



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts

St. John Fisher School – Together, we've got this!

December 4, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

We hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and loved ones! The generosity you have shown for our school and parish is motivating and inspiring. We are beyond grateful for all of the support you have given to our various fundraisers including the S & T Voucher Program, FSA Santa Visit Event, MANNA and our Parish Raffle! As we prepare for and enter into this holiday season, we continue to pray for each of you and recognize how blessed we are that you are a part of our wonderful community.

This week our students completed their first trimester during a world-wide pandemic and we could not be more amazed by their resiliency, talent, intelligence, work ethic and sense of humor. Our Falcons have worked so hard this trimester to normalize and adapt to our new requirements that just 7 months ago, would have been unfathomable. They have overcome so many obstacles to succeed and they make us proud each and every day. We look forward to the fresh start this new trimester brings where our students can continue to grow and develop their skills. Tomorrow is the Catholic High School Entrance Exam Test. Please join me in praying for our exceptional 8th grade class as together they take this important step toward their oh-so-bright future. We are confident that they will accomplish wondrous things!

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

Important Announcements

- **HoHoHo! FSA Santa Visit Payment** is due to the School Office **no later than December 8th**! We can accept cash or check. Please make checks out to St. John Fisher FSA. If you are not paid in full, **your spot will be open to someone else**. We cannot make any exceptions! Thank you to the families who have already submitted payment!
- The **SJF Holiday Grand Raffle Drawing** will be live-streamed on the SJF Facebook Page on December 6th after the 11:00 mass. Thank you for your incredible support!
- **MANNA UPDATE:** All school families **will receive** an individual report **next week** in your oldest child's folder outlining your school earnings and tuition credit so far this year. Please review the letter in detail and email sjfmanna@gmail.com if you have any questions. **Some families have reached the \$300 school earnings requirement already! Thank you!** The Manna program is the school's single largest regular fundraising effort without any cost to you. We appreciate increased engagement in recent months resulting in almost 60% of school families registered; however, we are significantly behind the revenue goal we set to help balance the school's operating budget. Any shortage to the minimum \$300 required Manna contribution will be billed to the school family and due by May 15th. If a family achieves the \$300 in earnings for the school, it will simultaneously accrue a \$450 tuition credit. WinWin! See [Manna Website](#) for additional info on how to get started.

- The **Archdiocese Parent Survey results** were shared with schools this past week. Based on the data, just over 70% of SJF families are supportive of learning in-person until Christmas Break; similarly, 92% of SJF families have a high satisfaction and comfort level with in-person learning as well as with our COVID health and safety procedures. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.
- **Christmas Break** is right around the corner. To clarify, we are scheduled to be learning in-person on December 21st and 22nd with an 11:30 dismissal on the 22nd. Remote learning begins on Wednesday, January 6th. More detail regarding our remote learning schedule will be shared with you in the coming weeks.
- **Our buddy Beau Dowling** undergoes surgery this Monday, December 7th. Please continue to pray for Beau and his family. SJF Stands with Beau – we are Beau Strong!
- **SJF Spirit-wear** makes great Christmas gifts. Shop our [squadlocker store here!](#)

COVID Reminders

- Here are answers to some of our most frequently asked questions:
 - ***If a student becomes ill at school and has 1 or more COVID symptoms, the student and his/her siblings will be sent home.*** The School Office will send an e-mail to parents communicating that in order for their family to return back to school, parents must share documentation of a negative COVID test result or a doctor's note indicating that the diagnosis is not COVID related.
 - When a student is absent due to an illness, the School Office will e-mail the parents:
 - ***If the symptom(s) persists for more than 24 hours, the School Office will send an e-mail to parents communicating that in order for their family to return back to school, parents must share documentation of a negative COVID test result or a doctor's note indicating that the diagnosis is not COVID related.***
 - Homework cannot be sent home with neighbors or friends, but CAN BE SENT HOME WITH SIBLINGS. Please connect with your students' teacher(s) to coordinate missing work.
 - When picking up your child early from school for whatever reason, parents are expected to wait outside the main office doors.
- If your child's classroom has to quarantine, you only need to quarantine his/her siblings if he/she is showing symptoms of COVID-19. In an effort to keep everyone safe and protect our school community at large, ***please communicate with us any documentation you receive from your doctor regarding your child's symptoms/illness.*** In order to keep everyone safe, we must always make cautious decisions with the well-being of those around us at heart. Thank you for working with us!
- ***Please partner with us and keep your children safe while outside of school. If we all follow this guidance, we will have a greater chance of keeping our doors open.*** While your child is not in school, *please remind him/her to wear a mask, keep his/her distance, wash and sanitize his/her hands, and stay home if he/she is sick.*
- This year you need to **reserve your spot for Extended Day Care**. Due to the new Covid Safety Guidance, we can only serve 50 students at a time. [Here is the form](#) to reserve your spot.



