



NOTES FROM MRS. NASH

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL *Welcome Home Falcons!*

AUGUST 26, 2023

Dear SJF Families,

We had the best three days and can't wait for our first full week of school! In case you missed it, [here is a little video](#) we created showcasing the first day of school! This week we are grateful for air-conditioning, our live ZOOM morning announcements that allow us to begin our day celebrating birthdays and praying together as a school, Boot Camp 2.0 and most importantly reconnecting with friends, teachers and staff members! Excitement fills the air as our students, staff and faculty members begin to build strong relationships and get used to their new routine. The possibilities for success and growth are endless. This is going to be our best year yet! **We cannot wait to see you all on Tuesday, August 29th from 7-8 p.m. for our "Back to School Night" event (adults only!).** See the itinerary below.

Now more than ever, it is a great time to be a Falcon! The future of our school and community is bright! 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

Back to School Night Agenda

August 29th 7-8 p.m.

- **Pop in and visit your child's classroom and teacher anytime between 7 and 8 p.m.**
- **Receive important information that you will need in order to partner with us this year to help your child with his/her academics at home.**
- **See your child's learning environment and learn about his/her day.**
- **Don't forget to visit Special Classes & Resource!**
- **Listen to a brief presentation at 7:30 from Mrs. Nash on the classroom smartboard and find out if you won the tuition raffle!**

Uniform & Arrival Reminders

- Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade should dress in their school uniforms every day. **No SJF hoodies or spirit wear are allowed Monday - Thursday.** Please see pages 15-16 of our Student Handbook [linked here](#). Uniforms can be purchased at Schools' Are Us, 3146 West 111th Street, Chicago 60655. **Special classes begin next week. Students need to wear their gym uniform and gym shoes on their gym day!*
- **Falcon Fridays continue this year!** Students can wear Falcon spirit-wear t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies with their uniform bottoms on Falcon Fridays! (The *You Belong Here* t-shirts are for Falcon Fridays ONLY)
- **Staggered arrival times:** Students with the last name beginning with letters A-L should arrive at 7:45 and students with the last name beginning with letters M-Z should arrive at 7:50. Students will be considered late at 7:55. **don't forget about the new tardy policy.*

Important Announcements

- **SJF's Tuition Raffle:** 3 Tickets went home to every family yesterday. All money must be turned into the office by August 29th. The winner will be drawn at Back to School Night on August 29th. Thank you for your support! **Extra tickets are available for purchase at the Manna Office.*
- The **Parish Picnic is Sunday @ Beverly Park** beginning at 11 a.m. with Mass. See you there!
- **Extended Day** will begin on Monday August 28th. Don't forget to [sign-up your child here](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Mrs. O'Grady, dogrady@sjfschool.us
- The **Parish Picnic is this Sunday @ Beverly Park.** Mass is at 11 a.m. and food and activities follow. See you there!
- The **Lunch Program will begin on Tuesday, September 5th.** The menu is available and ready for ordering. Lunches have gone up to \$6.25 and milk only is .85.

Bootcamp 2.0

- This week's **bootcamp** was a huge success! Our Falcons followed a schedule and traveled with their homerooms to all of the different areas of the building they utilize throughout the week. While at each station, they learned and were reminded of the behavioral expectations throughout campus so that together we can be safe, responsible and respectful whether we are in the church, the lunch room, the hallway, the bathroom, Spanish Class, Art Class, the Library, the Gym and/or the Computer Room.
- Additionally, we are also **focusing on manners and getting back to the basics of just saying hello to one another.** Somewhere along the lines, it seems our students have gotten away from greeting adults and one another. We talked at lengths about the importance of greeting adults and friends both on and off campus by name if they know it and if not, **just say hi!**

We have noticed a change in some of the habits of our Falcons in our post COVID world. Some of the changes have been positive and some of the changes have been negative. The SJF Faculty and Staff have spent time reflecting on some of the changes in behavior coupled with our policies and have decided it is in the very best interest of our Falcons to make the following changes to our Tardy Policy and Academic Study Hall Policy. We will continue to address these behaviors throughout the year utilizing our traits of the month, but beginning with our Back to School Bootcamp 2.0!

Update: SJF Tardy Policy

Students arriving to school AFTER the 7:55 a.m. bell require an adult to sign them in at the School Office.

- Being on time is an important life skill we strive to reinforce with students. If a student arrives after the 7:55 bell has rung, he/she is late for school and consequently, this disrupts his/her class.
- All students arriving after 7:55 a.m. must enter through the main entrance **with an adult** and report to the School Office. The adult must sign them in at that time.
- If a child enters school without an adult, a parent/guardian will be called to return to school to sign-in the child.
- Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their homeroom by 7:55 a.m.
- Tardy slips will be issued by the School Office.
- Excessive tardiness indicates a lack of effort to improve the behavior and will result in an administrative review.
- Establishing this good habit will be useful not just in academic contexts, but also in their personal and professional life in the future.

