



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

May 3, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

I remain in awe of all of you as you have successfully transitioned and pivoted during this pandemic. It isn't easy and it often feels like an up-hill battle, but you and your children are doing an amazing job. This has been challenging in more ways than anyone could have predicted: emotionally, financially, physically, etc. In these difficult times, we must build up our resiliency and persevere. Now is the time to remain committed to each other and our community. We need to remain loyal to one another. Each and every student and family are essential to our community and make St. John Fisher the incredible place that it is. Know that SJF will be here for you during this difficult time and in the future.

I am beginning to look to the future and cannot help, but grow excited about what is to come! Though much of our efforts have been placed on successfully getting through this unprecedented time, we continue to plan for when we will be physically back in the classroom together. In the next week, we will share the final draft of our Strategic Plan and highlight the components that will be implemented this upcoming school year as well as our new tuition and fee structure. In partnership with my leadership team, our amazing faculty and staff and our dedicated School Advisory Board, we are committed to providing you with the absolute best education. Next school year will bring us so much excitement and a newfound appreciation for one another! Our future is so bright!

You are all a constant on my mind, in my heart and in my prayers. I am grateful to be on this journey with all of you. Remember, we are still here. We are still learning. We are still praying. We are still falcons. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. Stay well and take the best of care.

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

Important Announcements

- **FIRST COMMUNION CELEBATION:** Yesterday our second graders were scheduled to celebrate their First Holy Communion. We hope to celebrate this day in the fall. [Here is a video Dr. Chermak, Mrs. Corley and Mrs. Maxwell created to show our sign of love and support for our First Communion Class – Enjoy!](#)
- **8th Grade Video:** [Please enjoy this video](#) created by our 8th graders and their families demonstrating how proud they are to be falcons and the Class of 2020! #falconsflyasaflock.
- **Morning Prayer & Pledge:** Thank you to all of the families who have been participating in the morning prayer and pledge – we love beginning our day with all of you! [Here is the sign-up sheet if you would like to host.](#)
- **Join us for an all-school read along, *Wishtree*** by Katherine Applegate, facilitated by Mrs. Keller, Librarian. We hope this all-school read will bring us together and foster conversation during this very isolating time. See the flyer below for further instruction.
- **Personal Belongings:** Once we are allowed to re-enter the building, we will reach out to you in order for you to pick-up the remainder of your child's belongings. Thank you for your patience!
- **Planning Days** – The archdiocese is instituting planning days for our students and teachers under the guidance of the Illinois State Board of Education. ***SJF will be utilizing Fridays as our planning/catch-up days.***

- **NEW STUDENTS:** We are still accepting new students for next year and are planning a virtual open house! Please direct any family, friends and neighbors our way. Thank you for being our biggest supporters and ambassadors!
- **CLASS OF 2020 HOT LUNCH ACCOUNT:** We will be issuing checks for any balance left in your account by mid-May. If there is a younger sibling in the household, the money should be transferred to their account. Please contact Mrs. Maxwell with any questions, dmaxwell@sjfschool.net.
- **Financial Hardship:** We recognize that this is an incredibly challenging and stressful time for all families. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic, please reach out to me. **We are here for you** and want to partner with you to get through this challenge **together**. mnash@sjfschool.net
- **Stay connected with us:** follow us on Instagram: **stjohnfisher** and like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago](https://www.facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago).
- I know that times are tough, if you can continue to give virtually to our parish's weekly collections, **we would be very appreciative**. Every little bit counts! **Thank you for your generosity:** <https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/stjohnfisherparish>

A note from Mrs. Carey - *The Trait of the Week Program*

As we progress on our e-learning journey we continue to grow in ways we may never have fathomed. With growth often comes growing pains; our patience has been challenged, our thresholds met, and our feelings of worry exacerbated. It is likely our children are feeling similarly but unable to articulate these unfamiliar feelings. We can help them make sense of this difficult time by assisting them in naming and acknowledging their feelings and strengthening the character traits that will help them cope with difficult emotions like disappointment and uncertainty. Character traits such as optimism, perseverance, gratitude, integrity, kindness and empathy can be exercised and strengthened, similar to a muscle. Introducing and consciously integrating these traits into our day-to-day practices fosters positive, principled, self-directed development as well social-emotional intelligence.

