



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

August 13, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

I hope and pray that you are soaking up every second of these last few weeks of summer before school begins! We have been working hard over the past few months to prepare for and safely welcome your children back to a much more normal environment! We are eager to have our Falcons back with us and are thrilled to share with you some of our exciting updates outlined below in our important announcements section and flyers.

[Here is a link to the most recent archdiocese newsletter](#) communicating the updated COVID policies for this upcoming school year. The most commonly asked question has been about the masking policy. At this point, the archdiocese is following the Governor's mandate and CDC guidelines which requires students and staff to wear masks while indoors regardless of one's vaccination status. This policy will be reviewed every two weeks and is subject to change as needed. At SJF, we will utilize the pop-up tents we invested in last year so that every student will have an opportunity to learn outside each day free from wearing his/her mask. Other than the masking detail, the majority of our daily operations are back to normal! Teachers have already designed their rooms with tables and flexible seating, students are able to face one another and eat in the lunchroom, we do not need to remain in cohorts, students can switch classrooms and will be intermingled throughout the day in our upper grades. Our learning and play centers are back and students can share materials. Athletics, the spring musical, band, E.T.C.'s, chess club, homework club and all other extra-curricular activities are back! We are so excited to embark on this much more normal school year with all of you and we continue to remain so grateful for your constant support and partnership.

Now more than ever, it is a great time to be a Falcon! The future of our school and community is bright! We look forward to seeing you at Packet Pick-up Night on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-7. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,

*-Mrs. Maura Nash*

## Important Announcements

- *Falcons, we have **AIR CONDITIONING** in EVERY classroom!*
- We continue to improve our **landscaping and campus grounds** in partnership with our facilities committee lead by Tim Bush and Chas Hayes and **Gemini Landscaping** which is locally owned by one of our school families. Please be sure to check out the new landscaping around the playground!
- **School Supply drop-off for grades kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> is **Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm**.** All other students should bring their supplies ([list linked here](#)) on the first day of school.
- This year *we will return to our regular Wednesday schedule* and dismiss at 2:55 for grades pre-k – 8 with the exception of 1:00 dismissals on: **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>, and May 4<sup>th</sup>** for faculty and staff professional development and PLC work. Please see other important dates outlined below.
- Our **staggered arrival times** will continue this year in order to ease the morning traffic flow. Students with the last name beginning with letters A-L should arrive at 7:45 a.m. and students with the last name beginning with letters M-Z should arrive at 7:50. Students will be considered late at 7:55.

- We are thrilled to welcome **40 new families** to SJF!
- We opened up a **4<sup>th</sup> pre-school room** and this year our youngest Falcons will be separated into 3 and 4-year-old classes.
- This year **Spanish** will be taught weekly in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and monthly in grades pre-k – 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We have purchased a new phonics curriculum, **Fundations**, for grades pre-k – 2.
- **All** of our **students** are now **1:1 with technology**.
- Our **Hot Lunch** program is back this year!
- We are contracting with **Chess Wizards** to provide an extra-curricular opportunity for students in grades k-8. More information regarding Chess Wizards will be shared at packet pick-up night.
- The **parish picnic is back!** Please save the date for **Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** and see the flyer below for more information.
- The roller-skating party is back! Please **save the date for our back-to-school skating party on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** in the church parking lot.
- **Summer Math and Reading Packets** for **grades 1st – 8th** are [posted here](#). Please make sure your student completes this summer prep work **prior** to the first day of school which is August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Visit **SJF's enrichment support** and activity page, [linked here](#), compiled by our resourceful **resource department!**
- **School Uniforms:** Please see pages 15-16 of our Student Handbook [linked here](#). Uniforms can be purchased at Schools' Are Us as well as Packet Pick-Up Night on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 in Kane Hall.

### COVID Update

#### 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.

### FACTS Update

- All of the tuition agreements for the 2021-2022 school year have been finalized in FACTs. The first payment, which consists of all of the school fees and the first month of tuition will be deducted on **August 15th, 2021**. If you have any questions at this time, feel free to reach out to our FACTs customer service team or SJF's tuition administrator, Delphine Maxwell, [dmaxwell@sjschool.net](mailto:dmaxwell@sjschool.net). MANNA credits from the previous school year will be applied to your first payment once you have finalized your agreement.

### MANNA Update

- Manna Selling Hours continue through the summer **except for Fridays**. (M 8-9:30 AM, W 6-7:30PM, TH 8-9:30AM, SAT 8:30-9:30AM, SUN 10:30-11:30AM). Stop in or use the [RAISE RIGHT APP ON-THE GO](#).
- Many families are getting used to the App and finding it much easier to meet the requirement without much hassle thru everyday purchases.
- With your support, we hope we can get closer to the \$100,000 school fundraising goal to help balance the school budget and maintain competitive tuition rates.
- Check out the [Manna website](#) for more info. Email the Manna team at [Sjfmanna@gmail.com](mailto:Sjfmanna@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Pro Labore Dei Update

- The SJF community can continue to help Pro Labore Dei fight hunger throughout the summer months. Food donations for the weekly PLD food drive can be dropped off at the church parking lot between 10:30 and 11:00 am EVERY Saturday morning, or at the rectory office during the week. If you need a donation picked up please contact Pam O'Mara, 773-612-0981 or Pat Hayes 773-203-7881. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. We have shoppers. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity!