SJF STUDENTS WIN 1ST AND 2ND PLACE IN REPRESENTATIVE FRAN HURLEY'S ART CONTEST



A huge shout out to our Junior High students, Amanda Clayton (7th grade) and Nora Clancy (8th grade), for winning 1st and 2nd place in the Rep. Fran Hurley's 35th District Art Contest! Amanda won 1st place and Nora won 2nd place. We are so proud of these two as well as all of the other participating who worked so hard on their entries!

St. John Fisher Parish News

Pro Labore Dei continues to work for those in need in the Robbins, Blue Island and Posen.

- This month PLD is sponsoring a toy drive for these communities.
- We are asking each “buyer” to purchase a toy for their grade range, wrap the gift and clearly mark the outside with the specific age range and gender (if applicable).
- ***Please drop your donation off at the Rectory by December 11th***. The gifts will be sorted and distributed on December 12th. Thank you so much for your generosity!

We continue to collect meals for families every single week for distribution on Saturday mornings. Your help to those less fortunate is greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please contact Pam O’Mara, 773-612-0281.



Don't forget to join us for mass! St. John Fisher is open for **Mass** at **4 PM on Saturdays, 8 AM and 11 AM on Sundays, and 8:15 AM every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday**. **Confession** is also available every **Saturday 3 PM - 3:45 PM**. If you would like to sign up in advance for weekend Masses, you may call the rectory, 773-445-6565 or sign up online [here](#). While you are not required to sign up in advance, it helps us ensure enough space for all.



2020-2021 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

- Assignments
- Homework
- Class Activities

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

- Discipline
- Classroom 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@sjschool.net

- Attendance
- Calendars
- Schedules
- Arrival/Dismissal
- Miscellaneous Questions
- Public Relations

Contact the school office at 773-445-4737, or Mrs. Kate Spadoni: kspadoni@sjschool.net

- Registration
- Admissions
- Medical Forms

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

- Powerschool
- Tuition
- Fees

Mrs. Delphine Maxwell: dmaxwell@sjschool.net

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

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

- Counseling
- Student Support

Contact SJF Counselor and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Nichole Carey: ncarey@sjschool.net

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

Contact SJF Principal, Mrs. Maura Nash: mnash@sjschool.net

- School Board
- Athletic Programs
- Family School Association
- Women's Club
- Holy Name Society

School Advisory Board: sjsfab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: fsa@sjschool.net
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com



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.	Friday 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (school days only)
Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Saturdays 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Thursdays 8:00 - 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.



Support **SJF School** and Local Businesses during the holidays with **NO COST TO YOU!**
Purchase Holiday Gift Cards through our Manna Program.
Community Members can Earn Rebates, too (2 - 14%). Better value than credit card rewards!!

Choose from the following common packages or *Pick and Choose* select retailers and amounts from attached [form](#) with **100+ Retailers Available**. *SJF Families is aiming to sell \$1500 in gift cards this holiday season.*

Package 1: Holiday Meals

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
County Fair	\$100	3%
Town Liquor	\$50	3%
Swanson's	\$50	5%
Totals	\$200	\$7.00

Package 2*: Online Shopping

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
Amazon	\$100	2.25%
Kohl's	\$100	3%
Gap	\$100	14%
Totals	\$200	\$19.25

*(All available in ecertificates to quickly load in your cart or email as gifts)

Package 3: Stocking Stuffers

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
Dunkin Donuts	\$20	3%
Starbucks	\$20	7%
Panera Bread	\$20	5%
Beverly Bakery	\$20	6%
Chipotle	\$20	6%
Golf Galaxy	\$25	2.25%
Amazon	\$25	8%
Oberweis	\$20	5%
Total	\$200	\$8.98

Package 4: Local Dining & Carry-Out

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
Horse Thief Hallow	\$50	6%
Fox's	\$50	6%
Milano's	\$50	6%
Open Outcry	\$50	3%
Total	\$200	\$10.50

Package 5*: Teens, Kids and Grandkids

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
American Girl	\$100	9%
Target	\$50	2.50%
American Eagle	\$50	10%
Xbox	\$50	6%
TopGolf	\$50	8%
Build-A-Bear	\$25	8%
Disney	\$25	3%
Total	\$350	\$25.00

*(All available in ecertificates to quickly load in your cart or email as gifts)

Package 6: Home Décor & Improvement

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
Home Depot	\$100	4%
Bed, Bath and Beyond	\$100	7%
Home Goods & Improvement	\$50	7%
Total	\$250	\$14.50

Package 7: Look Good Feel Good!

