



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

September 6, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

Thank you so much for attending our Back to School Night this week. We love seeing you and having you in the building! We are grateful for the incredible job you do raising your children. It is our great privilege to be able to serve you and your children. In case you missed Wednesday night's event, we have the updated Parent and Student Handbook (which can also be found at [www.sjfschool.net](http://www.sjfschool.net)) along with free car magnets displaying our refreshed logo in the school office. Feel free to pick these up at your leisure.

Below are some important dates and information I'd like to draw your attention to as we move into Fisherfest Week along with our latest *Falcon of the Week*! There is such a positive energy throughout our school community and we are so excited to embark upon this journey with all of you.

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

In unity and hope,

*Mrs. Maura Nash*

## Important Announcements

- **Save the Date!** September 17<sup>th</sup>: Roy Petitfils, Licensed Counselor, will be presenting to our falcons during the school day and parents and community members in the evening. Mr. Petitfils is an internationally recognized expert in understanding and raising children.
- Like us and Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago](https://facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago) & Instagram: [stjohnfisher](https://instagram.com/stjohnfisher).
- Be safe when walking to and from school! Students should cross 103<sup>rd</sup> street with the crossing guard at the stop light.
- **For general school questions**, please feel free to contact Kate Spadoni in the school office at 773-445-4737, [kspadoni@sjfschool.net](mailto:kspadoni@sjfschool.net).
- **Substitute Teachers!** *SJF is in need of substitute teachers.* If you are interested in serving our school in this capacity, *please inquire in the office.*
- Students are **allowed to wear shorts until October 1st - Stay Cool!**
- In case you missed it last week, reports from **Mrs. Carey and Ms. Shiavone can be found below!**

Peek at the Week

Saturday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intramural Soccer Begins!</li> <li>• SJF takes on St. Gabe's in football @ Beverly Park</li> </ul>
Sunday, September 8 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Donuts on the Lawn</i> immediately following 10am Mass</li> </ul>
Monday, September 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ETC Begins for Pre-K – 3rd</li> </ul>
Tuesday, September 10 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fisherfest Mega-ride-bracelets</b> for sale in Kane Hall from 5:30-8:30pm</li> <li>• SAB Meeting @ 7pm in the Teacher's Lounge</li> </ul>
Wednesday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls' Basketball competes in the Conner T. Lowry Gym</li> <li>• <b>Fisherfest Mega-ride-bracelets</b> for sale in Kane Hall from 5-8pm</li> </ul>
Thursday, September 12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fisherfest!</b></li> </ul>



FISHERFEST



- **Security:** We are looking for security volunteers who are **Chicago Police Officers** and parents of St. John Fisher students. Please Contact Mike Poppish if you are able to help: 773-418-4214
- **Fisherfest** is not a success without our **selfless volunteers!** We appreciate you so much and need your assistance. Please visit [www.fisherfest.com](http://www.fisherfest.com) to view our volunteer opportunities and schedule. **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**



- Get your **Fisherfest raffle tickets** in the school office or after each weekend Mass!
- **Mega-ride-bracelets will be ON SALE** in Kane Hall on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm and Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. *\*There will be no bracelet sales after Wednesday!*





# FALCON OF THE WEEK

Charlie Moles, 7th Grade



**SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is 7th grader, Charlie Moles.**

This year, our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing what it means to be 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 demonstrate each and every day. This week, Charlie offered his services to help our maintenance staff prepare for the *Back to School Night* by setting up chairs and moving furniture around. After speaking with Charlie's teachers, I quickly learned that this selfless act is simply commonplace for Charlie as he is always the "go-to" student, someone who can always be counted on to help others, work hard and do the right thing. Keep "Flying like a Falcon," Charlie; you're making a difference!

St. John Fisher

# FISHERFEST

September 12 - 15, 2019

THURSDAY  
6-10 PM

FRIDAY  
5-11 PM

SATURDAY  
1-11 PM

SUNDAY  
1-7 PM

## ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP



**FAMILY NIGHT WITH DJ DUNN**  
**THURSDAY 9/12 6-10 PM**

**FRIENDLY FIRE**  
**FRIDAY 9/13**  
**5 PM**

**THE LIAM  
DURKIN BAND**  
**FRIDAY 9/13**  
**8 PM**

### BINGO

**SATURDAY 9/14**  
**5:30 PM**

**JOEY DIGS & THE DENTIST**  
**SATURDAY 9/14**  
**8 PM**

**Hi-Fi STEREOTYPES**  
**SUNDAY 9/15**  
**1 PM**

**LATE START**  
**SUNDAY 9/15**  
**2:30 PM**

**THE RON BURGUNDY'S**  
**SUNDAY 9/15**  
**4:30 PM**

## \$25,000 RAFFLE

ONLY 900 TICKETS SOLD  
— \$100 PER TICKET —

TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CON-  
TACT THE ST. JOHN FISHER REC-  
TORY AT 773.445.6565 OR EMAIL  
SJFISHERFEST@GMAIL.COM

