



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School – 2022-2023 Tuition Update

April 29, 2022

Dear St. John Fisher Families,

With a hopefully restful and rejuvenating spring break now behind us, we have reached that time of the school year where the excitement for summer starts building and it seems like not a day goes by where there isn't some big event being prepared for with Communion, May Crowning, Graduation, etc. all upon us. It is also the time we ramp up our planning and prep for next year.

That prep includes communicating our tuition and fee schedule, so all of us can plan appropriately to make the financial sacrifice we do to provide our children with a high-quality Catholic education. I hope you had the chance to attend or watch the recording ([linked here](#)) of our recent State of the School presentation. If not, a summary of the presentation as well as a snapshot of many of the great people, technology, programs, and curriculum we are investing in for the betterment of our children are attached below.

There is certainly plenty more we can and will do better at SJF, but as we benchmark ourselves against the various other education options available in our community, we think we provide the best experience for our children and value for our families. We nonetheless face the reality, particularly as family sizes decrease and neighborhood demographics change, that our target enrollment is now in the 500-student range vs. the 800 that existed 10 years ago, and we need to raise the price of our offering to continue to provide this high-quality, high-value experience. This is why a tuition increase for next year has been recommended by our School Advisory Board and approved by our leadership teams.

Tuition will increase by \$400/student next year. Fees will remain the same.

As we communicated last year, we have a set of guiding principles for financial decisions at SJF:

- Maintain as affordable tuition as possible to be able to serve the maximum number of families
- Maintain small class sizes to best enable individual attention and differentiated learning
- Ensure faculty's and students' efforts are not hindered by a lack of available resources
- Provide transparency in financial communications, no matter how difficult

These principles have the board and our leadership teams constantly focused on finding budget efficiencies as well as supplemental revenue sources to make sure the increasing cost of education is not solely borne by our school families. We strongly believe the broader parish community has a responsibility to keep SJF an attractive, affordable, vibrant community of both worship and learning. Thankfully, the parish community agrees. We have had a very generous response to the establishment of the Fisher Falcon Education Foundation, and the Foundation board has recently approved a donation of ~\$75,000 to next year's school budget. These efforts are strong affirmations of the importance of our school to our community's and our faith's future. We hope they will continue to grow and become more sustainable ways to bridge our budget gap in the future, and we are thankful for the people that make them possible.

And, of course, I am incredibly thankful to all of you. I know providing a Catholic education for your children, and specifically partnering with us at SJF, is a choice and comes with a financial sacrifice. It is a sacrifice and investment I remain confident will pay dividends, especially as I walk our halls and experience the daily accomplishments of our amazing students. I hope you share that confidence, and I look forward to working with you as we continue this journey together.

In unity and hope,

Mrs. Maura Nash

Important Announcements

- Students can wear their **uniform shorts** to school beginning Monday!
- A note about **lunch on Tuesday, May 3rd**! There is NO SPECIAL LUNCH scheduled in May. Please make sure that your child has a lunch for that day!
- **REMINDER** there are **TWO EARLY DISMISSALS THIS WEEK: 5.4 – 1p.m., 5.6 – 11:30 a.m.**
- **Extended Day**: Make sure to [register your child\(ren\) here](#). Reach out to Mrs. O’Grady with any questions, dogrady@sjsfschool.us.
- [Click here](#) for the most recent **COVID guidance**.

Looking Ahead

Weekend Mass Schedule	4 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday
Saturday, April 30th	ETC – April Showers/Rainy Day Fun 9-12 w/ Mrs. Altman
Teacher Appreciation Week presented by the FSA 5.2-5.6	<i>Themes</i> *refer to your room parent email for specific details. Thank you for your support and participation!
Monday, May 2nd	“Thank you for helping us bloom” Academic Eligibility Club 3-4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy
Tuesday, May 3rd	“Thank you for being our favorite” HW Club 3-3:45 p.m. w/ Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy
Wednesday, May 4th *1 p.m. Dismissal for Faculty PD	“Thank you for starting us off right”
Thursday, May 5th	“Thank you for going the extra mile” Academic Eligibility Club 3-4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy
Friday, May 6th *11:30 Dismissal for May Crowning	“Thank you for all you do”

Manna Update

The Manna Fundraising Requirement (\$300/family) will be added in the FACTS system in the coming weeks. All families will see a \$300 charge and then it will be adjusted based on the amount earned for the school up until April 30th, 2022.

