



NOTES FROM MRS. NASH

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

DECEMBER 6, 2024

Dear SJF Families,

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a relaxing break! Now, on to Christmas! We have a busy month of activities on the calendar as we dive head first into the holiday season! We look forward to celebrating all of the magic with our Falcons and sharing in this beautiful season with all of you!

Please join us in praying for our exceptional 8th graders who will be taking their high school entrance exam tomorrow. We are excited for our Falcons to take this next step toward the incredibly bright future! A huge shout out to all of the parents, grandparents and teachers who helped them succeed along the way.

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

In unity and hope,

Mrs. Maura Nash

Important Announcements

- **St. Pat's Committee Meeting:** It is never too early to start planning for St. Patrick's Day! Join us on **12.17 @ 7 p.m. in Kane Hall**. Busy? Email St.Patricks.Day.SJF@gmail.com to stay informed.
- Our annual **Christmas Pep Assembly** is Friday, **December 20th @ 10 a.m.** in the church. You don't want to miss this! Please join us if you are able!
- **Extended Day:** Don't forget to sign up your Falcon(s) here. If you have questions, please reach out to Mrs. O'Grady, dogrady@sjfschool.us.
- **PRO LABORE DEI:** LUNCH MAKING session is 12.7 @ 9:15 a.m. in the Rectory Basement. Thank you for your generosity! Questions? Reach out to Pat Hayes, patriciadhayes@yahoo.com.

OUR FALCONS ARE BRAVE, STRONG, IMPORTANT, SMART, KIND AND LOVED.

Looking Ahead

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, December 7th | Manna Hours @ The Convent 8:30-9:30 a.m. |
| Weekend Mass *Falcons will receive an out-of-uniform pass for Mass attendance <i>to be used on Mondays</i> | Saturday, 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. & 11 a.m. <i>All are welcome!</i>  |
| Monday, December 9th  | HAPPY MONDAY! WE LOVE YOU FALCONS! <i>Immaculate Conception All School Mass</i> <i>hosted by our fabulous 4th graders ~</i> <i>All are welcome!</i> ETC, 3-4 p.m. Christmas Mini Hoop w/ Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy ETC, 3-4 p.m. Reindeer Games w/ Mrs. Sefcik |
| Tuesday, December 10th | ETC, 3-4 p.m. Christmas Party Cookies and Crafts w/ Mrs. Garza HW Club 3-3:45 p.m. w/ Mrs. Ade, Ms. Dunlavy & Mrs. Schiller BAND CONCERT, 7 p.m. @ Marist  |
| Wednesday, December 11th | ETC, 7-7:40 a.m. Morning Basketball w/ Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy ETC, 3-4:30 p.m. Are you Ready For It? w/ Mrs. Regnier & Mrs. Sefcik HW Club 3-3:45 p.m. w/ Mrs. Ade, Ms. Dunlavy & Mrs. Schiller |
| Thursday, December 12th | Manna Hours @ The Convent 8:00-9:00 a.m. Future Falcon Playdate in the Gym 10:15 - 11 a.m. |
| Friday, December 13th | Happy Falcon Fri-Yay! Wear your favorite Falcon spirit-wear with your uniform bottoms! NJHS Babysitting Night! |



Do you ever wonder what our morning
Zoom announcements are like?

Now you can see them for yourself! [Visit this link](#) to see recordings of our latest and greatest morning moments. ENJOY!



Together let's build a school we love



OUR FALCONS ARE BRAVE, STRONG, IMPORTANT, SMART, KIND AND LOVED.



