



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

October 7, 2021

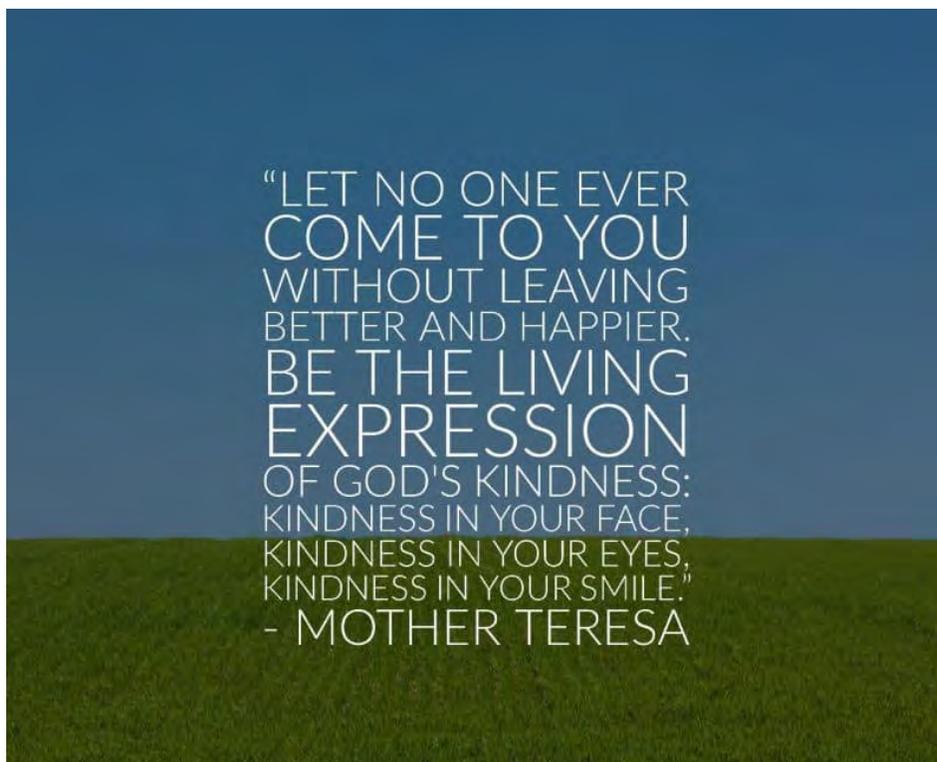
Dear SJF Families,

We made it to the middle of the first trimester! Our Falcons are working so hard every day and we have all found our groove! Thank you for joining us for parent-teacher conferences. Our positive parent partnership directly impacts the success of our students academically, socially and emotionally. PT Conferences served as a formal opportunity to meet and discuss the progress of your child, but please know that you can reach out to your child's teacher at any point throughout the school year. We are all here for the same end goal: the happiness, acceptance and success of your child.

To that end, as amazing as our school and community is, we have experienced a number of hurdles along our journey together this year, many of which involve some of our students being unkind to and unaccepting of one another. At SJF, we cannot emphasize enough the necessity for our Falcons to treat one another with kindness and respect. Being kind to one another and accepting one another for who they truly are is at the core of everything we are trying to do. Nothing matters academically if our kids don't "get that" and I know our parents agree. I am sure most have noticed the mural on 103rd street reading, "Come as you are. You are loved". We envisioned this mural as being an outward symbol of the type of culture we are striving to embody at St. John Fisher. This value is certainly fostered and reinforced at school, but it starts at home. Our world and society are upside down. We can make our pocket of the world better by loving our children and teaching them that loving one another and being kind and accepting of others is the only thing that matters. This value is prioritized above all else. As we head into the long weekend, I hope you have every opportunity to address this topic, enjoy the comfort of being together and give your children the extra attention and love that they need.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,
Mrs. Maura Nash