1ST  
PRIZE

2ND  
PRIZE \$2,500

3RD  
PRIZE \$1,500

4TH  
PRIZE \$1,000

5TH  
PRIZE \$500

6TH  
PRIZE

**FISHERFEST.COM**

In addition to music stop by the Fest for games, rides, food and more!  
ST. JOHN FISHER 10234 S. WASHTENAW AVENUE CHICAGO

10234 S. WASHTENAW AVE. CHICAGO, IL.

# FISHERFEST

PRESENTS SPECIAL HOURS FOR OUR FRIENDS  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Saturday, September 14th from 11am-1pm

[www.fisherfest.com](http://www.fisherfest.com)

WE INVITE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS  
TO COME EXPERIENCE FISHERFEST  
FOR A 2 HOUR PRIVATE EVENT

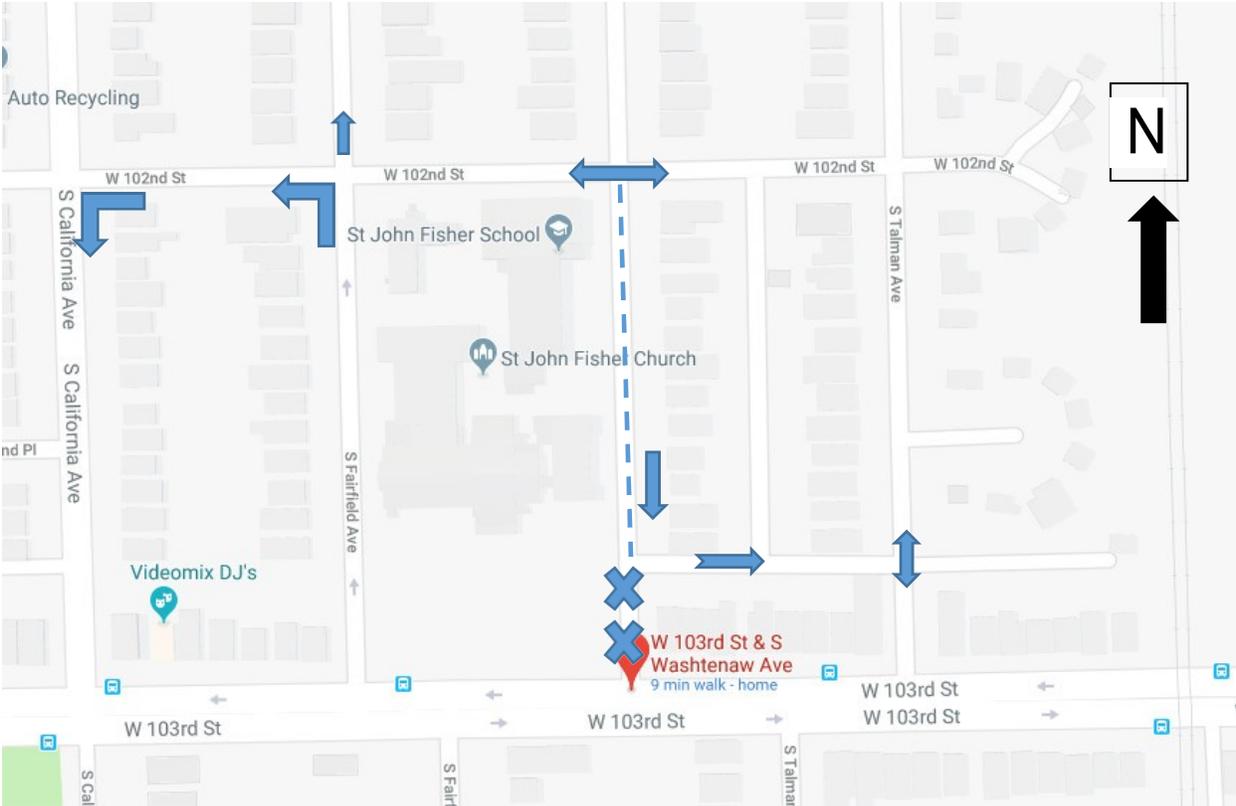


St. John Fisher Parish, with the Support of Alpine Amusement, is committed to providing families with diverse abilities an experience with reduced stimulation and multisensory awareness.