FALCON OF THE WEEK

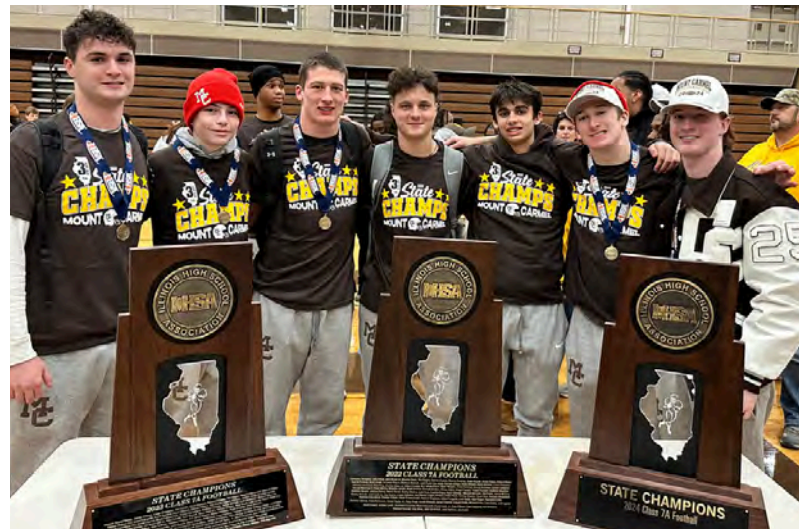
Miles Martinez, 5th Grade

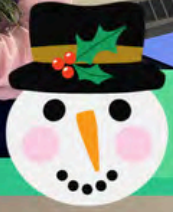


One of our school themes is “Fly Like a Falcon”. Falcons SOAR above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to “SOAR above” things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves and to be mindful of those around us who might need our help and support. 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 Miles Martinez, 5th grade.**

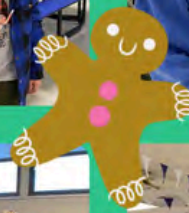
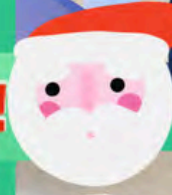
Last week we celebrated Thanksgiving with a lovely prayer service hosted by our 5th graders. Miles demonstrated his love for St. John Fisher and Thanksgiving by exuding an abundance of positive energy and some pretty good dance moves too. He led his classmates and the whole school by participating so well on the altar and putting us all in the Thanksgiving spirit. We are thankful for Miles and the positive energy and excitement he brings to school each and every day. Miles is an inclusive, kind friend and we are so proud of him! Thank you Miles for leading us all in the right direction. You are appreciated and you are making a difference! Keep “Flying Like a Falcon” Miles!







HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



PIC • COLLAGE



ST. JOHN FISHER
WOMEN'S CLUB

VENDOR FAIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024
7-10PM


St. John Fisher School
10200 S Washtenaw Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60655

\$5 admission
Food & Drink available for purchase

ATTIRE/JEWELRY/SELF CARE/DECOR & MORE

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL

sjfvendorfair@gmail.com



Any Falcon in
attendance
will receive an
out-of-uniform
pass!

JOIN US

ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH'S

Preschool & Kindergarten Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH @ 11 A.M.

You belong here. 

Attention SJF Parents!!!



Join our 3rd Annual
Falcon Fun Friday Night!!!!

Sponsored by SJF
National Junior Honor Society



Think of the things you could get accomplished with two kid-free hours!



Wrap Christmas gifts
Grab a quick dinner with friends
Go grocery shopping
Buy that last minute gift



Friday, December 13
6pm-8pm in Kane Hall



Registration
due 12/12!!!

Fee: \$10/child
\$25/family of
3 or more



Parents of Falcons in Preschool through 4th grade are invited to drop their child(ren) off for a small fee, and our National Junior Honor Society students will entertain them for two hours! Our Junior High students will play games and do crafts with your child(ren) while you enjoy some time for yourself!! Space is limited so reserve your spot today by following the link at the QR code above!

All questions can be directed to Mrs. Condon kcondon@sjfschool.us

Adult Faculty members will be present to supervise all activities

FSA PRESENTS

Christmas CRAFT NIGHT

DECEMBER 16TH

5:30-7:00 PM

KANE HALL

Join us for a night of crafts,
cookies, hot cocoa and meet
The Grinch!

