



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts

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

October 8, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

We continue to be grateful for the opportunity and privilege to be learning in-person with our amazing students and fabulous faculty and staff. Our students are truly unbelievable at wearing their masks, keeping their social distance and washing their hands. The faculty and staff at SJF are working so hard to keep our students safe and healthy in the building. Please partner with us to ensure your children are safe by encouraging them to keep their social distance, wear a mask and wash their hands frequently when they are outside of school. Thank you so much for your cooperation, flexibility and understanding as we continue to navigate this challenging world together.

I hope you find peace and comfort in spending time with your loved ones and the beautiful weather on this long fall weekend. Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher. Together, we've got this!

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

Important Announcements

- Please take a look at our [COVID Handbook](#) and **review our arrival and dismissal schedule**. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions. Thanks!
- Here is a link to the updated [2020-2021 SJF Student-Parent Handbook](#).
- [Here is the link to this year's abbreviated school calendar](#).
- **October 14th** is our first progress check of the year.
- **Medical forms** for students in **pre-school, kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grade** must be turned in by **October 15th**. Please reach out to Mrs. Murray with any questions, lmurray@sjschool.net.
- We want to continue to provide **outdoor recess, gym and walking breaks** whenever the weather allows. **Please make sure your children are dressed properly for the weather**: hats, coats, gloves if necessary. Going outside and getting fresh air is so important for us all. Thank you for your help with this!
- This was our second week of our **i-Ready** testing for our students in K-8. Please see below for additional information on this important, individualized assessment.
- **Amazon Shoppers!** Please consider using **Amazon Smile** to earn money back for our school! Below is information on how to register.
- **Forgotten Items:** Parents/guardians ***cannot bring in students' forgotten items*** this school year. Thank you for your cooperation.
- For those students who were absent for our **School Picture Day** this past week, the **make-up picture day is Thursday, November 12, 2020**.

COVID Reminders

- **Quarantine Cohorts:** We are thrilled to have all of our quarantined cohorts back with us! Please be aware that ***there is a process that we go through in order to quarantine a classroom.*** This process includes communication and direction from the Archdiocese as well as the CDC and IDPH and can take several hours to complete. When we become aware of a positive COVID case in our community ***we act as quickly and communicate as promptly as we are able.*** We are so grateful for your patience and understanding.
- Here is a link to our **Health and Safety Plan [Decision Tree](#).**
- The Archdiocese has enacted a new policy that ***if a family knowingly sends their child to school when they are positive for COVID-19, the family will be subject to our remote learning option for the remainder of the school year.***
- As a reminder, here are answers to some of our most frequently asked questions:
 - ***If a student becomes ill at school*** and has **2 or more [COVID symptoms](#) or a fever**, 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:
 - **1 symptom** requires monitoring for fever or additional symptoms. The student can return to school after parents respond to the e-mail, documenting that all symptoms are gone and the student is 24 hours fever free without fever reducers.
 - **2 symptoms** require a doctor's note to return to school, a negative test, or a 14-day quarantine. ***All siblings must also stay home during that time*** either until a doctor's note is shared, a negative test is presented or the quarantine is completed.
 - 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!

i-Ready Assessment Update

New this year, St. John Fisher is utilizing an assessment tool and implementing an online, instructional program called *i-Ready*. *i-Ready* is an online program that assists teachers in determining students' strengths and areas for growth, personalizing student learning, and monitoring student progress throughout the school year. *i-Ready* enables teachers to meet students where they are academically, as student and teacher reports provide detailed data that can be used to inform instruction.

The *i-Ready Diagnostic* is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit each student's ability. Every question item a student receives during the diagnostic test is based on his/her answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier ones. The purpose of this is not to give students a score or grade but to determine how to best support their learning in the future. It is important to discuss the adaptive nature of the test with your child; it can be discouraging for some students to feel as though they are not excelling/succeeding. Arming students with this information usually results in increased confidence on the day they complete the diagnostic exam.

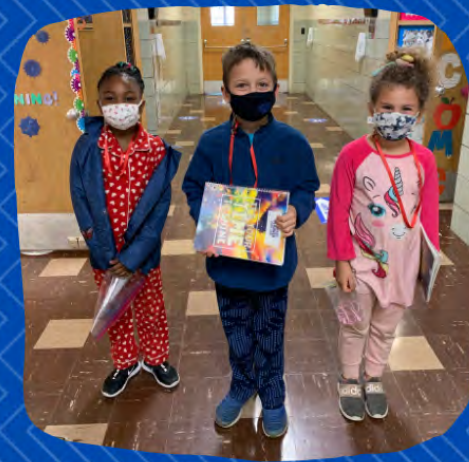
The data the diagnostic assessment yields will inform teachers' instruction, lesson planning and pacing; individualized *i-Ready* lessons will be utilized, as well, to supplement classroom lessons and meet individual student needs. These lessons are interactive and provide strategic support used to engage students as they learn at their speed and level. Your child's teacher will begin assigning online *i-Ready* lessons in the classroom and for homework following the *i-Ready Diagnostic* assessment.