This past Monday, April 27th, we began a program that encourages this character development and social emotional learning. ***The Trait of the Week Program*** highlights a character trait, defines the importance of the given trait and describes ways in which we can incorporate and practice that skill in our day-to-day life. Every Monday the Trait of the Week will be posted on Mrs. Carey's blog as well as all SJF social media accounts. Corresponding read-alongs and art projects will accompany each weekly post.

Taking time to integrate social-emotional learning into our family's routine will help our students navigate this difficult time, while also preparing them for future obstacles. I hope you and your family will take note and participate in the Trait of the Week Program.

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to email me at ncarey@sjfschool.net

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nichole Carey, MEd, LPC
Assistant Principal of Student Support, School Counselor

St. John Fisher's MANNA Program Reopens!

*We are excited to announce social distancing practices allowing Manna to re-open safely. In short, orders and payment should be placed via drop box at the rectory ahead of time allowing for curbside pick-up on Fairfield outside the Convent. **NO CASH. CHECKS ONLY.** No "real-time" filling orders.*

Details on the Process:

1. Submit [Manna Order Form](#) and PAYMENT to drop box at the Rectory. Deadline each week to submit order is **9 AM on Tuesdays**. Manna team will confirm via email that order was received. **NO CASH. CHECKS ONLY.** Please note that the drop-box will be located right inside the rectory doors. **The rectory staff CANNOT fill orders.**
2. Orders will be filled and ready to be picked up on **Tuesdays between Noon and 2 on Fairfield outside the convent**. If we find volume is high and we need additional pick-up times, we will be happy to add additional times/days.
3. For our essential workers, please email sjfmanna@gmail.com to arrange another pick up time.
4. Tips for safety following social distancing guidelines:
 - Curbside pick-up. Text Lynn @ (773) 552-3445 when you are outside the convent with description of car. Roll down window and Manna team will drop the order in your car and wait for you to verify order is correct. Please verify order is correct before pulling away.
 - Please don't form a line or enter convent as we are not able to open office for same day sales. Orders need to be placed ahead of time allowing for social distancing.
 - Manna team will wear masks and gloves.







FALCON OF THE WEEK

Mrs. Kellam, Mrs. Ade & Mrs. Briseno



SJF's "Falcons of the Week" Mrs. Meghan Kellam, Mrs. Karen Ade and Mrs. Carmen Briseno, 2nd grade teachers.

This year, our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing what it means to be 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.

The pandemic that we are experiencing has made it challenging for all of us to continue to remain the best version of ourselves. Yesterday, our 2nd graders

were supposed to make their First Holy Communion. This important sacrament was one that our students and teachers have been preparing for all year. We are saddened by the many special events that have been cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus. However, our 2nd grade teachers went above and beyond yesterday, putting together a small package consisting of a note, prayer card, rosary and a balloon. Our awesome Women's Club also lent a hand by donating cross cookies to make this package extra special. A huge thanks to them and the many staff and faculty members who helped deliver these surprises! Thank you again to the 2nd grade team for remembering our students and making them feel special during this time. Don't worry 2nd graders, your Communion in the fall will be better than ever! "Keep flying like falcons, Mrs. Kellam, Mrs. Ade and Mrs. Briseno. You're making a difference!"

Falcons

Trait of the Week!

Trait: Optimism

Definition: the belief that good things will happen

Mantra

I am
positive

Quote of the Week

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

-Fred Rogers



**Optimism
Sounds Like...**

- Things will get better
- The glass is half full
- I can do it

SJF Manna Program

"It's a Win-Win"

We Need Your Support

The Manna Program is the #1 School Fundraiser. Tuition alone does not cover the school's expenses. SJF proceeds from Manna help to make up the difference between school operating costs and tuition. Participation is necessary and appreciated to balance school budget and maintain competitive tuition rates. We need to increase participation especially for school families to enable SJF to be accessible & affordable to all families, for generations to come.

