



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

December 17, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

It's hard to believe that Christmas is one week away! This month has flown by at a rapid pace. This week we were blessed to have the in-person return of our Pre-school Christmas concert and the Kindergarten Nativity Pageant. Nothing can put you in the holiday spirit quite like those performances! Thank you to all of our Falcon families who attended and supported these endeavors. A huge-shout-out to our patient pre-school and kindergarten staff as well for making this possible regardless of the distancing and mask restrictions. All of the extra planning and preparation was worth it! Also, thank you to all of the families who entered into our Gingerbread house decorating contest this week. What a fun holiday activity!

Next week is short, sweet and filled with more Christmas cheer. Please see below for the details. As a school community, we continue to pray hard for those who are sick and/or quarantined during this time. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. Enjoy this wondrous Christmas season!

In unity and hope,
Mrs. Maura Nash



Important Announcements

- **Monday, December 20th** is *Ugly Sweater Day* and our all-school sing-a-long!
- **Tuesday, December 21st** is *Christmas PJ Day*! Students can order cookies and milk straight from the North Pole. Please see the attached order form.
***Gluten Free Oreos will be available.**
- **December 21st** is an *11:30 dismissal*.
- The ***January Lunch Menu*** is open for ordering.
- **FSA's Mother Son Bulls Game is January 30th**. Please see the attached flyer for ticket information.
- You can purchase **new SJF swag at our Squadlocker Store** [linked here](#). A portion of the proceeds is donated back to SJF's FSA.
- **Extended Day**: Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, dogrady@sjschool.us.

Looking Ahead

Weekend Mass	Join us for Mass : 4 p.m. on Saturday, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday ~ <i>The Fourth Week of Advent</i>
Saturday, December 18th	ETC 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingle Mingle Sing with Santa w/ Mrs. Altman
Monday, December 20th	Ugly Sweater Dress-down Day All-School Christmas Sing-a-long
Tuesday, December 21st	11:30 Dismissal Christmas Break Begins!
Wednesday, December 21st – Wednesday, January 5th	Christmas Break!
Thursday, January 6th	Classes Resume

**The best way to spread Christmas cheer
is singing loud for all to hear!**

Athletic Spirit Wear

SPIRIT WEAR SHIRTS ARE IN!

- Spirit wear shirts can be picked up between 9am-3pm on Saturday at the Conner T Lowry Gym.
- Please print out your receipt and bring it with you to make the process run much smoother.

*Thank you again for supporting SJF Athletics,
it is greatly appreciated.*

-The Athletic Board

Athletics

To ensure SJF is able to host athletic competitions and that our teams are eligible to compete, we need everyone's cooperation and assistance in adhering to the COVID protocols established by the Archdiocese COVID-19 Task Force.

- **ALL spectators, coaches, players and gym staff must wear masks** in the gym and school building during all games and practices.
- As a reminder, **if your child misses school due to an illness** (fever, throwing up, headache, etc.), **he or she cannot attend that day's athletic practice or game.**
- Please ensure your children **represent SJF well** as they compete and cheer on other Falcon teams. Good sportsmanship matters!

Student conduct in the gym, on the stage, and in the hallways during sporting events outside of school hours continues to be an issue. Garbage is left all over the stage, stairways, and hallways. Please remind your child to take pride in our school and pick up and throw out his/her garbage. ***Students should not attempt to enter any part of the school building while they are attending athletic competitions at SJF.***

COVID GUIDANCE & REMINDERS

- If your child or a household member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, **please call the school office, 773-445-4737, during the school office hours, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and/or email attendance@sjfschool.us.**
 - If you contact the school office outside of regular scheduled office hours, ***we will get back to you the next business day.*** Thank you for your patience!
- **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. **This rule INCLUDES athletes, coaches, and spectators indoors at sporting events.**

- A **close contact** constitutes being within 3 feet of a positive individual, un-masked for more than 15 minutes. If your child is considered a close contact, you will be contacted separately and will receive specific quarantine guidance.
 - **Updated Athletic Guidance per the Archdiocese: If a student athlete tests positive, all of his/her teammates will be considered close contacts and will be required to quarantine. If a teammate is vaccinated and asymptomatic, he/she will not need to quarantine.**
- In addition to proper masking, SJF cleans and sanitizes desks and tables multiple times throughout the day. Our classrooms are cleaned daily. Our building is deep cleaned every weekend. Our students sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the classroom/lunchroom. We are following the archdiocese guidance and working hard every day to ensure our children and staff remain healthy and safe.
- Please review the most recent communication from the archdiocese [linked here](#). These guidelines will be reviewed every two weeks and are subject to change.

