



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

September 17, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

Thank you for attending our *Back to School Night* this past Monday. It was such a feel-good event for all of us and we were thrilled to see you and welcome you in-person for the first time in a year and a half! We are so proud of our amazing school and recognize that your support and involvement directly impact our success. I hope you found this event enjoyable and helpful as we partner together to ensure our children have THE BEST school year! On behalf of the teachers, staff and myself, we want to share a heartfelt, THANK YOU!

Homecoming has arrived! This is always a fun weekend for our Falcons as they demonstrate their love and pride for our school! Tomorrow will prove to be a busy day at Beverly Park with soccer and football games spanning from the early morning until the late afternoon. The schedule for the football and (Sunday) basketball games is listed below. If you would like to walk in the Homecoming Parade on Saturday, please arrive at the church parking lot by 9:30. The parade will begin at 10 and our spirited Falcons will walk from campus to Beverly Park. Come on out and meet up with your neighbors and friends as together we cheer on our Falcon teams! There are plenty of opportunities to cheer on our Falcon Girls Basketball Teams on Sunday in our home gym as well. Let's go Falcons!

Thank you for your support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

## Important Announcements

- Please join me in giving a **huge SJF welcome and congratulations to our New Maintenance Director Bob Houston!** Bob is a member of our parish and father to 2 of our Falcon alumni! We are so grateful to have Bob join our team in this capacity!
- **Childhood Cancer Awareness Dress Down Day:** On **Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**, students can wear gold in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month if he/she donates \$1. Today and always we keep in mind our own Falcon warriors: Beau Dowling and Elliott McGann. All proceeds will go to benefit the Finley Bracken Foundation. Thank you in advance for your support!
- **REMINDER Students do not have school on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** due to our all-staff professional development day.
- **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)! #FalconsNOW
- **Forgotten Items:** SJF will accept forgotten lunches, medication, glasses; but we cannot accept Chromebooks, projects, materials for projects, or homework.
- **Chess Wizards:** Please see the below informational flyer for Chess Wizards. **All checks can be made payable to St. John Fisher School.** The first class is September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Extended Day :** Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, [dogrady@sjschool.us](mailto:dogrady@sjschool.us).
- **Women's Club** is aiming to host a **vendor fair** on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are a vendor and would like to participate in this event, please e-mail or text Maureen O'Malley, 773.339.4951; [mpomalley5@gmail.com](mailto:mpomalley5@gmail.com).
- **Hot Lunch:** The menu for October is available and open to order on My School Account. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Spadoni, [kspadoni@sjschool.us](mailto:kspadoni@sjschool.us).

- **FSA** is hosting its **first meeting of the year on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** in Kane Hall at 7. Masks are required and a \$25 gift card will be raffled off for those in attendance.
- **Special Lunch is back!** This year we will be piloting **Special Lunch** with a company called **My Hot Lunchbox**. Don't worry, some our favorite local restaurants will still be on the menu and we will have those fantastic moms helping! **All special lunch orders will be placed online with the company and orders will be delivered individually wrapped to your student at their appropriate lunchtime.** The first special lunch will take place Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and ordering will open Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. More information to follow soon!

	<p><i>Get your tickets in advance to support SJF Oktoberfest Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - 6-11 pm!</i></p> <p><i>Send cash/check (payable to SJF) to school in an envelope labeled Oktoberfest – Jen Serpe. Also include name and contact info on the envelope.</i></p> <p><i>If SJF sells 150+ tickets in advance then students will have a dress down day on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Featuring Ron Burgundy Band</b> <b>Beer - Music - Food</b> <b>21+ Welcome, \$30/person or \$50/couple</b></p>	

**Looking Ahead**

<p><b>Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homecoming Dance</b>, church parking lot, 7-9</p>
<p><b>Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>*<b>The Future Falcon Cheer Performance</b> will take place after the 4<sup>th</sup> grade game and before the 5<sup>th</sup> grade game. <b>Let's Go Falcons!</b></p> <p>*<b>food will be available to purchase from Joey's Food Truck</b></p>	<p><b>SJF Homecoming Football Games</b> vs. St. Christina @ Beverly Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parade beginning in the church parking lot @ 10:00</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> grade @ 11:30</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> grade Army @ 12:30</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> grade Air Force @ 1:30</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> grade @ 3:00</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Falcon Girls Basketball @ home</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> grade white @ Noon</li> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> grade @ 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> grade @ 3</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> grade @ 4 &amp; 5</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Chess Wizards 1<sup>st</sup> class</b> is today!</p> <p><b>FSA Meeting @ 7:00</b> in Kane Hall <b>All are welcome!</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Dress Down Day:</b> Bring in a \$1 and wear gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month</p>
<p><b>Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>No School, All-Staff Professional Development Day</b></p> <p><b>Women's Club Bunko Night</b> in Kane Hall @ 7pm, \$20 to play – there will be prizes!</p>