\$25 PER FAMILY

FAMILY NAME _____

#OF CHILDREN: _____

OF ADULTS: _____

CIRCLE FORM OF PAYMENT:
CHECK(MADE OUT TO FSA) OR CASH

****FORMS DUE 12/12



Christmas with the Falcons



Tuesday, 12.17: PJ Day

- Polar Express Movie Day for students in PreK-3rd grade! *Feel free to bring a blanket to cozy up with!



Wednesday, 12.18: Festive Christmas Attire or Red and Green

- Festive Christmas Attire or wear Red and/or Green
- PreK Parent Show @ 10 a.m.
- Kindergarten Parent Show @ 12 p.m.
- Christmas Movie Day for students in 4th - 8th grade!
*Feel free to bring a blanket to cozy up with!



Thursday, 12.19: Ugly Sweater Day

- Kindergarten Show for the School @ 9:30 a.m.
- All School Singalong @ 1:30 p.m. in the Church ~ All are welcome!
- Cookies and Milk Special Delivery



Friday, 12.20.24: Sunday Best Attire

- 10 a.m. Christmas Pep Assembly Prayer Service
- 11:30 a.m. dismissal





Manna for the Holidays



AVOID THE HOLIDAY RUSH!

Stop in or use your RAISE RIGHT APP on the go!

Order your gift cards for the holidays using the App by Sunday at 10:00 AM and your order will be ready to pick up on Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

This includes local vendor cards. Skip the line to pick up when you order ahead. Let us know if you would like your order sent home with your child.

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER through the app in order to receive your cards by Christmas is **December 14th**.

Manna Hours for the Holidays

Saturday: 8:30-9:30 AM

Wednesday: 6-7 PM

Thursday: 8-9 AM (added for the month of December)

Last year, the Manna program raised \$40,000 for the school and \$60,000 directly to the families to lower their tuition.

MANNA OFFICE will be closed on the following dates:

November 30th

December 25th

December 28th

January 1st



TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



EARN
\$1,000+
per year

Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

Impacting what matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house. Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



amazon



STARBUCKS®



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

Get started by downloading the [RaiseRight™ app](#) on your phone or go to [RaiseRight.com](#) on your computer.

For step-by-step instructions, visit [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](#).

ENROLLMENT CODE FOR SJF = DB2L51471958 (PLEASE DO NOT PASS ALONG)
PLEASE FILL OUT A REGISTRATION FORM BY STOPPING IN OR AT SJF WEBSITE FOR GOOGLE FORMSUMMER
Selling HOURS at the Convent: WEDNESDAY 6-7 PM AND SATURDAYS 830-930 AM



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Give today!

Scan the QR code or go to www.givecentral.org/FFEF to donate

Falcons Are Grateful for You!

Join fellow Falcon friends and family in support of St. John Fisher School's Annual Season of Giving. **100% of proceeds go directly to supporting the mission, success, and longevity of SJF School.**

Your gift will help SJF continue to thrive, so current and future generations of Falcons will share in the same traditions and celebrations that we know make SJF unique. **Together, we have created a school that we love!**



Academic Excellence

Mission

- An independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization to benefit students, teachers and families of SJF.
- There is a 100% return rate to SJF school.
- Led by a diverse group of SJF school & parish volunteers
- Raises funds to improve the SJF School experience by:
 - Modernizing classrooms with tools & technology
 - Attracting and retaining teachers
 - Helping families in financial need.
 - Increasing scholarship opportunities for graduating 8th graders
 - Improving school buildings & campus grounds



Tuition Assistance

Principles

- We expect SJF's enrollment to be within 400-500 students each year. Together, we can maintain a healthy budget as a medium sized school known for its academic excellence and vibrant, high achieving community. The Foundation's goal is to creatively offset the rising cost of high-quality education.
- Our teachers deserve more. We need to close the pay gap between SJF and public school systems.
- The community at large benefits from the continued success and vitality of St. John Fisher School. SJF cultivates critical thinkers and curious minds, compassionate Christian leaders, and socially intelligent citizens.