- For example, families that met the \$300 fundraising requirement, will see two notifications (\$300 fee – 300 adjustment = no charge). The individual earnings achieved will be reflected on your FACTS statement on book day in August. For the family in the above example that achieved the \$300 goal, they will get a \$450 deduction off tuition for the following year.
- You can start accruing for next year’s Manna Fundraising requirement as of May 1st. If you decided not to participate this year but would like to reduce the \$300 fundraising fee through everyday shopping, check out resources [here](#) to get started.

2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- First Communion: **4.30**
- May Crowning: **5.6** ~ 11:30 dismissal
- 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:
May 4th.

Volunteer Opportunities

St. John Fisher School is seeking parent volunteers to serve in leadership roles across our parent organizations such as School Advisory Board (SAB), Family School Association (FSA), and Athletics. Please fill out the form linked below. It's a great way to give back to the school and stay connected to our mission. Most terms are about 3 years and require a monthly meeting. **Express interest [HERE](#) to serve as a leader on FSA, SAB, or Athletics.** Thank you for your consideration!





FALCON OF THE WEEK

Ben Schreiber, 7th 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 7th grader Ben Schreiber.**

One of Ben's fellow 7th grade classmates suffered from a badly broken leg this school year. Ben has been an amazing friend to him for the past several months. He carried his books every single day without question and made sure he had all of the necessary supplies. Initially Ben stayed in the classroom to eat lunch with him so that he wasn't lonely. Shortly there after Ben was also able to corral the rest of the boys in their homeroom to do the same. The cool thing about Ben is that being kind and thoughtful just comes naturally. I don't know if Ben would label this behavior as anything special at all. It is just how he is. However, Ben's teachers and I think he's quite special and are grateful for this daily reminder of what it means to be selfless, kind and thoughtful. Ben always puts everyone else before himself. That characteristic is commendable. Thank you Ben for being a kind and humble role model and leader for us all to follow and learn from. Keep flying like a Falcon, Ben. You sure are making a difference! **I'd like to give a special shout-out to Ben's friend, Eamon Griffin, too. Eamon your resiliency, mental toughness and positive outlook are admirable. We are so proud of you and thankful you are on the mend!*



FALCON *facts*

19:1
Student
Teacher Ratio



Invested in new
Reading, Writing, Phonics,
Science & SEL Curriculum



Expanded
Hola! Foreign
Language
experience
for 2nd-8th
grade

Resource Teachers,
Reading Specialist and
Math Specialist collaborate
to **provide supportive plans**
for students



2 Full-time Mental
Health Professionals
that provide
impactful SEL
curriculum



Celebrate
weekly mass
with
classmates



 100%
Acceptance
Rate to HS

HSPT
TEST
PREP 

Invested in the
systematic,
research-based
**Wilson Foundations
Phonics Program**
for grades
Pre-K-2nd

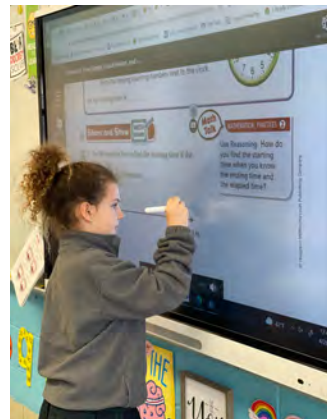



K-8th
1:1
Technology
allows for
individualized
learning

Our investment in
iREADY
has provided our
teachers with an
opportunity to look at
our students' strengths
and weaknesses through
a different lens.

**Grades K-8 using Reading &
Writing Curriculum from HMH**
.....
This cutting edge program allows our school to utilize
common language and practices when studying
reading and writing creating a more cohesive and
seamless transition from grade to grade.

After
school
Intervention
&
Enrichment
Programs 




SMARTboard
Technology in
ALL
classrooms



Refreshed
**Math Manipulatives &
STEM Resources**



**St. John Fisher School
Tuition and Fee Schedule
2022-23 Academic Year**

Full-time Tuition:

Student	Rate	Discount	Per Family
1 st Student	\$6,015	--	\$6,015
2 nd Student	4,270	29%	10,285
3 rd Student	3,515	42%	13,800
4 th Student	2,300	62%	16,100
5 ^{th+} Student	--	100%	16,100

Note: Full-time pre-school students are included in the rates above.

Part-time Pre-school Tuition:

Program	Rate	Discount	Per Family
3 Day Full-day	\$3,900	35%	n/a
5 Day Half-day	3,325	45%	n/a
3 Day Half-day	2,200	63%	n/a

Note: all part-time pre-school students are added separately to the number of full-time students per family.