Retailer	Amount	SJF and Families Earn:
Ulta	\$50	3%
Everything's Relative	\$50	3%
Core	\$50	3%
Total	\$150	\$3.00

Manna is our #1 School Fundraiser. We need to increase participation to balance school budget and maintain competitive tuition rates. Our Goal is to raise **\$100,000 for SJF School** through this program. Every effort counts! **Thank you for the support! You can purchase gift cards thru the program anytime of year.** See "Support us" tab on [website](#) for hours to stop in to buy or easy steps to purchase online at www.shopwithscrip.com. Email sjfmanna@gmail.com with questions!

Stop in! *Open everyday except Tuesdays:* Manna "Cash and Carry" Hours at the **Convent (on Fairfield side):** Monday 8-9:30 am, Wednesdays 6-7:30pm, Thursdays 8-9:30am, Friday 1-2:30 pm (school year), Saturdays 8:30-9:30 am, Sundays 11 - Noon



GIVE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Bring Light to Dark Times

Did you know that the **Invest in Kids Act** helps children from low-income households in Illinois access scholarships that cover up to 100 percent of a Catholic school's tuition? Thousands of students are gaining knowledge and building on their faith in Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools thanks to this program. Your support during these challenging times would help educate the next generation in Catholic students while building on a brighter future for all.

What is a tax credit scholarship?

Tax Credit Scholarships cover up to 100 percent of tuition and fees for the 2021/22 school year. Students from low-income households can qualify for tax credit scholarships if their family income is less than \$72,900. More than 9,000 students qualified for a scholarship last year and 6,300 were left waiting without one.

Cut tax liability

Individuals and corporations may receive a credit for their Illinois state taxes equal to 75 percent of donation.

Triple your impact

Donate to a school or all archdiocese schools between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, and, thanks to a few generous donors, your donation will be matched and maximized threefold! Limitations apply.

HOW IT WORKS

We use \$10K in this example, but any amount is needed.

DONATE \$10,000

After following the step-by-step guide, a taxpayer can donate \$10,000 to Empower Illinois, the Scholarship Granting Organization working with the Archdiocese. Designate the archdiocese's Catholic schools or a specific group of schools as beneficiary.

TAX REWARD CAN EQUAL \$7,500

You are eligible to claim a \$7,500 tax credit on your state taxes -75 percent of your gift! This has the potential to eliminate your 2020 tax liability.

MATCHING ANGELS: Your \$10,000 gift becomes \$30,000 in student scholarships

Each dollar you give between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, will be matched 2 for 1 by a handful of generous donors, tripling the scholarship amount and making a bigger impact on students who need your help. Limitations apply.

Illuminate a pathway to success for our children

Back to school has taken on new meaning in 2020, as many families, their students and their teachers have struggled to bring certainty into a young person's life during a time fraught with uncertainty as a global pandemic has left so many people struggling.



Families hit hardest by the COVID-19 economy have struggled to continue their children's Catholic education and put food on the table. Your donation to the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program enables those children to receive quality, faith-based education in a loving and supportive environment.

Catholic schools have long set the standard for faith, excellence in education and service to society. They have provided spiritual growth and instruction to students, in order for them to rise up from economic struggles and, in turn, contribute back to our community. Your donation is an investment that keeps our schools open and guarantees that our future generations will be afforded a quality Catholic education.

Invest in kids now: 3 easy steps

1 REGISTER

This [helpful guide from Empower Illinois](#) will walk you through the process of obtaining a donor account. You will need the primary taxpayer's SSN and one of the following: IL Driver's License #, IL State ID #, or Adjusted Gross Income from the prior year's return.

2 RESERVE

Reserve your tax credit with the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). Refer to this list of [eligible schools](#) to determine where your school of choice is located and designate Empower Illinois as your Scholarship Granting Organization. You will receive your Contribution Authorization Certificate (CAC) via email. Once you have your CAC, you are ready to donate.

3 DONATE

Once you receive confirmation of your tax credit and your CAC from IDOR, you have up to 60 days to donate to Empower Illinois. For more help, refer to page 7 of this [step-by-step guide](#).

THANK YOU!

These three simple steps make a difference in a child's life and will have a long-lasting, positive impact on our community because you have invested in Catholic education. Do not delay. Mark your calendar! This opportunity will not last.

For more information please contact the TCS hotline at **312.534.2617** or tcs@archchicago.org, or visit archchicago.org/tcs.