SOAR's Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest COVID Style!

If your family wishes to participate in the SJF Family Pumpkin Contest, we will be doing a virtual contest this year! All families that would like to participate should send in a picture of their decorated pumpkin to mschiavone@sjfschool.net by Friday, October 16th. SOAR will create a video montage of all the contestants' creations and voting will be done in the classrooms. The theme this year is Favorite Book Character. We are looking forward to seeing these marvelous masterpieces!!



SJF Spirit Week 2020





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: sjsab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: fsa@sjschool.net
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com



MANNA NEWS

SJF MANNA Program (June-September) Update

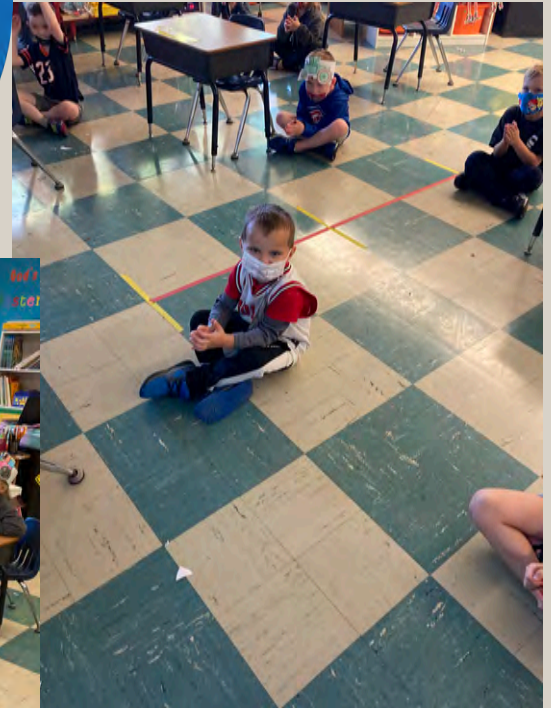
- In 3 short summer months, the school has earned \$5,000 and participating school families have collectively accrued \$7,500 in tuition rebates from MANNA purchases – THANK YOU!
- Unfortunately, we are well behind our goal for MANNA rebates to close the gap on the school's operating budget. Only 38% of School Families are participating. We need your help.
- Free Money for you and St. John Fisher. Here are some ideas on how to get started: [MANNA TIPS and TRICKS](#). Any shortage of the minimum \$300 MANNA contribution will be billed to the school family and due by May 15th.
- Online sales using shopwithscrip.com have tripled! It's convenient without leaving your homes especially for online purchases such as Amazon, Wayfair or Bed Bath and Beyond. If you have yet to enroll online, see instruction here: [MANNA Overview](#).
- Stopping in to buy at MANNA Cash and Carry is the best way to support our local businesses. [Please fill out this survey](#) to provide feedback on ways to improve our MANNA Program. It is the single largest school specific fundraiser. Thank you!



KINDERGARTEN MATERNITY LEAVE OPPORTUNITY



ST. JOHN FISHER
SCHOOL



SPREAD THE WORD!

SJF has a Kindergarten maternity leave opportunity available for **November - January** of this school year. Join our incredible team and work with kind and supportive colleagues and wonderful students and families. **Enthusiastic professionals should reach out to Mrs. Maura Nash, mnash@sjfschool.net.**

Thank you for your interest!



HSPT ENTRANCE EXAM PREP COURSE REGISTRATION

An HSPT Entrance Exam Prep course will be offered to interested 8th grade students. Our instructors will review all 5 sections of the exam---Verbal Skills, Mathematics, Reading, Language, and Quantitative Skills. The students will learn time management skills which are crucial for the HSPT and all standardized tests. Instructors will teach important problem-solving strategies and work to review and strengthen students' content knowledge during the prep course. The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is Saturday, December 5, 2020.