2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- Christmas Break: **12.22 – 1.5** *classes resume **1.6**,
 - **12.21** is an **11:30 dismissal**
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.17**
- First Reconciliation: **1.25, Ms. Surin's Room & 1.26, Mrs. Kellam's Room**
- Catholic Schools Week: **1.30 – 2.5**
- Confirmation: **2.6**
- 8th Grade Graduation Pictures: **2.9**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17**
- President's Day Break: **2.18 – 2.21** *classes resume **2.22**
- End of Second Trimester: **3.8**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.14**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** *classes resume **4.25**
- First Communion: **4.30**
- May Crowning: **5.6**
- 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: **November 3rd, December 1st, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th.**



FALCON OF THE WEEK

Alex Arvia, 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. 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 5th grader, Alex Arvia.**

Alex was unanimously nominated by the fifth and sixth grade teachers to be this week's Falcon of the Week! Alex consistently displays the manners, respect and positive attitude that we hope to see in every Falcon, every day at school. Alex is kind and generous to everyone around him. Whether it is in class, in the hallway or at recess, Alex is always showing compassion and warmth to his peers. Thank you, Alex, for being such a bright light for all of us at SJF. We are lucky you are a Falcon and grateful we get to learn from your example each day. Keep flying like a Falcon, Alex. You are making a difference!

WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **MS. BROWNE** FROM **JUNIOR HIGH**.

Schools in our country are suffering from a significant teacher shortage. SJF is fortunate to be fully staffed with some of the best teachers around. We are proud of our incredible faculty and want to pause to celebrate them! This week we celebrate, **Ms. Cathy Browne!**



1. How long have you been at SJF? **This is my 9th year teaching at SJF. I've taught 7th and 8th grade math during my years here.**
2. What do you love about SJF? **From my first day here at SJF, everyone made me feel so welcome. I feel so fortunate to work with such talented and caring people. Our students impress me everyday. I am proud to be a part of the SJF community.**
3. How do you keep your students interested in learning about math? **Math is a part of everyday life. Strong math skills are necessary for every career choice. I try to use as many "real world" examples, as well as topics that interest my students while teaching.**
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? **I'm a Certified Public Accountant. Teaching Jr High math is my "second act". Prior to teaching, I worked in the financial services industry.**

POLAR EXPRESS DAY









8TH GRADE CELEBRATED LAS POSADAS, A CHRISTMAS TRADITION, IN SPANISH CLASS TODAY



**WE HAD 27 AMAZING GINGERBREAD HOUSE SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR CONTEST!
CONGRATS TO OUR WINNERS 8TH GRADERS EDIE WHITE AND IVY HARRIS!**





Join us for an evening benefitting

THE FISHER FALCON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH 2022

6:00 PM TO 11:00 PM

Ridge Country Club

OPEN BAR . HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES . LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO FOLLOW



MANNA
has your
Christmas List
Covered!



Visit MANNA 'Cash and Carry' Hours at the Convent (on Fairfield side)

Monday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Friday 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (school days only)
Saturdays 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Sundays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Or buy online at www.ShopWithScrip.com

All online orders (including local stores) must be placed **by noon on Sunday**
for pick up starting Wednesday evening.



Group Outings

ST. JOHN FISHER **MOTHER & SON** GROUP OUTING WITH THE CHICAGO BULLS IS BACK!!!!



Enjoy a legendary outing at the United Center for a Chicago Bulls game with St. John Fisher mothers and sons!

Share the excitement of Bulls basketball and the NBA's leading entertainment experience as the team takes on the Portland Trailblazers. Each ticket purchase also includes access to a private pregame shootaround with 100-level access from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Be a part of Bulls Nation today.

Get your tickets now through the link below!

BULLS VS. TRAIL BLAZERS

Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 2:30 PM

Tickets: <https://offer.fevo.com/bulls-vs-trail-blazers-qslamuw-f7e753e>

United Center COVID rules: <https://www.unitedcenter.com/venue/know-before-you-go/>

**Seats in sections 306, 307, and 308 are reserved for SJF*

**Tickets starting at \$31*

**Price and sections guaranteed only through January 1st!!!*