Important Announcements

- **COMPLIANCE AUDIT** – St. John Fisher is currently undergoing a compliance audit for all volunteers who work with our students both on and off campus. Please see the below information that must be completed in order for you to be in compliance and eligible to participate as a volunteer and/or chaperone at St. John Fisher School. Thank you for your help and attention!
- **ALL MEDICAL FORMS** must be turned in by **October 15th**! Please reach out to Mrs. Murray with any questions, lmurray@sjschool.us.
- **Makeup picture day** is November 18th.
- **HSPT Class** begins Thursday, October 14th from 3-4:30. **Registration forms and payment** are due **Tuesday, October 12th**.
- **Oktoberfest Kid Style:** Oktoberfest isn't for the kids, but who says they can't celebrate too! FSA and the Oktoberfest Committee are partnering to hold a **Pretzelfest for our students on October 15th**. Students can order delicious Barracco's pretzel sticks with cheese during their lunch. *GF options available. Please see the attached order forms and have all orders in by October 12th.*
- **Weekend Mass Initiative:** St. John Fisher School and FSA are sponsoring a **weekend mass attendance incentive for our school children for the month of October**.
 - Any school child who attends any of the masses on Saturday or Sunday will receive a ticket to come out of uniform the following Tuesday (there is not school on 11th).
 - Help us show the Archdiocese what a vital community St. John Fisher is!
 - FSA is looking for volunteers to help pass out Dress Down Vouchers, please sign up on the following link: [Ticket Distributor](#).
- **Forgotten Items:** SJF will accept: forgotten lunches, medication, glasses; but we cannot accept: Chromebooks, projects, materials for projects, or homework.
- **Extended Day** : Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, dogrady@sjschool.us.
- **Women's Club** is aiming to host a **vendor fair** on Friday, December 3rd. If you are a vendor and would like to participate in this event, please e-mail or text Maureen O'Malley, 773.339.4951; mpomalley5@gmail.com.

COVID GUIDANCE

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

Tik Tok Challenge

It has come to our attention that there is a **TikTok challenge for October** where students across the country are encouraged to slap a school staff member from behind, record it, and post it on social media. We want to stress that we have not received any information that St. John Fisher students plan to participate in October's challenge. However, unfortunately, some of our students did participate in the September challenge which was to vandalize the boys' bathroom. We want to be proactive and ask that you speak with your child about the consequences of touching or hitting a staff member which include suspension and expulsion.

Manna Update

Signing up for the App is as easy as Venmo! Get started today to help the school fundraise on your everyday purchases without a cost to you! Would you rather sell wrapping paper or popcorn?

- Manna App: [Raise Right](#).
- Need more help, check out the [Manna Overview](#).
- Quick videos to make it easy: [Video demo for the app](#) or [Video to help understand the rebates](#).

Thank you for your support!

Simple steps for creating opportunities



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



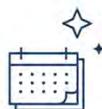
Your organization earns

Impacting what matters most to you.



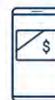
Budget friendly

There's no need to buy things you don't want. There's no need to spend extra money.



Time saving

It fits right into your schedule, without having to sell door-to-door or plan events.



Contactless

Use your smartphone or tablet to earn from anywhere—even from the comfort of your own home.

Looking Ahead

Friday, October 8th	No School
Monday, October 11th	No School ~ Columbus Day Weekend
Tuesday, October 12th	<p>HSPT registration and payment are due today!</p> <p>ETC's Resume 3:00– 4:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Art w/ Ms. Surin • Witches in Training w/ Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Lindgren • A Novel Experience w/ Mrs. Folliard <p>School Advisory Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. in Kane Hall</p>
Wednesday, October 13th	<p>ETC's Resume 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Art w/ Ms. Surin • Spooky and Sweet Halloween Treats w/ Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Lindgren
Thursday, October 14th	HSPT Class begins today from 3:00 – 4: 30 p.m.
Friday, October 15th	<p>ALL MEDICAL FORMS ARE DUE TODAY!</p> <p>SJF's Oktoberfest! 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.</p>
Saturday, October 16th	<p>ETC 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Monster Mash w/ Mrs. Altman

Compliance Update

2021-2022 SCHOOL VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

The following guidelines are mandated by the Archdiocese of Chicago and apply to all volunteers, chaperones, coaches, scout leaders, and catechists that will help out in our parish and school programs. The Archdiocese of Chicago conducts an annual audit to ensure that all are in compliance with these mandates. That audit is happening now. If you wish to participate with our students as a volunteer, chaperone, and/or coach, please make sure you have completed all the necessary tasks.