\*\*\*WE ASK ALL OF OUR GUESTS TO PRE-REGISTER BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2019\*\*\*

Please contact Denise Kovacs (773) 875-3650 [denisebmulcahy@gmail.com](mailto:denisebmulcahy@gmail.com) OR Millissa Murdoch (773)391-8579 [millissamurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:millissamurdoch@gmail.com)

# FISHERFEST TRAFFIC



Washtenaw will be closed at 103<sup>rd</sup> St to alley. Please limit traffic on WASHTENAW. If on Washtenaw, DO NOT BACKUP, continue south and TURN LEFT/ east at alley and continue to TALMAN. Careful as little ones play often on both sides of alley.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Labor Day weekend! As the cycle of pool days, block parties and flexible bed times comes to a close I look forward to all fall has to offer; crisp, sunny days, football games and a new school year full of opportunity and potential. A lifelong school enthusiast, I am usually more excited for the start of a new school year than most, however even I can't help but feel inspired by the excitement our Falcons have showcased over the past two weeks. They have demonstrated enthusiasm in their work, enthusiasm for their teachers and peers and enthusiasm for four day weekends and Fisher Fest!

These first (unseasonably cool!) weeks back to school provided me the opportunity to meet many of our wonderful students, observe our incredibly talented faculty "in action" and revel in the incredibly electric SJF school culture. Fisher is an amazing place! Needless to say, I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve as the Counselor and Assistant Principal of Student Support!

As fabulous as St. John Fisher is, it is inevitable that students will face challenges this school year and need support in their journey to becoming their best selves. *My primary responsibility as a school counselor is to be that support; to promote the academic, personal, and social development of all students.* Productive and comprehensive school counseling programs are, both, reactive and proactive so you can expect the counseling interventions implemented this year to be multi-dimensional. A counseling curriculum will be delivered to students via in-class counseling lessons, all-school social emotional learning initiatives and grade level programming. In addition, I will provide short-term, individual counseling services to students as needed, as well as small group counseling which will address behavioral or emotional trends. I will also serve as a resource to parents as it relates to the academic success and/or social/ emotional needs of their child(ren).

### Services Provided

**CLASSROOM COUNSELING LESSONS:** Classroom lessons will be presented in classrooms, grades PreK-8. The curriculum is informed by teacher and parent feedback (as received from a needs assessment survey last spring) as well as the National Model for School Counseling (ASCA). Lessons will be delivered in a developmentally appropriate manner, addressing various academic and social-emotional topics. Examples include: healthy peer relationships, coping with difficult emotions and effective study skills.

**GROUP COUNSELING:** Group counseling is provided for small groups of students experiencing similar concerns. Group topics may include coping with anxiety, anger management, organization and executive functioning skills and improving self-esteem. Counseling groups generally service 4 to 6 students and last for 6 to 8 sessions. Students can be recommended by parents/guardians, faculty members or the counselor. If your child has been recommended to participate in a small group you will be contacted, informed of the group's goals and asked for signed consent.

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING:** Short term, one-on-one counseling support is available to all students in grades PreK- 8. Students may self-refer or be referred to the counselors by teachers/staff, administrator and/or parents. **Confidentiality\* is respected.**

**CONSULTATIONS:** I am available to meet with teachers, administrators and/or parents to discuss the needs of individual students. I am here for **all students** and want to ensure that your child has a productive and positive school year. If I can support your child in anyway, please don't hesitate to contact me.

BLOG: Please note that I will be updating my blog on the SJF website; it will highlight upcoming counseling lessons, school-wide social emotional learning initiatives, book recommendations and more!

I am thrilled to begin this school year and grateful for the opportunity to serve St. John Fisher students, staff and families. **Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.**

Kindest Regards,

Nichole Carey, MEd, LPC  
Assistant Principal of Student Support & Counselor  
ncarey@sjfschool.net

**\*Confidentiality: As defined by the American School Counseling Association** Please note that all information discussed in session is in confidence, meaning it is confidential between me and your child, unless they plan to hurt themselves, hurt someone else or someone is hurting them.

The tone and spirit of a counseling session as well as a student's overall wellness can and will be discussed with parents.

Welcome back!! I am so excited to get our new Reading Intervention Program (RIP) started and getting our students working with the Leveled Literacy Intervention system! I believe this intervention, along with active reading in school and at home, will help our students achieve reading success

At this time we are using teacher referral as well as the STAR Reading Assessment to determine a baseline score for students in grades 1-3. Those students who score at least one grade level below, or for whom their teacher is most concerned, will be further assessed using the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. The BAS data will help us determine which students are likely to benefit most from our small group intervention work.