## 2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



\*Below is a list of important dates for the 2021-2022 school year. Because of the unpredictable world we live in, these dates are subject to change. We are hopeful for a more “normal” school year ahead!

- First Day of School: **8.25** ~ 11:30 dismissal
- Labor Day – No School: **9.6**
- All-Staff Professional Development (no classes): **9.24**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **10.6, 10.7**
- No School: **10.8**
- Columbus Day – No School: **10.11**
- 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**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17**
- President’s Day Break: **2.18 – 2.21** \*classes resume **2.22**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.14**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** \*classes resume **4.25**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes: **6.1**
- Last Day of School: **6.8** ~ 10:30 dismissal

\***Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled earlier next year** with the intent to make a formal connection with parents weeks before the first marking period in an effort to partner and support students’ needs sooner and PRIOR to the end of the first trimester.

\***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>.**



# SJF FACULTY UPDATES 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

SJF is sad to announce the departure of Ms. Erin Deering, 5th and 6th grade Social Studies and Mrs. Camie O'Shea, 5th and 6th grade Science. Ms. Deering and Mrs. O'Shea have taken new opportunities in the public school setting. We are grateful for the many years they have dedicated to our school and we wish them nothing but the best in their new roles!

Currently, our world is experiencing a significant teacher shortage. This trend is impacting many of the schools in our area. We cannot express enough the overwhelming appreciation we have for our incredibly talented faculty and staff who sacrifice so much to work at St. John Fisher School. We are excited to announce the below faculty transitions and welcome our new faculty members to the SJF Family!

## **Faculty Transitions**

*Mrs. Diane O'Grady*, 3-year-old pre-school aide and Director of Extended Day

*Mrs. Katie Ball*, 1st grade

*Mrs. Laura Kovatch*, 4th grade ELA and Spelling

*Mrs. Sherry Hughes & Mrs. Phyllis Sullivan*, 4th grade Science and Math

*Mrs. Courtney Namoff*, 4th grade Social Studies, Religion and Grammar

*Mr. Niko Kutsulis*, 5th & 6th grade Social Studies

*Mrs. Patrice Folliard*, 7th & 8th grade Religion and Math Support

*Ms. Noreen Higgins*, 7th & 8th grade Global Studies

*Mrs. Megan Corley*, Part-time Art and Public Relations

*Ms. Lindsey Surin*, Part-time Art and Primary Aide

## **Welcome New Faculty Members!**

*Mrs. Janet Otto*, 3-year-old part-time Pre-school and Resource Support

*Ms. Krista DiBennardi*, 5th & 6th grade Science

*Ms. Molly Cummings*, 5th & 6th grade Math, PLC Coordinator and Math Intervention

*Mrs. Isabel Flores*, full-time Spanish Teacher for grades 2nd - 8th

# Together Our Future is Bright!

**AUG  
18**

# **PACKET PICK-UP NIGHT**

## **4-7 p.m. in Kane Hall**

**\*Please wear a masks indoors - thank you!**

## **Packet Pick-Up Night Agenda**

- \*Receive your teacher assignment**
- \*Pick up your new “The Future is Bright” t-shirt! \*a limited number of t-shirts will be available to purchase on a first come first serve basis**
- \*Turn in your medical forms**
- \*Fill out and turn in your emergency card information**
- \*Sign and complete your technology agreement**
- \*Purchase your gym and school uniforms**
- \*Utilize our uniform exchange program**
- \*Sign-up for Extended Day**
- \*Purchase Manna**
- \*Purchase Garden Flags**
- \*Receive a calendar of upcoming social and fundraising events**
- \*Visit with and receive information from the following school and community organizations:**
  - Athletics**
  - Band**
  - Girl Scouts**
  - Cub Scouts**
  - Family School Association (FSA)**
  - Women’s Club**
  - Men’s Club**
  - School Advisory Board (SAB)**

**We cannot wait to see you. It is going to be a great year.  
Together, our future is bright!**

**ST. John Fisher**

# Parish

FOOD • FAMILY • FAITH

**PICNIC**

Beverly Park



CELEBRATE BACK TO SCHOOL WITH MASS IN THE PARK.

**AUGUST 29TH • 11:00 AM MASS**

Stay for some Food & Football!

A SJF Tradition - Blue/Gray Football Scrimmages

1:00 pm - 4th Grade

2:00 pm - 5th & 6th Grade

3:00 pm - 7th & 8th Grade