



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

January 7, 2022

Dear SJF Families,

Welcome back! We are feeling beyond blessed to welcome our Falcons back in the building in-person! During these uncertain times, we are grateful to have the privilege of being together. The current COVID surge reminds us how important it is to continue to be cautious during these times especially when our students are unmasked. In response to the COVID uptick, we have adjusted and tightened our lunch protocols allowing our students the opportunity to spread out even more so. During the lunch period in grades 2nd – 8th, half of our students will eat in the lunchroom and half will eat in their classroom. Separating the classes in this way affords our students the opportunity to enjoy their lunch with some of their peers from a very safe distance. Due to the smaller class sizes in primary, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students are eating in their classrooms. Our staff and some of our older Falcons are all-hands on deck to help monitor this new routine, ensuring our teachers are still able to take a break during lunch whenever possible. We are all in this together and are ready to pivot at all times to ensure our students and staff can continue to learn safely together *in-person*. We will update you if there is a need to make any additional changes to our protocols.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us each day. We are grateful for you. Thank you for choosing Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. Happy 2022!

In unity and hope,

Mrs. Maura Nash





Faculty & Staff Wellness Initiatives

Our school culture prioritizes self-care and wellness for our students, faculty and staff. As the old saying goes, you cannot pour from an empty cup. And let's face it, our cups are often empty as we all head into year two of a world-wide pandemic. Therefore, we are welcoming and encouraging the following behaviors of our St. John Fisher Faculty and Staff.

- **Dress Down January** ~ Teachers and staff can dress down the entire month of January.
- **Yoga Thursdays** ~ Cathy O'Grady from Treadfit and CORE Fitness will be joining us after school on Thursdays in January to lead us in an hour-long Yoga session to further foster our sense of community and end our week with a sense of calm.
- **Social Media Detox Challenge** ~ We are encouraging our staff to "stop scrolling and start living"! We intend to kick this initiative off with all of our students and the entire SJF community during Catholic Schools Week at the end of this month.
- **Creating a home life and work life boundary** ~ Our faculty and staff are being encouraged to only respond to emails during their working hours during the week and to totally disengage from email on the weekends. If you send an email to a teacher or staff member outside of his/her working hours, you will receive a response the following business day. Thank you for your patience and continued support of our hard-working faculty and staff!



You are important. You are kind. You are loved.

Important Announcements

- **Chess Wizards Class has been moved to Monday, January 24th and will run for 10 weeks.** Registration forms are still being accepted.
- Save the Date for our Catholic Schools' Week Family Mass on Sunday, January 30th.
- **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\(ren\) here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, dogrady@sjfschool.us.

Looking Ahead

Weekend Mass	4 p.m. on Saturday & 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday
Tuesday, January 11th	Barraco's Special Lunch! School Advisory Board Meeting @ 7 p.m. in Kane Hall
Wednesday, January 12th	Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, January 13th	Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m.
Friday, January 14th	Trimester 2 Progress Report Check
Monday, January 17th	No School in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



School Advisory Board

- The next School Advisory Board meeting is this **Tuesday, January 11th at 7 P.M. in Kane Hall**. Feel free to join us. Our agenda is focused on next year's budget and preparation for the State of the School presentation in March. If you have an additional agenda item, please email sjfsab@gmail.com.

Athletics

THANK YOU for participating in the SJF Athletic T-Shirt Fundraiser! Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase and install all new lighting in the gym. **A special shout-out to Pat O'Connor, Steve Scarsella, Bob Houston, Clint Wingate, Dave Cahill and the SJF Men's Club, and Jim Welsh and his electric company** for installing these new and improved lights over break!

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:**
 - Please review the most recent communication from the archdiocese [linked here](#) which outlines the updated quarantine time frame and guidance.
 - 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.**
- A presumed **90-day immunity window** follows proof of a positive test result for individuals who complete(d) the minimum 5-day isolation and remain symptom free.
- 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.

*We continue to pray for those impacted by COVID and any other illness.
Hang in there – we are all in this together!*

2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- 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.**

Happy NEW YEAR





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



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!!!*