or homework.
- **Extended Day** : Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, dogrady@sjschool.us.

Did you know...

- Our Falcons receive **small group instruction** on the average of 3-5 times a week in every core subject area!
- **What is small group instruction?** Small group instruction consists of 2-6 students per group and allows teachers to connect with individual students, reinforce concepts, and check for comprehension.
- **Why is small group instruction so important?**
 - Small group instruction allows students the opportunity to receive tailored lessons and instruction that fit their needs.
 - Students receive the enrichment and/or additional support and reinforcement needed.
 - Teachers are afforded the opportunity to pre-teach or re-teach the subject at hand.
 - This structure allows students to feel confident to ask questions and participate in a smaller group setting and promotes direct teacher feedback that goes far beyond a letter or written grade.
 - It encourages teamwork and improves students' communication skills as everyone in the group has to work together for a common goal.
- **Small group instruction** is a part of our school's continuous improvement plan. Our Falcons have benefitted greatly from the implementation of this strategy.



Manna Update

Signing up for the App is as easy as Venmo! Get started today to help the school fundraise on your everyday purchases without a cost to you! Would you rather sell wrapping paper or popcorn?

- Manna App: [Raise Right](#).
- Need more help, check out the [Manna Overview](#).
- Quick videos to make it easy: [Video demo for the app](#) or [Video to help understand the rebates](#).

Thank you for your support!

Looking Ahead

Weekend Mass October 23 rd & 24 th	Join us for Mass: (4 p.m. on Saturday), 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday
Monday, October 25th	Chess Wizards 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Schiller Academic Eligibility Club 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy ETC's 3– 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Science w/ Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Lindgren • Halloween Art w/ Ms. Surin
Tuesday, October 26th	Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. ETC 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witches in Training w/ Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Lindgren
Wednesday, October 27th	Academic Eligibility Club 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. ETC's 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Art w/ Ms. Surin • Spooky and Sweet Halloween Treats w/ Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Lindgren
Thursday, October 28th	Decorated Pumpkins are due today @ 7:30 a.m. in Kane Hall HSPT Class 3:00 – 4: 30 p.m.
Friday, October 29th	Halloween Out of Uniform Day! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in pre-k – 4th grade can dress in costume. All other Falcons should wear black and orange. November ETC Registration is due in the office today!

COVID GUIDANCE

We are in this together...thank you for your cooperation!

- Please review the most recent communication from the archdiocese [linked here](#). These guidelines will be reviewed every two weeks and are subject to change.
- A few 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.
 - Masks are required for all students and staff indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Compliance Update

2021-2022 SCHOOL VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

The following guidelines are mandated by the Archdiocese of Chicago and apply to all volunteers, chaperones, coaches, scout leaders, and catechists that will help out in our parish and school programs. The Archdiocese of Chicago conducts an annual audit to ensure that all are in compliance with these mandates. That audit is happening now. If you wish to participate with our students as a volunteer, chaperone, and/or coach, please make sure you have completed all the necessary tasks.

If you are planning to volunteer, chaperone, and/or coach at St. John Fisher School this year, here are the Safe Environment Requirements:

- New volunteer/chaperone/coach: Create an account on the Virtus System at www.virtusonline.org.
- If this is a new account, you will be assigned the online **Protecting God's Children Training**.
- Register and attend the training within 15 days of beginning volunteering.
- If you have a VIRTUS account from another parish/school, please notify Mary Margaret Redmond to add St. John Fisher School to the existing account.
- If your Protecting God's Children is older than 2018, you will be assigned the online recertification training, **Keeping the Promise Alive** through the [VIRTUS website](http://www.virtusonline.org). This recertification is *done online*.
- **Name-based Criminal Background Check** by S2Verify submitted in [VIRTUS](http://www.virtusonline.org) which is a one-time requirement, but rechecked every three years.
- **Archdiocesan Standards of Behavior for Church Personnel working with Minors and Vulnerable Adults** (Formerly Archdiocesan Code of Conduct). This must be read, signed and re-acknowledged yearly through [VIRTUS](http://www.virtusonline.org).
- Completion of a **CANTS 689 Form** [linked here](#). This must be completed every year and turned into school; DO NOT MAIL.
- Complete the online **Mandated Reporter Training** through www.archchicago.org.
- **Any questions or concerns please contact our Compliance Officer, Mary Margaret Redmond, at mredmond@sjfschool.net**

There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

Please act today.