Campus Improvement

Progress

- The annual season of giving campaign is our largest fundraiser and has raised over \$50,000 each year since our launch in late 2021.
- FFEF has partnered with the school to raise over \$150,000 through events such as Oktoberfest, St. Patrick's Day Party & Fun Run.
- Special thanks to the families that have chosen FFEF for bequests to memorialize loved ones raising over \$80,000. We are very grateful for your generosity and pray for your families.
- All of these gifts have made a tremendous impact for our school as we "Drive to 75" in September 2025.



Learn more
www.FalconEducationFoundation.org
info@FalconEducationFoundation.org



Give today!
 Scan the QR code or go to www.givecentral.org/FFEF to donate



SJF Chess Club

- Monthly gatherings to play games & sharpen our skills.
- All skill levels are welcome!
- **Kane Hall following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, 9.8, 10.20, 11.10, 12.8, 1.12, 2.9, 3.9, 4.13, 5.4**
- Join us when you can.
- Feel free to bring your own chess set!
- All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult!

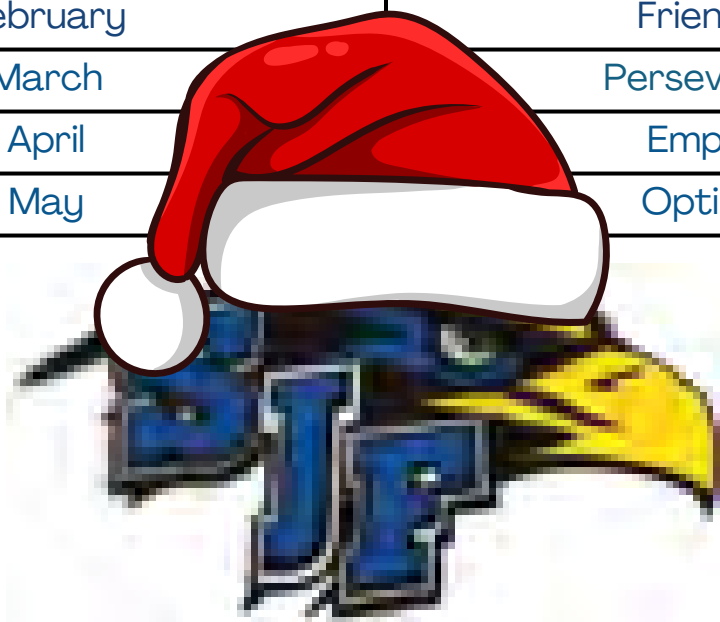


Social & Emotional Learning

At SJF we continue to build upon our SEL goals. Each month of the school year will have an all-school focus on the trait of the month, helping students strengthen particular social skills with different lessons and activities at the classroom level and as an entire school. We encourage you to talk to your children about these traits at home for a consistent message and focus. The trait of the month program is building upon this year's behavior system and school mantra:

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| September | Responsibility |
| October | Respect |
| November | Gratitude |
| December | Kindness |
| January | Integrity |
| February | Friendship |
| March | Perseverance |
| April | Empathy |
| May | Optimism |



**Be Respectful, Responsible & Safe.
Be a Falcon.**



Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

*Below is a list of important dates for the 2024-2025 school year.

These dates are subject to change.

- **12.20** ~ 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- Christmas Break: **12.20** – **1.5** *classes resume **1.6**
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.20**
- Catholic Schools Week Mass & Open House: **1.26**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.13** *12:00 dismissal
- All-Staff Professional Development – No School: **2.14**
- President’s Day – No School: **2.17**
- No School: **3.17**
- All-Staff Professional Development and Planning Day – No School: **3.31**
- All-Staff Religious Professional Development – No School: **4.16**
- Spring Break: **4.16** – **4.27** *classes resume **4.28**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.26**
- Last Day of School for 8th Grade: **5.30**, 10:45 a.m. “Clap-out”
- Graduation: **6.1** ~ 1 p.m.
- Last Day of School: **6.4** ~ 10:30 a.m. dismissal

You belong here.