## 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.

## i-Ready Assessment Update

St. John Fisher is utilizing an assessment tool and implementing an online, instructional program called *i-Ready*. *i-Ready* is an online program that assists teachers in determining students' strengths and areas for growth, personalizing student learning, and monitoring student progress throughout the school year. *i-Ready* enables teachers to meet students where they are academically, as student and teacher reports provide detailed data that can be used to inform instruction.

The *i-Ready Diagnostic* is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit each student's ability. Every question item a student receives during the diagnostic test is based on his/her answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier ones. The purpose of this is not to give students a score or grade but to determine how to best support their learning in the future. **It is important to discuss the adaptive nature of the test with your child; it can be discouraging for some students to feel as though they are not excelling/succeeding. Arming students with this information usually results in increased confidence on the day they complete the diagnostic exam. We will test all students, K-8, the weeks of 9/13 and 9/20; the first week reading and the next math.**

The data the diagnostic assessment yields will inform teachers' instruction, lesson planning and pacing; individualized i-Ready lessons will be utilized, as well, to supplement classroom lessons and meet individual student needs. These lessons are interactive and provide strategic support used to engage students as they learn at their speed and level. Your child's teacher will begin assigning online i-Ready lessons in the classroom and for homework following the i-Ready Diagnostic assessment. If you have any questions regarding i-Ready please reach out to Mrs. Carey, [ncarey@sjschool.us](mailto:ncarey@sjschool.us).

## Manna Update

There is a lot of **positive buzz from teachers and students enjoying the recent investment in electrical upgrades and air conditioning. Did you know that past Falcon families actively participating in Manna led to a school savings that paid for the bill?!?!?** Let's continue to build the school's savings to afford key investments. Last year, earnings for the school was \$40,897 while families accrued individual earnings of \$70,756. If all school families participated regularly the school could earn over \$100,000. Reaching this goal together will help the school balance the budget and maintain competitive tuition rates. Manna is our #1 School Fundraiser. **We are off to a great start this year with about 50 new users registering for Manna.** The top gift certificates purchased last year were: Amazon, County Fair, Marianos, Jewel, Shell Gas, Visa and many local businesses with Rosangelas at the top of the list. To get started, check out the [Manna Overview](#). Email [sjfab@gmail.com](mailto:sjfab@gmail.com) with any questions.

## School Board Update

**School Board Update:** Minutes from our first meeting this Tuesday focused on fundraising will be posted on the [SAB Website](#) shortly. Please note our next meeting date is being adjusted to Tuesday, October 12th @ 7 PM in Kane Hall. All are welcome. Please email [sjfab@gmail.com](mailto:sjfab@gmail.com) if you would like to add a topic to the agenda.



# FALCONS OF THE WEEK

Tessa Dowling & Grace Cahill, 8th Grade

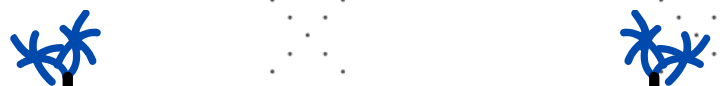


One of our school themes is "Fly Like a Falcon". Falcons SOAR above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "SOAR above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon", 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 graders, Tessa Dowling and Grace Cahill.**

This year Tessa and Grace are patrol guards in the morning at our Main Entrance Doors. This post is where our 7th & 8th graders enter the building each morning. Tessa and Grace literally greet every student by name followed by a positive comment or greeting such as, "Have an awesome day! I am so glad to see you! You are awesome! Good luck today!" "Great game last night". Tessa and Grace started these greetings on their own and are spreading kindness like wildfire. Many of us are groggy and dare I say crabby in the morning, but Tessa and Grace turn our junior high students' morning around with their positive vibes. The girls are great leaders and examples of the way we should all interact with one another. Tessa and Grace go out of their comfort zone to make everyone around them feel good about themselves. Thank you Tessa and Grace for starting so many of our days in a positive direction and for being kind and loving examples of what it means to be an SJF Falcon. Keep flying like Falcons, girls. You are making a difference!