Update: Academic Eligibility Study Hall

SJF will no longer host the mandatory academic eligibility study hall.

- All students are to perform to the best of their ability.
- There will now be 2 progress checks per trimester.
- If a student has 2 D's and/or an F average in any class at the progress report check or report card distribution time, that student cannot attend any St. John Fisher sanctioned extra-curricular activities (including athletic practices and games) for one week.
- In some cases a parent meeting will be required to determine when a student can return to extra-curricular activities. St. John Fisher reserves the right to determine a student's eligibility.



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.**



St. John Fisher FSA Tuition Raffle

\$50 per ticket or 3 for \$100

August 12th - August 29th

Tickets and money must be returned to school
no later than August 29th

Winner will be announced at Open House on
August 29th

Prizes

These prizes are based on a **minimum of 200 tickets sold.

1st Place - One year tuition credit for one student OR \$5000 cash

2nd Place - \$500 Tuition credit or \$400 cash

3rd Place - \$250 Tuition credit or \$150 cash

**If you need extra tickets please contact
Karen McDonagh 773-852-9605**

Prizes adjusted for **100 - 200 tickets sold:**

1st Place - ½ year tuition credit or \$3000 cash
2nd Place - \$400 tuition credit or \$400 cash
3rd Place - \$200 tuition credit or \$200 cash

Prizes adjusted for **less than 100 tickets sold:**

1st Place - \$1500 tuition credit or \$1500 cash
2nd Place - \$400 tuition credit or \$400 cash
3rd Place - \$200 tuition credit or \$200 cash

A Show and Snacks September 7th



Food Truck available at 6:45

Show starts at 7:15

Snacks for sale

Bring your lawn chairs and
blankets

**bathrooms will not be
available**

**no bikes/skates allowed*



FUTURE FALCON CHEERLEADERS



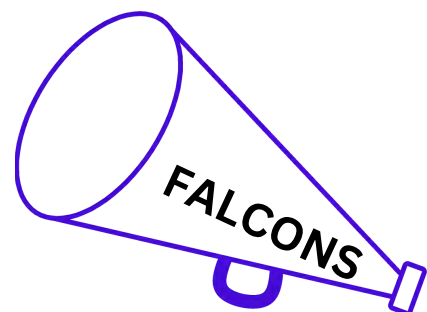
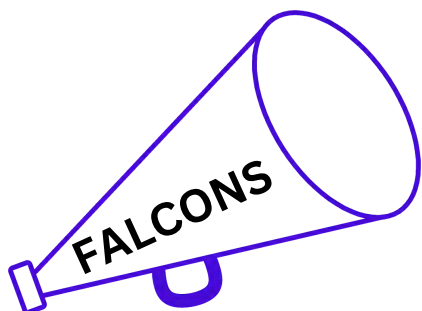
CALLING ALL K- 4TH GRADERS!

**COME AND TRAIN TO BE A FUTURE FALCON CHEERLEADER!
THE STUDENTS WILL LEARN A CHEER AND A DANCE TO BE
PERFORMED AT HALFTIME OF THE HOMECOMING GAME ON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023.**

**STUDENTS WILL PRACTICE ON
TUESDAY 9-12-23 AND THURSDAY 9-14-23
AFTER SCHOOL FROM 3-4:15 PM.**

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP ENDS FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH.

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CAMP, THE PARADE , AND GAME DAY
WILL BE SENT OUT CLOSER TO THE DATE!**





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St. John Fisher Abbreviated Calendar

*Below is a list of important dates for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Book Day & Packet Pick-up in Kane Hall: **8.17** ~ 5-7 p.m.
- School Supply Drop-off: **8.22** (*for students in grades pre-k – 3 ONLY*) ~ 4-6 p.m.
- First Day of School: **8.23** ~ 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- Back to School Mass & Parish Picnic at Beverly Park: **8.27** ~ 11 a.m.
- Back to School Open House: **8.29** ~ 7-8 p.m.
- Labor Day – No School: **9.4**
- School Picture Day: **9.19**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **10.4, 10.5**
- No School: **10.6**
- Indigenous Peoples' Day – No School: **10.9**
- Picture Day Make-up: **11.1**
- All-Staff Professional Development – No School: **11.6**
- Thanksgiving Break: **11.22 – 11.26** *classes resume **11.27**
- **12.22** ~ 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- Christmas Break: **12.22 – 1.7** *classes resume **1.8**
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.15**
- Graduation Pictures: **1.23**
- Catholic Schools Week Mass: **1.28**
- Confirmation: **2.10** ~ 11 a.m.
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.15**
- All-Staff Professional Development – No School: **2.16**
- President's Day – No School: **2.19**
- First Reconciliation: **2.27 & 2.28**
- All-Staff Professional Development and Planning Day: **3.4**
- Graduation Picture Make-up: **3.5**
- All-Staff Religious Professional Development – No School: **3.27**
- Spring Break: **3.28 – 4.7** *classes resume **4.8**
- First Holy Communion: **5.4** ~ 1 p.m.
- May Crowning: **5.10** ~ 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. All-School Early Dismissal
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.27**
- Last Day of School for 8th Grade: **5.31**, 10:45 a.m. "Clap-out"
- Graduation: **6.2** ~ 1 p.m.
- Last Day of School: **6.6** ~ 10:30 a.m. dismissal

