



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts

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

March 26, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

Our Falcons have been working hard this Lenten Season at becoming the BEST version of themselves. We lovingly remind our Falcons that we are all in this together and that we are here to support each other every step of the way. As a community we model this goal for our children as we continue the conversation through the use of SJF's Strategic Plan Update and the UChicago Parent, Teacher and Student Survey, identifying ways in which together we can make improvements to our school community. Another aspect of our Lenten Goals is caring for those less fortunate than us. Thank you for your generosity with our Pro Labore Dei Easter Basket Initiative. As a school, we were able to create and donate 44 Easter baskets for PLD to families and children in need. They will truly feel the joy of Jesus' Resurrection and the Celebration of Easter because of you! A huge shout-out to Ms. Schiavone, Mrs. O'Shea and our A-MAZE-ING SOAR students (pictured below) for volunteering their time and organizing all of the baskets.

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education, but specifically to St. John Fisher School. Enjoy your weekend, everyone. We are so lucky to have each of you in our school community!

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash



Important Announcements

- Join us this weekend for Palm Sunday Mass! Visit the parish website, [linked here](#), to learn about our mass times and Holy Week services.
- Parents, *thank you for your participation* in the UChicago Impact Survey. Your feedback is valued and helpful as we make progress on our Continuous Improvement Plan.
- **The newest Falcon on the block:** Congratulations to Mrs. Kellam, Mr. Kellam, Bobby and Maeve as they welcomed the newest gorgeous addition to their family last week, Shea Marie! Mrs. Kellam and Shea are doing well and enjoying their time off together.
- **Attention 8th Grade Parents!** Don't forget that graduation pictures are scheduled for this Tuesday, March 30th. *If your child isn't going to be here next week, don't worry! We have a make-up date on the calendar in April as well.
- SJF's **Holy Week Prayer Service** hosted by our **Egg-cellent 8th Graders and Dr. Chermak** will be **livestreamed on Wednesday, March 31st at 10:15**. We will e-mail the link ahead of the service and post the link to our social media sites. We hope you can join us!
- **Next week's dismissal schedule and dress code** is as follows:
 - Wednesday is a 12:45 dismissal
 - Thursday is an 11:30 dismissal
 - Students should be in uniform each day
- **Love where you Learn!** BAPA has opened an online store, [linked here](#), where you can purchase t-shirts in SJF's school colors. All proceeds will go into a teacher appreciation fund! The online store closes March 31st.
- **We need your help!** SJF needs help to *decorate the church for Easter on Saturday, April 3rd at 10 a.m.* Thank you for your consideration.
- Thank you for sharing your feedback on **SJF's Strategic Plan Survey**. In case you missed it, [here is a link](#) to the Strategic Plan Presentation and [the slides](#). Together let's continue to work toward being the best version of St. John Fisher!

COVID Reminders

- In case you missed it, [here is a link to Dr. Rigg's most recent family newsletter](#) addressing the **updated quarantine and travel guidance as it related to Spring Break**.
- Our **most frequently asked question** is *when should I keep my child home from school?*
 - **If your child or ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAS 1 or more COVID symptoms, your child (and siblings) should remain at home.**
 - **If your child or ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD has a pending COVID lab test (even if the rapid is negative).**
- Each week I express my gratitude for your partnership. Our school has successfully remained open for in-person learning because of you!

MANNA News

- **Manna UPDATE:** Many families are taking advantage of the added convenience of sending gift cards home in folders. Making it a part of your regular weekly spending on groceries and take-out seems to be paying off for people. We will trial it for a few more weeks. Sign this [Waiver](#) and sign up on [shopwithscrip](#) if you are interested in having your orders sent home with your child.

- A few questions have come up related to timeline and payout. In an effort to simplify the program, **this year we moved to one annual payout**. To explain more on why, this year, we reviewed the process and looked for areas to add convenience but also areas to simplify and reduce cost so that any added value goes directly to the school and families. You can expect **your individual payout each August** reflected on your "Book Day" tuition bill. Related, about May 15th, you will see a fundraising fee in FACTS if you have not reached the \$300 school earnings requirement (\$300 minus what you've earned for the school thru the program). Remember, the \$175 fundraising fee that was normally charged at the start of the year was eliminated to give families an opportunity to reduce the fee as much as they can. The deadline to accrue towards the \$300 requirement is April 30th. Thank you all for your participation! It's making a difference.



A note regarding Spring Break and our missing work policy.

Dear SJF Families,

I hope this note finds you well. I am sure that you are all feeling the excitement of the upcoming Spring Break providing a hiatus from work and school and anticipating the newfound energy that the warm weather brings!

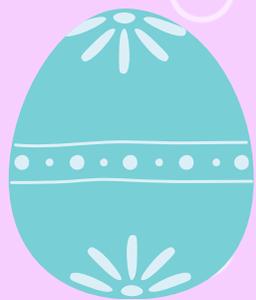
This week we have learned that there are many families who are taking their Spring Break the week before St. John Fisher's Spring Break. Requests have been made to receive missing work ahead of the student's absence. In regard to vacations, the SJF Handbook states: *Parents/guardians who take their child(ren) out of school for vacation may not request that teachers make special or individual assignments before the vacation begins. Class assignments, homework and tests will be made up (at home) after the student returns to class.* In the absence of formal assignments from your child(ren)'s teacher, reviewing math facts, sight words and reading a good book are great ways to review while away.

If this year has taught us anything, it has taught us to prioritize our family, loved ones and life! We hope everyone enjoys the much deserved and needed time away and we appreciate your flexibility and understanding of our homework and missing work policy.

All the best,

-Maura Nash

EASTER BASKETS FOR



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