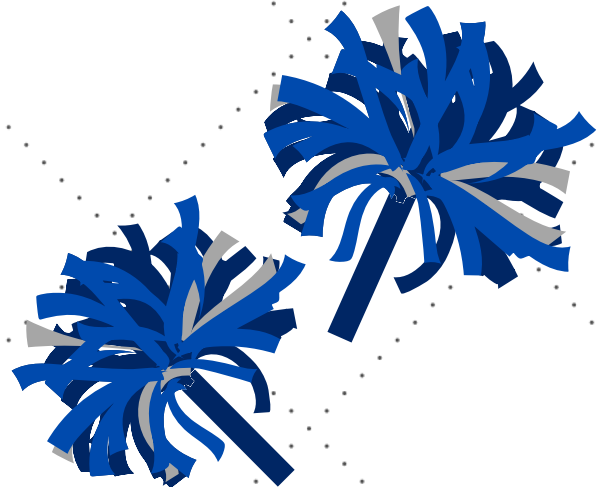
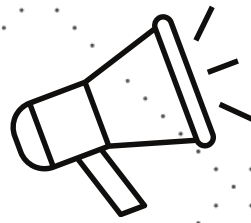


# HOMECOMING WEEK



Go Team

# GO FALCONS!





## 2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- First Day of School: **8.25** ~ 11:30 dismissal
- Labor Day – No School: **9.6**
- All-Staff Professional Development (no classes): **9.24**
- All-School Picture Day: **10.5**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **10.6, 10.7**
- No School: **10.8**
- Columbus Day – No School: **10.11**
- 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**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ribbon Mass: **5.20**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8<sup>th</sup> 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

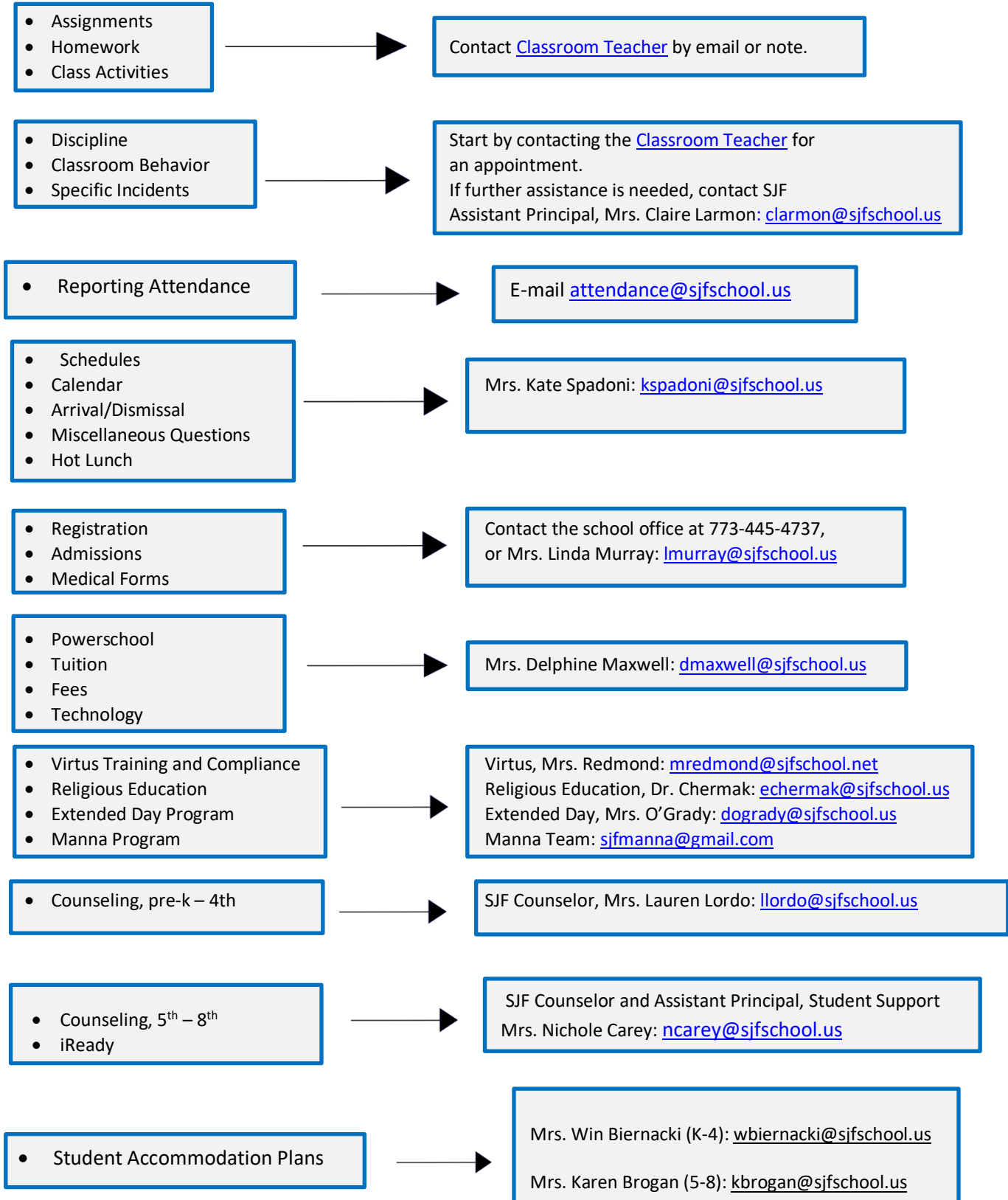
\***1 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings and PLC work: **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**