Every Effort Counts

If Every Family purchased Manna all year for 4 places they frequently spend (One Restaurant, Groceries, Retail, Liquor), we'd meet our goal.

Example:

If you spend \$200/wk @ County Fair, \$100/wk @ Rosangela's, \$25/month @ Town and \$300 /year at Dick's Sporting Goods = \$475 tuition credit and \$315 school funds raised (annually)



How does it work?

1. You buy Manna gift certificates and shop with them.
2. The store gives a percentage of the card value to SJF (2-12%)
3. You get 60% of the store rebate credited to your tuition at SJF, high school or college.
4. SJF gets 40% of the store rebate towards meeting operational costs



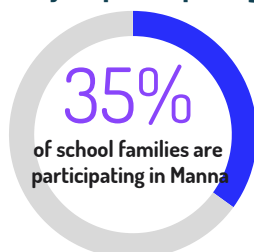
The Manna team is open to suggestions to make it easier to participate. Email @ sjfmanna@gmail.com. Check out <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/> or buy with cash/check at the convent. Also, check out special order form for events or other needs.

We are behind goal in 2020

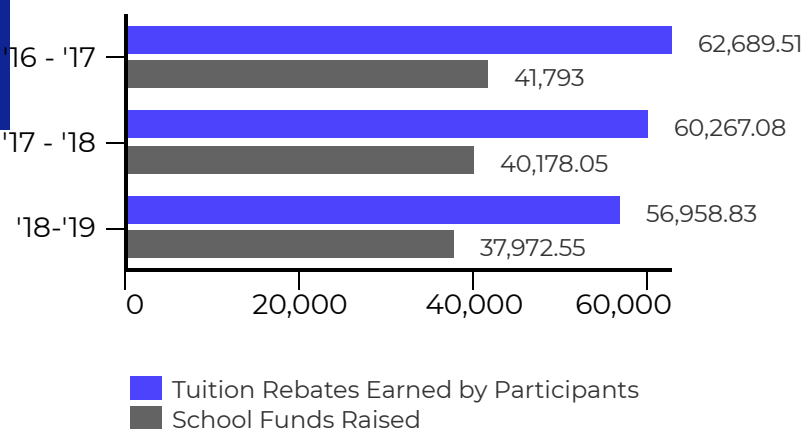
Did you know?

- Our top 5 spots for sales are Jewel, County Fair, Shell, Kohl's Amazon, Binny's. Join in!
- Tata's offers a 12% rebate?
- There are 25 restaurants that offer a 6% rebate? It adds up quick!

Are you participating?



Manna Sales and Funds Raised (annual \$ estimates)



Manna Sales are declining as parishioners "graduate" from the program. We need to enroll school families for continued success. Free Money for you and our school.

Manna Hours: Location @ Due to School Closing, Same day Manna Sales in the Convent are shut down. We are accepting manna forms in Rectory by 9 AM tuesdays for Curbside Pick Up on Tuesdays between 12-2 PM.



ST. JOHN FISHER'S ZOOM NORMS

In order to make THE MOST out of our E-Learning experience, it is important that we all follow these guidelines. It is a challenge when learning from home. These helpful tips and reminders will enable all of us to focus, stay on task and be successful in our virtual classrooms!

- ◆ **Be on time.**
- ◆ **Be prepared. Check your e-mail, Google Classroom Stream and Teacher's Blog.**
- ◆ **Dress appropriately.**
- ◆ **Check your surroundings! Are you in a common room in your home? Make sure little siblings and pets aren't distracting you.**
- ◆ **Use headphones if you have them.**
- ◆ **Turn off your virtual backgrounds during class - they can be distracting.**
- ◆ **Keep your microphone off until you are told to turn it on.**
- ◆ **Raise your hand and talk. Use appropriate gestures when told.**
- ◆ **Be focused. Pay attention. Be an active participant!**
- ◆ **Ask/Post ONLY questions or comments that are related to the class/lesson.**
- ◆ **No music, no eating, respect your teacher/presenter.**

We are so proud of all of your hard work. Keep it up!