***1:30 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings, PLC work and council collaboration: **September 27th, October 25th, November 29th, January 31st, February 28th, March 20th, April 24th, May 29th.**

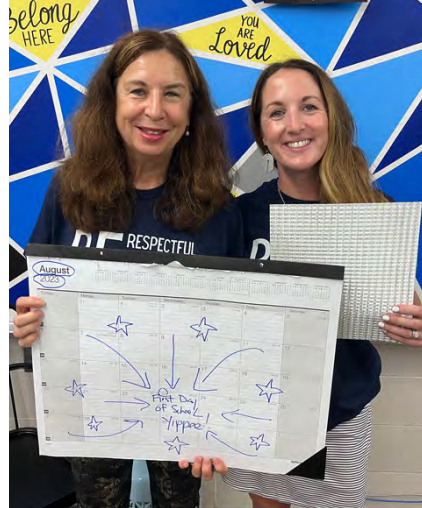
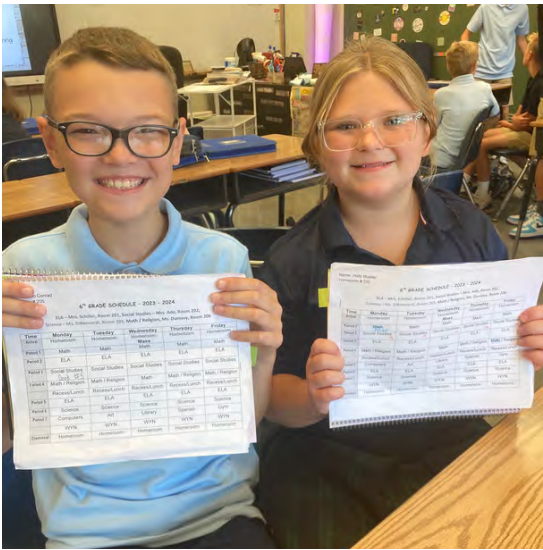
WELCOME BACK FALCONS!