# 2021-2022 St. John Fisher School Contacts

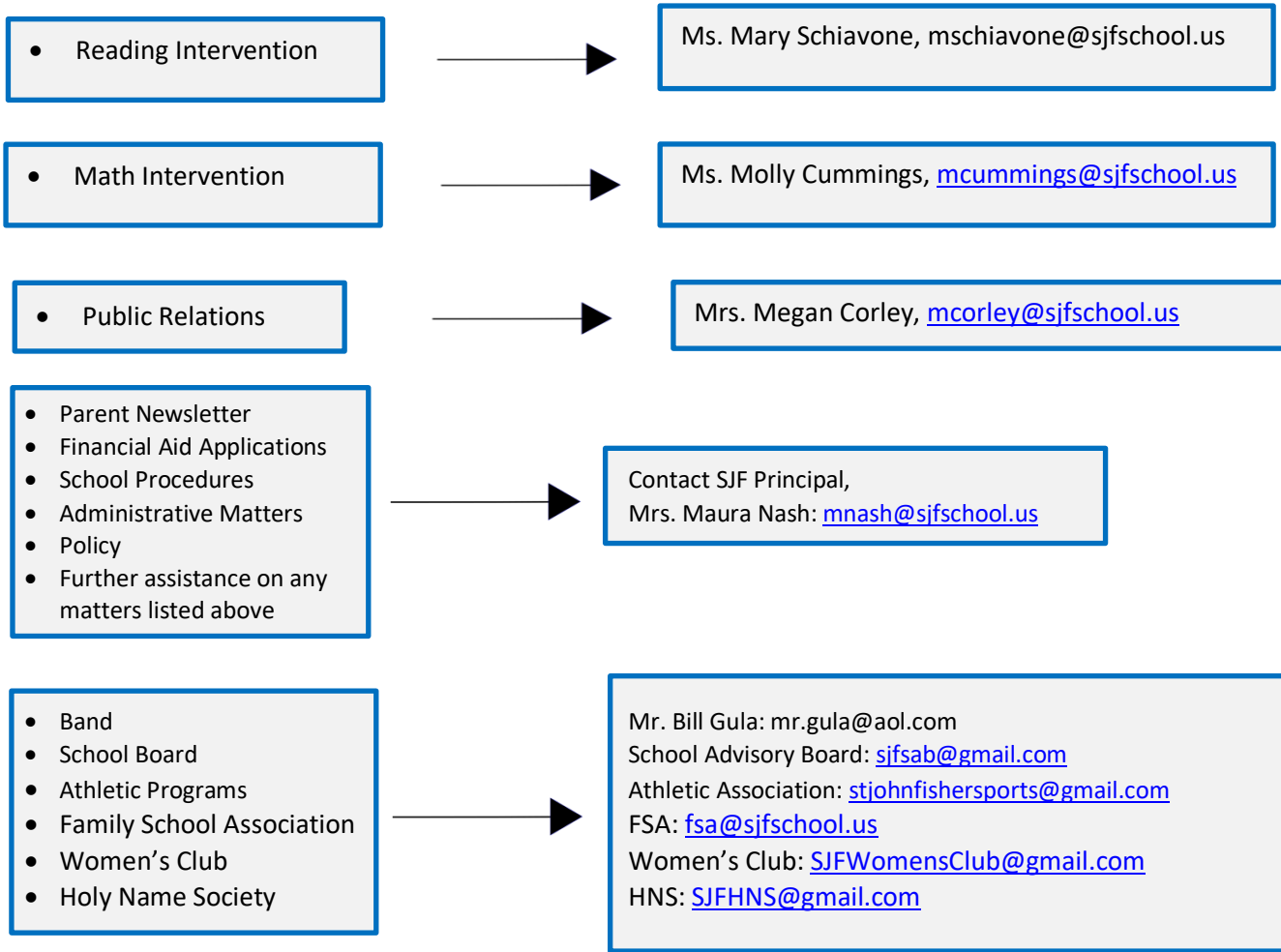
If you have a question or concern...