DON'T FORGET!

***1:30 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings, PLC work and council collaboration: **September 25th, October 30th, January 29th, February 26th, April 30th, May 28th.**



THE ST. JOHN FISHER ATHLETIC BOARD
IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE
2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Join our team!



*God is good,
all the time.*



*All the time,
God is good.*

2024-2025 School Mass and Prayer Service Schedule

Sunday, December 8th at 11 a.m. Preschool & Kindergarten

Monday, December 9th at 1 p.m. Immaculate Conception

All School Mass, 4th grade

Sunday, December 15th at 11 a.m. 4th grade

Friday, December 20th at 10 a.m. Christmas Prayer Service, 8th grade

Sunday, December 24th at 4 p.m. 1st & 2nd graders at Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, January 19th at 11 a.m. Girls' Volleyball & Basketball

Sunday, January 26th at 11 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass

Saturday, March 8th at 11 a.m. Confirmation for 8th graders

Monday & Tuesday, Feb. 24th & 25th at 6 p.m. First Reconciliation
for 2nd graders

Wednesday, March 5th at 1 p.m. Ash Wednesday All School Mass, 8th grade

Saturday, March 15th at 4 p.m. Saint Patrick's Mass, 3rd grade

Wednesday, March 26th at 1 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 7th grade

Sunday, April 6th at 11 a.m. Spring Sports

Tuesday, April 15th at 1 p.m. Holy Week All School Prayer Service 8th, grade

Wednesday, April 16th - Religious Enrichment for Faculty Professional Day

Saturday, May 3rd at 1 p.m. First Holy Communion

Friday, May 9th at 10:30 a.m. May Crowning, 8th grade

Friday, May 23rd at 8:15 a.m. Ribbon Mass 8th grade

Sunday, June 1st at 1 p.m. Graduation Mass 8th grade

Thursday, June 4th at 9:15 a.m. Last Day of School Mass 7th grade

**Dates are subject to change*



2024-2025 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

CONTACT US



- Assignments
- Homework
- Class Activities

Contact [Classroom Teacher](#) by email or note.

- Discipline
- Classroom & Academic Support *after* contacting the teacher
- 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@sjfschool.us

- Reporting Attendance

E-mail attendance@sjfschool.us

- Schedules
- Calendar
- Arrival/Dismissal
- Miscellaneous Questions

Mrs. Kris Houston: khouston@sjfschool.us

- Registration
- Admissions
- MedicalForms

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

- Powerschool
- Tuition & Fees
- Technology
- Hot Lunch

Mrs. Delphine Maxwell: dmaxwell@sjfschool.us

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

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

- Student Services

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Claire Larmon: clarmon@sjfschool.us

- Student Accommodation Plans

Ms. Mary Schiavone (K-4): mschiavone@sjfschool.us
Mrs. Karen Brogan (5-8): kbrogan@sjfschool.us



2024-2025 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

CONTACT US

- Reading Intervention

Ms. Mary Schiavone, mschiavone@sjfschool.us

- Math Intervention

Ms. Molly Cummings, mcummings@sjfschool.us

- Public Relations

Mrs. Megan Corley, mcorley@sjfschool.us

- Parent Newsletter
- Financial Aid Applications
- School Procedures
- Administrative Matters
- Policy
- Further assistance on any matter listed above
- Academic/Classroom support following communication with Mrs. Larmon

Contact SJF Principal,
Mrs. Maura Nash: mnash@sjfschool.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: sjfsab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: sjffsa103@gmail.com
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com