If you are planning to volunteer, chaperone, and/or coach at St. John Fisher School this year, here are the Safe Environment Requirements:

- New volunteer/chaperone/coach: Create an account on the Virtus System at www.virtusonline.org.
- If this is a new account, you will be assigned the online **Protecting God's Children Training**.
- Register and attend the training within 15 days of beginning volunteering.
- If you have a VIRTUS account from another parish/school, please notify Mary Margaret Redmond to add St. John Fisher School to the existing account.
- If your Protecting God's Children is older than 2018, you will be assigned the online recertification training, **Keeping the Promise Alive** through the [VIRTUS website](#). This recertification is *done online*.
- **Name-based Criminal Background Check** by S2Verify submitted in [VIRTUS](#) which is a one-time requirement, but rechecked every three years.
- **Archdiocesan Standards of Behavior for Church Personnel working with Minors and Vulnerable Adults** (Formerly Archdiocesan Code of Conduct). This must be read, signed and re-acknowledged yearly through [VIRTUS](#).
- Completion of a **CANTS 689 Form** [linked here](#). This must be completed every year and turned into school; DO NOT MAIL.
- Complete the online **Mandated Reporter Training** through www.archchicago.org.
- **Any questions or concerns please contact our Compliance Officer, Mary Margaret Redmond, at mredmond@sjfschool.net**

There will be no exceptions to these requirements. Please act today.

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Renew My Church Update

Thank you to everyone who came out to our “town hall” meeting this past Tuesday. Your presence and feedback are valued and appreciated. If you have any additional comments or questions regarding this process, please email renewmychurch@sifschool.us. Thank you!

2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- No School: **10.8**
- Columbus Day – No School: **10.11**
- End of First Trimester: **11.16**
- Make-up School Picture Day: **11.18**
- 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**
- First Reconciliation: **1.25 & 1.25**
- 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.**