## 2021-2022 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern...



# HOWDY, PARDNER!



Happy Fall Y'all! Join the fun at Saturday ETC!

We are going to have a rootin' ~tootin' good time as we celebrate the fall! We will celebrate the fall with some fun fall activities. We will play Pumpkin Tic Tac Toe, create some fabulous fall decorations and much more!

We will meet in preschool room 107 from 9-12 on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> and it is open to all preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Cost \$30.00 per class.

\*\*\*\* Family Discount if more than one child per family signs up the cost is \$50 Per family. Please return by Thursday September 23<sup>rd</sup> to the **MAIN OFFICE**.  
**All checks can be made payable to St. John Fisher School.**

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fall Fun

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

*For more information contact Katie Altman*

**[kaltman@sjschool.us](mailto:kaltman@sjschool.us)** or text me at 708-945-3493.



# SATURDAY ETC

## HALLOWEEN SCIENCE: A HAUNTED LAB

Have a Spooktacular time in this fun class. We will make our own witches brew, fizzy ghosts, and a pumpkin volcano. We will build a Halloween CATAPULT for flying spiders. Come show off your inner Mad Scientist in this “experimentally spooky” class.

We will meet in preschool room 107 from 9-12 on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This class is open to all preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Cost \$30.00 per class.

\*\*\*\* Family Discount if more than one child per family signs up the cost is \$50 Per family.

Please submit your order form and payment by Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> to the **MAIN OFFICE**.

**All checks can be made payable to St. John Fisher School.**

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Haunted Lab*

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

*For more information contact Katie Altman [kaltman@sifschool.us](mailto:kaltman@sifschool.us)*

*or text me at 708-945-3493.*



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SAVE THE DATE!

**PACK  
THE  
HOUSE!**



JOIN US FOR SJF PACK  
THE HOUSE - GIRLS  
BASKETBALL!

OCTOBER 16TH!

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**TREATS, GAMES & PRIZES!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

**AT 3:00PM TILL 5:00PM**

**SJF PARKING LOT**

**PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME AND CAR DECORATIONS**

**STAN'S DONUT TRUCK ARRIVES AT 3:30**

# Gilhooley's Restaurant

We invite all parents

 to our hot lunch 



program.



**\$5.50**



**We have a variety of  
food every week**

**includes: food, milk,**



**fruit, dessert.**





Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
27	28	29	30
3	4	5	6
	Bobby Amber	Bobby Amber	Bobby + Amber
10	11	12	13
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17	18	19	20
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	25	26	27
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## Delivering Thousands of Lunches to Schools Nationwide

We are excited to offer your students nutritious lunches from restaurants they know and love, while providing parents an alternative to packing a daily lunch.

**Account registration information will be sent two weeks prior to the first lunch delivery!**



**Variety** : Create your own meal from a wide variety of freshly made entrées and sides, including items that meet most dietary restrictions.



**Flexible** : Order for one day or multiple days and add, edit or cancel any order up to noon the day before delivery.



**Secure** : Security and privacy are two of our biggest considerations. Our system offers the most stringent level of certification available.

### Questions about the lunch program?

Call us: 1-888-894-8295

Email us: [info@myhotlunchbox.com](mailto:info@myhotlunchbox.com)