



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

December 19, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

We hope you have a very merry and blessed Christmas and happy New Year! Thank you so much for your generosity to the faculty and staff and to our service initiatives this Christmas season. We are so grateful for each and every one of you. We will see you in the new year!

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

Important Announcements

- **EXTENDED DAY 12.20.19:** *Extended Day will be **closed at 4pm on Friday, 12.20.19.** Please reach out to Mrs. O'Grady with questions.*
- Students should wear their *SUNDAY BEST tomorrow* for our All-School Christmas Prayer Service @ 10:15am. *All are welcome!*
- *Family Christmas Novena* is **12.20 @ 6:30pm.** Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Please RSVP to Bridget Stalla, bridget.stalla@gmail.com, 773.852.4698.
- **Volunteers are needed** to make lunches for **Pro Labore Dei this Saturday @ 9:15am in the Rectory Basement.** We are also accepting the following donated supplies: 27 tomatoes, 7 large heads of iceberg lettuce, 8 cases of water, 160 individual chip bags, 200 individually wrapped treats, 4 jars of Mayo, 100 quart-size bags, 200 extra-large brown lunch bags, winter clothes & toiletry kits. **Thank you for your generosity!**
- *Christmas Eve Mass Schedule:* **4pm** (2nd grade performs the Christmas Gospel), **6pm & 11pm.**
- *Christmas Day Mass Schedule:* **8am, 10am & 12pm.**
- **Manna News:** The holidays are upon us and so is **Holiday Shopping!** **Don't forget to use Manna** for all of your gift shopping needs! Give it as a gift or use it to purchase a gift! Whichever you choose, you will earn **CA\$H BACK** towards your next manna rebate. Any questions contact one of the manna ladies, sjfmanna@gmail.com.
- **Thank you to the 5th grade parents** who provided our delicious teacher breakfast today – **we appreciate you!**
- **Updated Bullying Policy to the Handbook:** Please take a moment to review the below addendum to the Bullying Policy in the Handbook. This will be discussed with students in grades 5th-8th next week.
- **ATTENTION PARENTS OF WINTER SPORTS ATHLETES:** Please sign and return the parent code of conduct contract to your child's coach. Thank you!
- Congratulations to **KATIE ALVAREZ**, Chick Evans Scholarship Winner & **SJF Alum!**
- The **January Lunch Order** is now available online.

- Don't forget to check your student's teacher blog @ www.sjfschool.net for the latest and greatest information from your child's class. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.
- *We invite and welcome your feedback.* If you have a question regarding your child's education, please reach out directly to your son or daughter's teacher. If you need further support, contact Mrs. Larmon, clarmon@sjfschool.net, Mrs. Carey, ncarey@sjfschool.net or Mrs. Nash, mnash@sjfschool.net. *We are happy and grateful to partner with you in order to best serve your children.*
- **SAVE THE DATE:**
 - **January 25th:** SJF kicks off **Catholic Schools' Week** with **Conner T. Lowry Night in the gym**, more details to come!
 - **January 26th:** **Catholic Schools' Week New Family Open House** 9-10, **Mass** 10 and **School Family Open House** 11-12.

Peek at the Week

Friday, December 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All-School Prayer Service</i>, 2nd grade performs the Christmas Gospel @ 10:15, <i>All are welcome!</i> • 11:30 Dismissal – Christmas Break! • <u>Extended Day Closes @ 4pm</u> • <i>Family Novena @ 6:30</i>
Saturday, December 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Labore Dei Lunch Prep @ 9:15 in the Rectory Basement • Boys Basketball competes in the Conner T. Lowry Gym, 9-4:40
Sunday, December 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please join us for Mass: 8:30, 10, 12 and 5:30 ~ All are welcome!</i>
Monday, December 23 rd	
Tuesday, December 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Merry Christmas!</i> Christmas Eve Masses: 4, 6 & 11
Wednesday, December 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Merry Christmas!</i> Christmas Day Masses: 8, 10 & 12





FALCON OF THE WEEK

Abigail Ciraulo, 2nd grade



SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is 2nd grader, Abigail Ciraulo.

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. Our "Falcon of the Week" is Abigail Ciraulo. This week Abby was caught in the act taking the initiative to help one of her classmates. Abby and her peers were learning a new concept and one of the students in her class was struggling with

the activity. When Abby noticed this, she quickly volunteered to help her friend understand the material. Abby was not only patient and kind, but very positive and motivating. Abby encouraged her peer, letting him know that "he could do it!". Abby read the passage to her friend and together they worked to understand the questions. The best part of this story is that Abby took this initiative all on her own and was happy to help her classmate. When speaking with Abby's teacher, she expressed to me that this behavior is not out of the ordinary for Abby and that she is typically the first one to volunteer to help a friend and to help out without having to be asked. We can learn so much from Abby's everyday behavior. Thank you, Abby, for the awesome example you set for all of us each and every day. Keep "Flying like a Falcon", you're making a difference!

St. John Fisher's 8th Grade donates to Misericordia this holiday season!

The 8th grade dropped off 30 gifts, ate dinner and experienced the heartbreakers and heartsingers perform.

Thank you for your service. You are making a difference!





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Appropriate disciplinary consequences are applied to offending student(s).

- When accused of a disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated act of misconduct, implicated students will meet with members of the Administrative Team and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, including but not limited to detention, suspension and expulsion. Guardians will be notified.
- In instances where disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated acts of misconduct occur outside of school, the guardians of accused students will be contacted via phone or email and informed of the accusations made against their child. Disciplinary action may be taken.
- When a student has been accused of disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated misconduct, however, the behavior cannot be substantiated, the guardian(s) of all students involved will be contacted, individually, outlining the accusations. No further action will be taken by school leadership, as unsubstantiated acts or acts that cannot be verified are not punishable. However, guardians will be made aware that it was suspected and/or reported that their child was involved in disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated acts of misconduct.

Please take the time to review the addendum made to the St. John Fisher Student Handbook.

As our society and community evolve, so must the practices we use in educating our students. In recent months, it has become clear that the behavioral policies outlined by the St. John Fisher Student Handbook were limited in scope and in need of revision. To best facilitate the personal and social growth of all St. John Fisher students, it is imperative that we uphold strict behavioral policies especially as it relates to the treatment and respect of others.

In an effort to best support students and parents, who often fear social consequences when reporting disrespectful, intentional, hurtful acts of misconduct, we have updated the Bullying Policy to address reported incidents of bullying/misconduct that cannot be verified definitively. In addition, off campus incidents reported to school by community members and/or parents that cannot be verified and the accused cannot be definitively identified, parents of students suspected to be involved will be contacted by a member of the Administrative Leadership Team directly. It is the hope that these communications will not only encourage parents to engage in conversation with their children regarding their behaviors and peer relationships, but also lessen the time dedicated by school personnel investigating incidents that are brought forth and ultimately cannot be verified and/or remediated. Through this partnership, students will be held accountable for their actions, both in and out of school, yielding a more respectful, cohesive school environment.