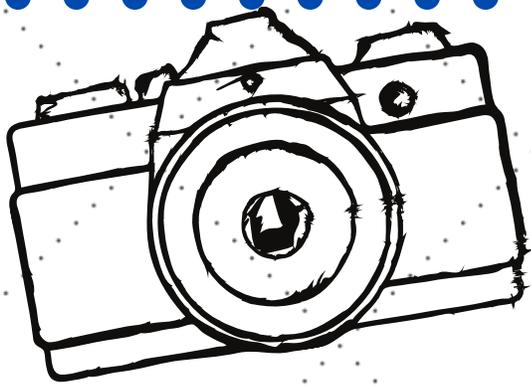
FALCONS OF THE WEEK

Ryan Adamski, 5th Grade

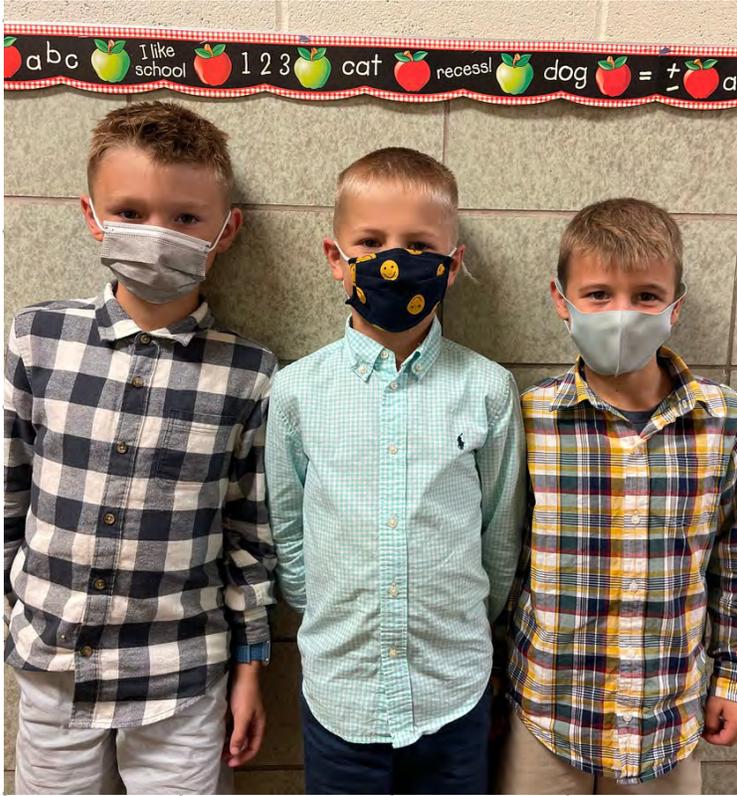


One of our school themes is "Fly Like a Falcon". Falcons SOAR above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "SOAR above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon", 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 fifth grader, Ryan Adamski.**

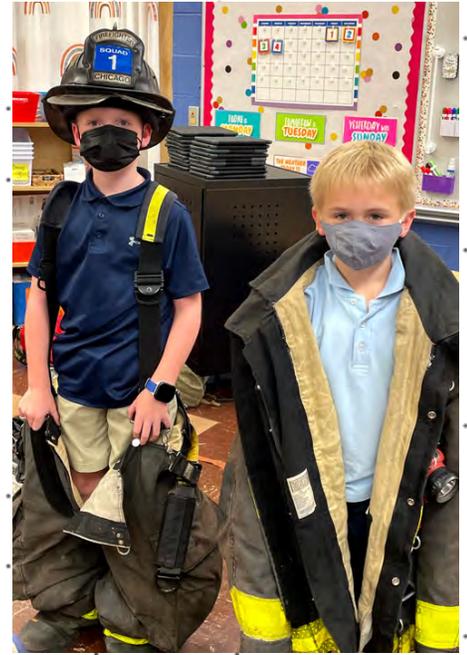
This week Ryan was nominated unanimously by his teachers for Falcon of the Week! Ryan's teachers shared with me that he constantly helps without even being asked. Ryan was described as being "one of the most respectful students on the 5th and 6th grade floor! Ryan says hello to every single student and teacher he passes and is an absolute delight to have in class." Ryan oozes positivity and support for those around him, both peers and teachers alike. He has a "can-do" attitude and makes the best out of every situation. He is resilient and determined to have a good day, every day and is always checking on his peers to ensure they have the same. Thank you Ryan for being someone we can count on to make our school a better place and for starting so many of our days in a positive direction. You are a kind and loving example of what it means to be an SJF Falcon. Keep flying like a Falcon, Ryan. You are making a difference!



SMILE!







“Day of the Dead”

Dear SJF Families,

October 31st to November 2nd is the Mexican celebration known as “Dia de los Muertos” or “Day of the Dead”. This is a festive day, where beloved family members, friends or pets who have passed away are celebrated and remembered. *The Day of the Dead* celebration is a festive tradition that unites families and establishes a sense of identity. It is a time for happy memories of loved ones, not scary stories!

We will be putting together a traditional ofrenda (altar) in the school library that will be visible from the windows along 102nd street.

If you would like to participate, please send in a photograph, prayer card or something that symbolizes a loved one who has died so it can be added to the altar.

Please remind the kids to label pictures and bring to school (no frames please) by Friday, 10/15.