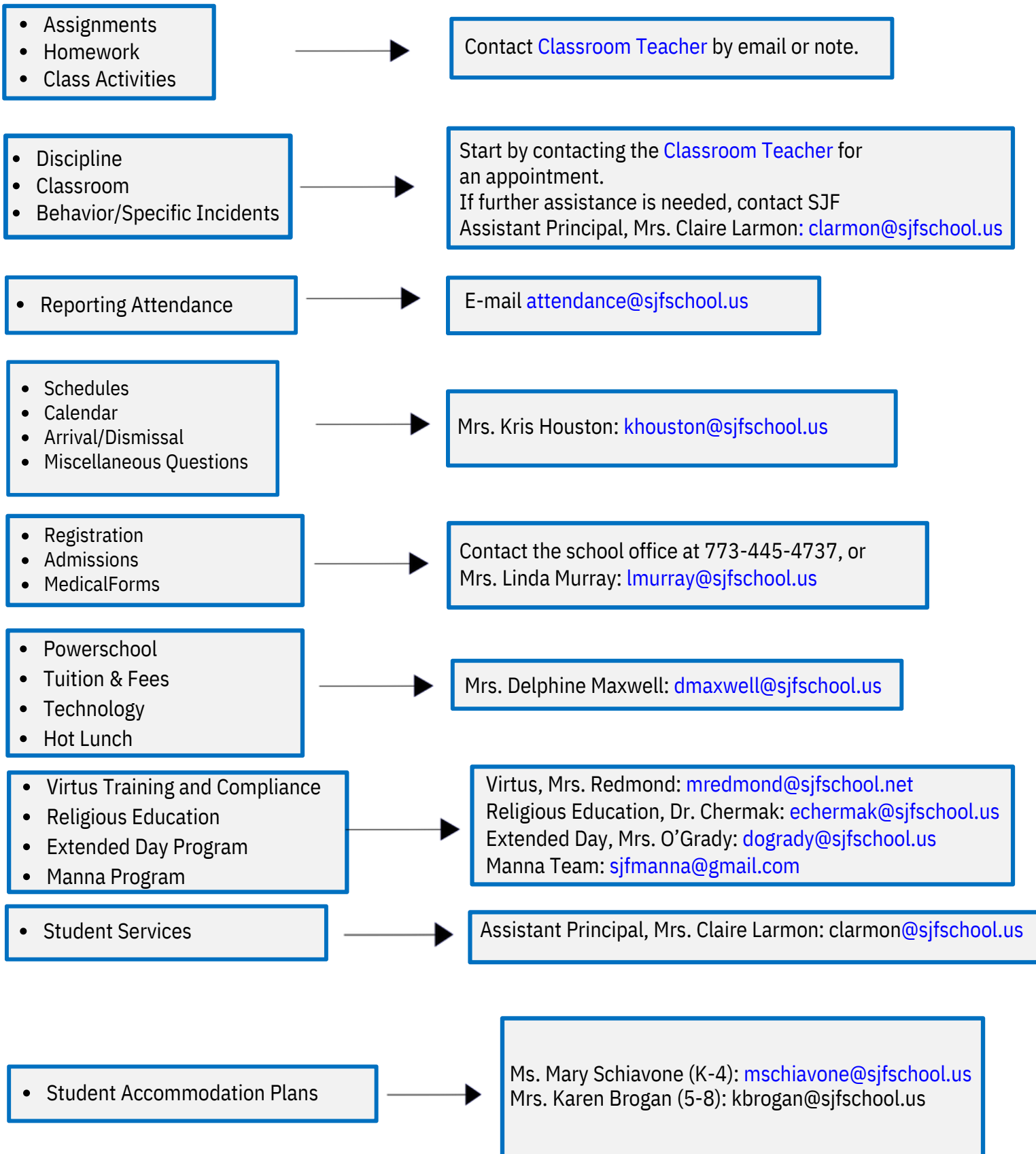






2023-2024 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern...



(more information on the back page)



2023-2024 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

- Reading Intervention

Ms. Mary Schiavone, mschiavone@sjfschool.us

- Math Intervention

Ms. Molly Cummings, mcummings@sjfschool.us

- Public Relations

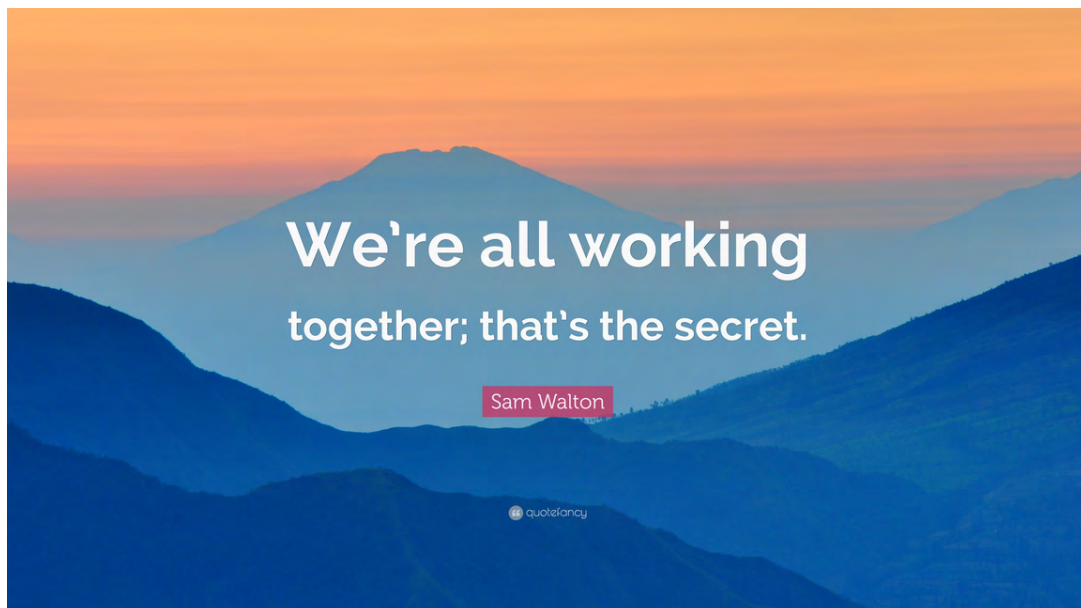
Mrs. Megan Corley, mcorley@sjfschool.us

- Parent Newsletter
- Financial Aid Applications
- School Procedures
- Administrative Matters
- Policy
- Further assistance on any matter listed above

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



A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.

AMEN

YOU

BELONG

here