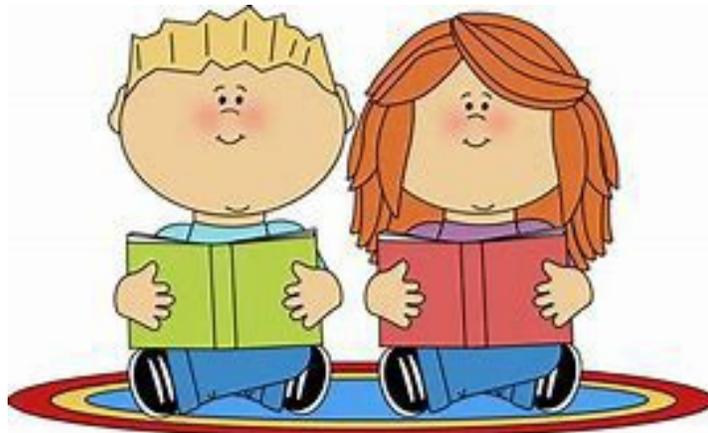
However, that does not mean we are leaving behind students whose scores do not necessarily indicate they need a reading intervention. Students that are identified by their teachers as struggling readers will still have additional classroom and resource support available to them on a regular basis.

I am in the process of assessing students now, and registration letters will be sent home to parents soon whose children will be participating in the intervention program. I am very much looking forward to working with our students and teachers to not only improve reading skills, but to help instill a love of reading as well.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child. Working together will allow us to ensure a lifetime of reading and learning fun!

Thank you,

Ms. Schiavone



Hosted by S.S.Y.M.A

# Young Adult Retreat September 13th - 15th

Culver, Indiana

*College and up are welcome to join us!*

This is a **free** weekend, we just ask for all participants to bring a drink and snack to share. Please let your Youth Minister know if you will be attending. *If you would like to help with the planning of the weekend, give us a shout, we would love to have your input!*





# 2019 HELP BUILD HOPE

Hosted by SJF/MHR Youth Ministry Program

**Whole Family Mission Project Celebrating 15 Years of Youth Ministry!**

*Sign Up Today To Participate - Individuals and Whole Families Welcome! No Special Skills Required!  
Children 5th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult.*

## Housing is a basic human need.

Sadly, many people are without a simple decent place to live in dignity and safety.

## What We Are Building

Our job will be to construct a house frame - the basic walls and infrastructure - in ONE weekend in the SJF parking lot. The structure will then be transported to CHICAGOLAND Habitat for Humanity. They will coordinate the completion of the project, in hopes we can assist on the build day! The home will then be dedicated to a family in need.

## When & Where

**September 20 - 22, 2019**

**St. John Fisher  
10234 S. Washtenaw Ave.**

During the weekend, we will do more than build a house. We will pray, laugh, renew old friendships, and build new relationships.

If you would like to make a donation towards this project please visit:  
[www.mostholyredeemer.org/youth-ministry.html](http://www.mostholyredeemer.org/youth-ministry.html)

## Weekend Schedule

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

3:30 - 5:00PM - Project Set-Up  
5:00 - 7:00PM - Measure and Cutting  
7:00 - 8:00PM - Crew Leader Training

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 AM - Check in  
8:30 AM - Opening Prayer & Info  
11:30 AM - Lunch & Write Blessings on the frame of the home.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

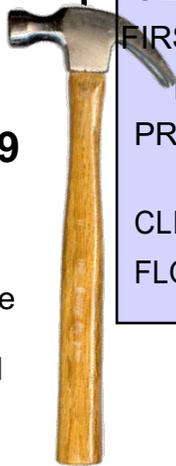
12:00 PM - Celebratory Mass  
1:30 PM - Load House for transport.  
2:00 PM - Clean up

## How You Can Help



You don't need special skills or abilities to be a participant. We need children, teens, adults, and seniors alike for a variety of roles. Register to participate online by visiting our registration page: [www.helpbuildhope.com/sjf\\_mhr](http://www.helpbuildhope.com/sjf_mhr)

- PREPARERS: Measure and cut lumber (Friday only).
- CREW LEADERS: Oversee work crews (Friday and Saturday).
- BUILDERS: Swing a hammer; assemble the house frame (Sat only).
- SECURITY: Help keep our supplies and site safe.
- FIRST AID STATION: Be available if needed in our first aid area.
- FOODIES: Help plan, prepare, or distribute food.
- PROMOTERS: Get the word out with parishioners, friends, Youth Ministry alumni etc.
- CLEANERS: Help keep area neat and safe during and after event.
- FLOATERS: Help out with miscellaneous duties throughout event.



# ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Kim Madonia, Director of Youth Ministry, via call/text: 708-275-8922

# Brothers Helping Mothers

Donations needed For:



Hello, I am Tony Nichols (SJF '16) and with my partner Peter Viz (CJB '16) we are collecting baby items / donations for The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland as part of our Caritas Project at St. Rita High School. All of your donations will be helping young mothers in need.



## Items needed:

- Shampoo
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers
- Formula
- Blankets
- Cloths
- Gift Cards/Monetary Donations

Donations will be collected at St. John Fisher Church before and/or after all Masses September 7th and 8th.

Or contact Tony Nichols at [anthony.nichols20@stritahs.com](mailto:anthony.nichols20@stritahs.com) to pick-up any donations.

Thank you for your support!