2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- End of First Trimester: **11.16**
- Make-up School Picture Day: **11.18**
- Thanksgiving Break: **11.24 – 11.28** *classes resume **11.29**
- Christmas Break: **12.22 – 1.5** *classes resume **1.6**
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.17**
- First Reconciliation: **1.25 & 1.25**
- Catholic Schools Week: **1.30 – 2.5**
- Confirmation: **2.6**
- 8th Grade Graduation Pictures: **2.9**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17**
- President's Day Break: **2.18 – 2.21** *classes resume **2.22**
- End of Second Trimester: **3.8**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.14**
- 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.**



FALCONS OF THE WEEK

Clare Hayes, 3rd 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 third grader, Clare Hayes.**

Today we celebrated an all-school mass. The theme of our mass focused on giving thanks for the beauty of the earth. Each morning this week we prayed for our homes, neighborhood, city, and specifically the earth and all its beauty. In our school Clare is known for her singing of "All you works of God". Today, Clare graciously and confidently agreed to participate in our announcements by singing "All you works of God" over the loud speaker for all of our Falcons to hear. Clare is always so bubbly and positive and jumps at the chance to be helpful. She takes every opportunity available to her to be kind to her peers and teachers. Clare is a bright light in our school and we are grateful she is a Falcon! Thank you for all of your positivity and kindness, Clare. Keep flying like a Falcon and keep singing... you are making a difference!

WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



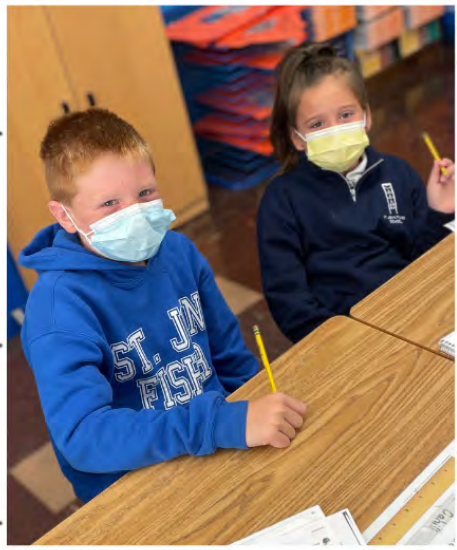
THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **JUDY VITTORI** FROM FIRST GRADE.

Schools in our country are suffering from a significant teacher shortage. SJF is fortunate to be fully staffed with some of the best teachers around. We are proud of our incredible faculty and want to pause to celebrate them! This week we celebrate, Mrs. Judy Vittori!



1. How long have you been at SJF? *I have been at SJF for 9 and a half years. I student taught 3rd grade at SJF in the Spring of 2000. I was lucky enough to be hired full-time and taught kindergarten from 2000-2004. My heart never left SJF and I returned in 2017 and have been teaching 1st grade ever since.*
2. What do you love about SJF? *Everything...the community, the families, the parish, the students, the sense of belonging, the faculty and staff, and of course all of my little friends! The friends I have made over the years have become lifelong friendships!*
3. How do you encourage good behavior with your little ones? *By acknowledging the smallest act of positive behavior & making a big deal out of it, making my little friends feel like they are on top of the world, consistency, a positive clip chart to earn an incentive and a lot of TLC!*
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? *My first job was at Premo's in Oak Lawn. I worked at Premo's from the time I was in 8th grade until my junior year of high school. To this day, I can still make a perfect soft serve ice cream cone with a pair of candy eyes or a touch of twinkle coat!*

The Future is Bright!