Course dates: 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/1 & 12/3
(All Thursdays except for Tuesday, 12/1)
Catholic High School Entrance Exam is Saturday, December 5, 2020

Course time: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$200 (cash or check made payable to SJF SCHOOL)

Instructors: Mrs. Condon, Ms. Dunlavy & Mrs. Folliard

Course Highlights: ***Students will remain in their cohorts and the instructors will rotate.*
***Instructors have a combined 35 years of experience working with test prep companies including Huntington Learning Center, Academic Tutoring Center, Excel Edge and Sylvan.*
***Small class sizes & individualized instruction & attention.*

Please register by sending the completed form with payment to the student's homeroom teacher.

.....
Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Check one:

Cash: _____ Check: (payable to St. John Fisher School) _____

Registration is due by TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13



St. John Fisher Uniform Policy

Girls:

- Grades K – 2: Plaid jumper and white blouse/polo (white, navy, or light blue)
- Grade 3: Plaid jumper or skirt and white blouse/polo (white, navy, or light blue)
- Grades 4 – 8: Plaid skirt and white blouse/polo (white, navy, or light blue)
- Grades K – 8: Sweater (solid white, navy, or hunter green), SJF gray fleece or navy bell tower performance quarter zip
- SJF gym sweatshirt (school issued only)
- Socks, tights and leggings (white, navy or hunter green)
- Pants (navy or khaki slacks may be worn Oct. 1 to May 1)

General Guidelines for Girls:

- Only single, small earrings may be worn.
- This year, **students may wear solid colored leggings under a skirt or jumper**, however sweatpants, pants, and flannel pants may not be worn under a uniform skirt or jumper during class hours.
- Excessive jewelry, chokers and necklaces are not appropriate and will be considered out of uniform.
- Blouses and shirts should always be neatly tucked into skirts.

Boys

- Grade K – 8: Navy or khaki dress pants and white, navy or light blue polo shirt
- SJF gym sweatshirt or gray school fleece/navy performance quarter zip (school issued only)

General Guidelines for Boys:

- Belts are encouraged but optional.
- Shirts must always be neatly tucked into pants.

Shoes:

- Loafers, buckle or tie oxfords, or clean gym shoes are allowed as part of the school uniform. Sandals, moccasins, clogs, “Crocs”, “flip-flops,” and boots are not permitted during the school day.

Gym Uniforms

On their assigned gym day all students must wear the official gym uniform. Students must wear clean gym shoes with laces or Velcro closings. No slip-on gym shoes are allowed for gym class. Students will not be allowed to participate in gym activities nor call home if they forget their gym uniforms.

Girls and Boys Grades K – 8:

- SJF gym shorts or gym sweatpants
- SJF gym tee shirt
- Socks
- Gym shoes

T-shirts from school activities and school sports teams are not part of the gym uniform.

Fisher Falcon Spirit-wear Fridays!

- Students may wear falcon spirit-wear tops with their uniform bottoms **on Fridays only**.

Amazon Shoppers,

Please join us at AmazonSmile when completing your shopping orders. AmazonSmile can be used on both regular orders and Amazon Fresh orders. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to St. John Fisher. Using AmazonSmile is at no cost to you! Instead of using the regular Amazon app or webpage, you will open up AmazonSmile instead 😊 Thank you for your support!

There are 3 EASY ways to remember Amazon Smile when making your purchase on Amazon.

1. To Shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to remember.

2.

Make it easier to return to smile.amazon.com by adding a shortcut to your phone's home screen



1. Tap the share icon at the bottom of this window.



2. Tap **Add to Home Screen**, and then tap **Add**.



3. Tap the new icon on your home screen to return at any time to smile.amazon.com.

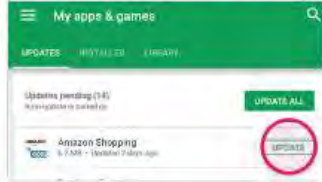
3.

AmazonSmile is now in the Amazon Shopping App

You can now support your favorite charity when you shop using the Amazon Shopping App on your Android device. See below for instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping App.

Follow the steps attached below to add AmazonSmile in your Amazon Shopping App. This feature is coming very soon for iOS (Apple), stay tuned!

1 Make sure you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App



1. Open the Google Play Store
2. Tap the menu (≡)
3. Tap on My apps & games
4. Tap the Updates tab
5. Update the Amazon Shopping App

2 Open the Amazon Shopping App



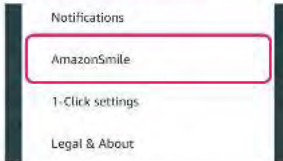
3 Tap in the main menu in the Amazon App



4 Tap Settings



5 Tap AmazonSmile



6 Follow the instructions on the screen to turn on AmazonSmile



7 All set! Tap the Start shopping button and support charity



Coming soon on iOS. Stay tuned!