“Book Day” Fees:

Fee	Rate	Base
Registration / Admin	\$50	Per Family
Books, Curriculum, and Supplies	\$250	Per Student
Technology	\$200	Per Student
Lunchroom Supervision	\$50	Per Student
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$50	Per Student
FSA Membership	\$50	Per Family
Manna Fundraising Requirement	\$300	Per Family

Note: The Manna fundraising requirement is not due on “Book Day.” It represents the portion of rebated earnings from Manna spending that is directed to the school (i.e., 40% of each family’s total rebate). Families have from May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023 to earn rebates from shopping via the Manna/RaiseRight program. 60% of the rebate earned will go directly to families in the form of a tuition/fee reduction the following school year, and 40% goes to the school. Any shortfalls vs. the \$300 requirement will be added to each family’s May tuition bill. Many families that regularly participate in the Manna program avoid the \$300 fee.

Please direct any questions on the Tuition and Fee Schedule to sjfsab@gmail.com, on the Manna program to sjfmanna@gmail.com, or on opportunities for financial aid/tuition assistance to mnash@sjfschool.us.



Unity and Hope: Our Collaboration, Our Culture, Our Commitment

A Summary of the SJF School Advisory Board's and Leadership Team's
State of Our School Update
March 24, 2022

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

Published in mid-2020 after 18+ mos. of community input

*COVID-related challenges have forced re-prioritization of certain goals, but **there has been significant achievement and investment across all areas of the plan**, especially culture, academics, and budge

- Set and communicated goals across school and parish mission, culture, academics, and finances.
- Guides work of school advisory board committees and decision-making of school and parish leadership.
- Is constantly refreshed as we benchmark against our peers and receive feedback from school board meetings, parent and staff roundtables and surveys, other parish and school organizations, etc.

	STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>MISSION EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE</p> <p>Prioritizes Catholic identity and faith-based ensuring values are central to our School's mission and that the School maintains a strong tie to our parish community</p>	<p>Student sacramental experiences, weekday mass attendance, "new" parish newsletter, and support for Pro Labore Dei mission and other ad hoc "good cause" fundraisers</p>	<p>Improved Sunday / family mass attendance, increased coordination among parish orgs and School, re-establishment of the Future Falcons welcome program, and alumni outreach</p>
<p>WELCOMING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT & SCHOOL CULTURE</p> <p>School leadership is committed to cultivating a school experience that supports all students in their pursuit of academic excellence and the development of critical-thinking skills, intellectual curiosity, and a compassionate worldview.</p>	<p>Commitment to small class sizes, recently lengthened school day, expansion of specials curriculum to include social emotional learning and foreign language, roll-out of new & improved school-wide reading & writing program, introduction of 1:1 technology program, and professional development for faculty to aid in delivery of increased individualized and small group instruction and intervention / enrichment based on each student's unique needs</p>	<p>Additional investment in STEM/science lab materials and ongoing curriculum reviews of math and social studies programs similar to the reading & writing review recently completed</p>
<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Ensures the school budget is balanced, priority investments are funded, and transparency is maintained in how parent and parish community dollars are spent</p>	<p>Application of government funding for over \$300k of recent curriculum and technology investments, Fisher Falcon Education Foundation being established and making initial grant of ~\$75k to School, and new building maintenance leader identifying multiple cost savings</p>	<p>Finding potential special staffing efficiencies across our Renew My Church grouping, generating financial support from our alumni network, and better communicating and coordinating on our highest priority fundraising needs</p>

Our biggest immediate challenge is balancing our budget; tuition increases are our “last resort” but necessary.

- Current-year budget projects ~\$400k operating deficit; Board’s goal is to eliminate deficit over 2 years
- Enrollment continues to drift down as largest classes graduate, average family size decreases, and more of our Mt. Greenwood and Evergreen Park area families seemingly choose public school options
- We estimate our school population will stabilize in the 450-500 student level over the next few years, requiring increased tuition to maintain the quality of our best-in-class education product
- Board has recommended a \$400 per student tuition increase this year, which should approximately halve our current budget deficit; a similar increase should be expected next year

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Your trust in our faculty and staff as well as your financial sacrifice is invaluable to the success of our school and parish. We have created a wonderful educational experience for our children and, together, we will continue to do so as we strive to achieve these shared goals.