ALL SCHOOL MASS





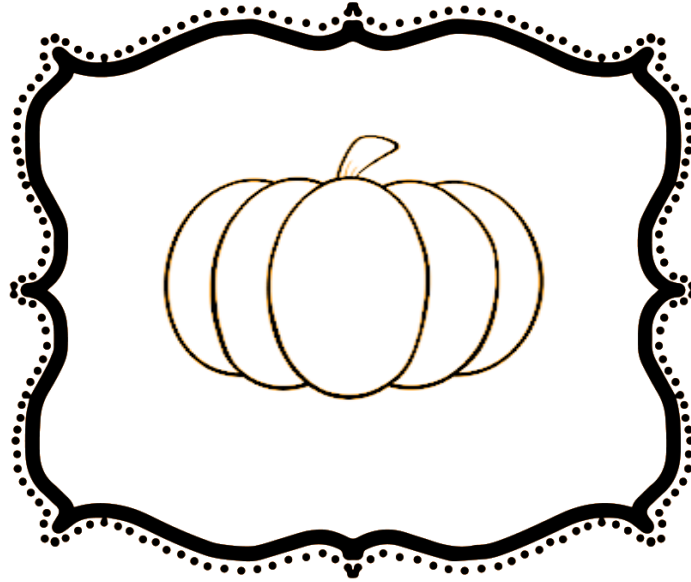
Our 1st Oktoberfest was very successful raising in **total \$30,000 for SJF School**. Thank you for the support. Our **generous sponsors** contributed about **\$12,000**. Thank you to the local businesses that sponsored our event. Falcons, let's show these businesses our support! Huge thanks to the **744 People** that purchased a ticket to the event **WOW!** Your attendance helped us to far exceed our goal. The amazing turnout shows how much **our community appreciates SJF**. Congrats split the pot winner, Tom Buker. Together, we raised **\$30,000** that will be put to good use to continue to **modernize the classrooms** and enhance each child's learning experience at SJF. Remaining items on the **teacher's wishlist** to reach this goal include purchasing of remaining smart panels, Apple TV, chrome book upgrades. Lastly, we could not have done this without the many volunteers. We are grateful – The Oktoberfest Committee.

Thank you to Our Sponsors

Friends of the Falcons

Friends of the Falcons

Pumpkin Decorating Contest



*Bring out your best decorating and
carving skills and make your favorite
superhero or villain!*

ONE entry per family - Due by: Thursday, Oct 28th

PLEASE deliver pumpkins to Kane Hall from

7:30-7:50 am

Happy Carving!





SJF Trunk or Treat

October 30th

Fundraiser with Stan's Donuts

Van Arrives @ 1:00



Preorders strongly encouraged. Scan QR code to order

Any questions email comalley2620@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 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 **November session runs from November 1st- November 18th**. 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 **Friday, October 29th**.

Monday Class: Nov. 1st, 8th, & 15th from 3:00-4:00

FIDGET FUN Join the fun as we play with Pop Its, Squishys, Simple Dimple, Water Timers, and more. Each week we will play at some sensory stations and even have fun making some of our own fidgets like a stress ball! Have fun fidgeting with friends!

Mrs. Altman

Room 107

Preschool – 2nd Grade

BAKING BUDDIES "Have you ever wanted to help in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day? Do you like baking? Do you like making your food look festive? For the next three weeks, we will try out different recipes that you will be able to bring home and eat, and share with your whole family! By the end of the class, you will have a mini-cookbook filled with delicious treats and sweets. (Come back next month for Christmas Cookies!)"

Ms. Mc Andrews

Room 102

3rd-6th Grade

Tuesday Class: Nov .2nd, 9th, & 16th from 3:00-4:00

TURKEY BOWL Join the fun with your friends as we play some silly Thanksgiving games. We will do some Turkey Bowling, have a Turkey Shoot, play Toss the Turkey, Table Top football and even head outside for a Turkey Trot race.

Mrs. Altman

Room 107

Preschool-2nd Grade

Thursday Classes: Nov. 4th, 11th, & 18th from 3:00-4:00

FRIENDSGIVING CLUB Get ready for Thanksgiving at our Friendsgiving party! We will make some Thanksgiving themed snacks& crafts and have a not so traditional feast with our friends. We will have so much fun playing with our friends. Thank goodness for fun and friends!

Mrs. Altman

Room 107

Preschool-2nd Grade



Please fill out the registration form and return to the school office no later than Friday
October 29th in an envelope marked ETC.

Registration for November ETC

Students Name _____

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

***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 Class: Nov. 1, 8, & 15 3:00-4:00

_____ FIDGET FUN

_____ BAKING BUDDIES

Tuesday Class: Nov. 2, 9, & 16 3:00-4:00

_____ TURKEY BOWL

Thursday Class: Nov. 4, 11 & 18 3:00-4:00

_____ FRIENDSGIVING CLUB



St. John Fisher Holiday Grand Raffle

Tickets are \$100 each

First prize: \$25,000 Second prize: \$5,000 Third prize: \$2,000

Early Bird Raffle \$500

October 31st at 11:00 a.m. Mass

1 entry per 5 tickets sold will be entered into a \$1,000 prize raffle

Tickets can be purchased **October 16th-December 4th** in person at the rectory,
after 11:00 a.m. mass, or online through the church and school websites

<https://www.sjfschool.net> or <https://www.stjohnfisherparish.net>

Winners will be drawn

**December 4th @
4:00 p.m. Mass**