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Tribune

Thank you to the following local businesses for sponsoring our Oktoberfest, Friday, October 15th. With their support, we are on track to raise over \$10,000 for SJF School. When you stop into these businesses **JOIN US IN THANKING THEM FOR THE SUPPORT! Tickets sold [HERE!](#)**



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 15th
 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Beer - Music - Food
 21+ Welcome
 \$30/person or \$50/couple

For tickets and more info:
www.sjfschool.net/oktoberfest

<p>Presenting Sponsor</p> <p>(\$3,000)</p>		
<p>Koozie Sponsors</p> <p>(\$1000)</p>		
<p>Friends of the Falcons Sponsors</p> <p>(\$500)</p>		

Friends of the Falcons Sponsors

(\$500)



MOTHER MCAULEY
Liberal Arts High School

Food and Beer Sponsors



MAGGIE MIKAITIS & JOE MCBREEN - JM LENDS
CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE™



Meghan Healy
773-450-4151



Midwest Equity
A Division of Calvary Home Loans, LLC NMLS# 237765

Brian Healy - Loan Officer
773-370-1467

Friends of Kelly Burke

Other Generous Sponsors



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FUNERAL HOME
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Bartz-Schultz*
FUNERAL HOME LTD.



THE *Original*® **PANCAKE HOUSE**
presents Saint John Fisher *Beverly*



~ **FUN-RAISER** *~*

BEER - MUSIC - FOOD

TICKETS \$30 OR \$50/COUPLE
BEER AND FOOD TICKETS FOR PURCHASE

WITH THE RON BURGANDY BAND
WHITTINGHAM MEATS
COSTUME CONTESTS
GAMES & MERRIMENT

OCTOBER 15 6PM-11PM

GET TICKETS AT
[HTTPS://WWW.SJFSCHOOL.NET/OKTOBERFEST/](https://www.sjfschool.net/oktoberfest/)
OR SCAN HERE!



Oktoberfest's Pretzelfast
Friday October 15th

Student's Name: _____ RM. # _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 Pretzel Stick w/ Cheese	\$4.00	_____	_____
2 Pretzel Sticks w/ Cheese	\$5.00	_____	_____
Gluten Free Pretzel Bites w/Cheese	\$5.00	_____	_____
		Total: _____	

ALL ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 12TH! NO EXCEPTIONS

Oktoberfest's Pretzelfast
Friday October 15th

Student's Name: _____ RM. # _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 Pretzel Stick w/ Cheese	\$4.00	_____	_____
2 Pretzel Sticks w/ Cheese	\$5.00	_____	_____
Gluten Free Pretzel Bites w/Cheese	\$5.00	_____	_____
		Total: _____	

ALL ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 12TH! NO EXCEPETIONS

SAVE THE DATE!

**PACK
THE
HOUSE!**



JOIN US FOR SJF PACK
THE HOUSE - GIRLS
BASKETBALL!

OCTOBER 16TH!

St. John Fisher Pizza Set Up Fundraiser



Support SJF and Shop Local - Vouchers Never Expire - Save Money

3 Crusts to Choose From:

(3) 12" crusts, (10) 7" crusts, or (3) gluten free crusts

Set Ups include 1 lb. of mozzarella and a pint of homemade sauce

Sausage/Pepperoni set ups include 20 oz of pizza sausage or 1/2 lb of pepperoni

Use now or freeze for later!

Cash, Zelle, or Checks made out to St. John Fisher FSA

FSA Zelle account: michellebw27@hotmail.com

Family Name: _____

Room # _____

Telephone number: _____ Circle One: Cash Check Zelle

Thin Crust - (3)12"	Price	Quantity	Total Price
Cheese	\$13		
Sausage	\$16		
Pepperoni	\$16		
Thin Crust - (10)7"			
Cheese	\$15		
Sausage	\$18		
Pepperoni	\$18		
Gluten Free - (3)12"			
Cheese	\$18		
Sausage	\$20		
Pepperoni	\$20		
Totals:			

****ORDERS DUE October 22nd****

Parishoner orders can be drop at the rectory
or emailed to karenmcdonagh513@gmail.com

Redeem Vouchers at:

S&T Provisions 3804 W. 111th Street Chicago, IL.
Open Mon - Sat 9am-6pm



TREATS, GAMES & PRIZES!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

AT 3:00PM TILL 5:00PM

SJF PARKING LOT

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME AND CAR DECORATIONS

STAN'S DONUT TRUCK ARRIVES AT 3:30