



NOTES FROM MRS. NASH

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Dear SJF Families,

Our first full week of school was a success! We loved having you in the building on Tuesday night! Thanks to those who were able to join us. There are two other opportunities to partner together on campus this fall. On September 21st at 7 p.m., please join us (adults only!) to hear a representative from the FBI speak to us regarding the importance of our children's safety with technology. We believe this will be a very helpful and informative evening for all! Mark your calendars for parent-teacher conferences on October 4th and 5th. We relish these moments to collaborate in the very best interest of your child(ren). It takes a village to raise good kids and we are so grateful to be in this village together with you!

In case you missed it, [here is a little video](#) we created showcasing the first day of school! The beginning of the week is anticipated to be high temperatures again. The classrooms will be cool thanks to our AC! Many children have shared that they are cold in their classrooms which is a great problem to have when the real feel outside is in the 100's! You might want to send your child with an SJF long sleeved zip-up.

Now more than ever, it is a great time to be a Falcon! The future of our school and community is bright! Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. **You Belong Here.**

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash



Important Announcements

- **SJF's Tuition Raffle:** Congratulations to our lucky winners: 1st Place Allison Knight, 2nd Place Kelly Konrath, 3rd Place Katie O'Connor! Thank you to everyone who participated. We are so grateful for your support! **Together we raised over \$19k for the school!**
 - A **HUGE THANK YOU to Karen McDonagh** for organizing this fundraiser again!
- **Thank you to Dave Cahill and the Holy Name Society** for sponsoring our parish picnic and Mass in the park last weekend. We appreciate you!
- Save the date! **September 21st** a member from the **FBI** will be joining us @ 7 p.m. in the church to discuss the importance of our kid's safety and the use of technology.
- **We have school on September 22nd.** There seemed to be some confusion regarding this date, but we do have school on September 22nd.
- **Extended Day:** Don't forget to sign-up your child here. If you have questions, please reach out to Mrs. O'Grady, dogrady@sjfschool.us. We close @ 5 p.m. again this year.

Holy Name Society

- Please join us for the annual **Meet and Greet Thursday, September 7th @ Barney Callaghan's** @ 7 p.m. We will be collecting your yearly dues of \$30. Spread the word to your neighbors and friends - all are welcome!
- September 30th is our **2nd Annual Father-Son Sox Game**. Please see the flyer below for more information.

Pro Labore Dei

- We have a **lunch making session** in the rectory basement on September 2nd, of Labor Day weekend at 9:15 a.m. Our need is volunteers who have an hour to give.
- We continue to **collect food for the PLD pantry every Saturday** morning in the SJF parking lot from 9:30 to 10am. Items like cereal, pasta & sauce, canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, canned fruits & vegetables and soup are some of the items always welcome at the pantry.
- There is still a critical need for **diapers** sizes 4, 5 and 6. Your response to this plea has been nothing short of a miracle. Thank you and please continue to consider this need when shopping.
- Look for the **annual coat drive in October**.
- For questions or concerns please contact Pam O'Mara (773-612-0281) or Jerry and Pat Hayes (773-203-7881).

Thank you for supporting this mission!

Uniform & Arrival Reminders

- Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade should dress in their school uniforms every day. **No SJF hoodies or spirit wear are allowed Monday - Thursday.** Please see pages 15-16 of our Student Handbook [linked here](#). Uniforms can be purchased at Schools' Are Us, 3146 West 111th Street, Chicago 60655. **Special classes begin next week. Students need to wear their gym uniform and gym shoes on their gym day!*
- **Falcon Fridays continue this year!** Students can wear Falcon spirit-wear t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies with their uniform bottoms on Falcon Fridays! (The *You Belong Here* t-shirts are for Falcon Fridays ONLY)
- **Staggered arrival times:** Students with the last name beginning with letters A-L should arrive at 7:45 and students with the last name beginning with letters M-Z should arrive at 7:50. Students will be considered late at 7:55. **don't forget about the new tardy policy.*

Bootcamp 2.0

- This week's **bootcamp** was a huge success! Our Falcons followed a schedule and traveled with their homerooms to all of the different areas of the building they utilize throughout the week. While at each station, they learned and were reminded of the behavioral expectations throughout campus so that together we can be safe, responsible and respectful whether we are in the church, the lunch room, the hallway, the bathroom, Spanish Class, Art Class, the Library, the Gym and/or the Computer Room.
- Additionally, we are also **focusing on manners and getting back to the basics of just saying hello to one another.** Somewhere along the lines, it seems our students have gotten away from greeting adults and one another. We talked at lengths about the importance of greeting adults and friends both on and off campus by name if they know it and if not, **just say hi!**



SJF

We have noticed a change in some of the habits of our Falcons in our post COVID world. Some of the changes have been positive and some of the changes have been negative. The SJF Faculty and Staff have spent time reflecting on some of the changes in behavior coupled with our policies and have decided it is in the very best interest of our Falcons to make the following changes to our Tardy Policy and Academic Study Hall Policy. We will continue to address these behaviors throughout the year utilizing our traits of the month, but beginning with our Back to School Bootcamp 2.0!

Update: SJF Tardy Policy

Students arriving to school AFTER the 7:55 a.m. bell require an adult to sign them in at the School Office.

- Being on time is an important life skill we strive to reinforce with students. If a student arrives after the 7:55 bell has rung, he/she is late for school and consequently, this disrupts his/her class.
- All students arriving after 7:55 a.m. must enter through the main entrance **with an adult** and report to the School Office. The adult must sign them in at that time.
- If a child enters school without an adult, a parent/guardian will be called to return to school to sign-in the child.
- Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their homeroom by 7:55 a.m.
- Tardy slips will be issued by the School Office.
- Excessive tardiness indicates a lack of effort to improve the behavior and will result in an administrative review.
- Establishing this good habit will be useful not just in academic contexts, but also in their personal and professional life in the future.

Update: Academic Eligibility Study Hall

SJF will no longer host the mandatory academic eligibility study hall.

- All students are to perform to the best of their ability.
- There will now be 2 progress checks per trimester.
- If a student has 2 D's and/or an F average in any class at the progress report check or report card distribution time, that student cannot attend any St. John Fisher sanctioned extra-curricular activities (including athletic practices and games) for one week.
- In some cases a parent meeting will be required to determine when a student can return to extra-curricular activities. St. John Fisher reserves the right to determine a student's eligibility.



Social & Emotional Learning

At SJF we continue to build upon our SEL goals. Each month of the school year will have an all-school focus on the trait of the month, helping students strengthen particular social skills with different lessons and activities at the classroom level and as an entire school. We encourage you to talk to your children about these traits at home for a consistent message and focus. The trait of the month program is building upon this year's behavior system and school mantra:

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.

September	Responsibility
October	Respect
November	Gratitude
December	Kindness
January	Integrity
February	Friendship
March	Perseverance
April	Empathy
May	Optimism



**Be Respectful, Responsible & Safe.
Be a Falcon.**

JOIN US



ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH'S

GRANDPARENT MASS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

11:00am

St. John Fisher Men's Club
2nd Annual Father-Son Sox Game

Saturday September 30th 6:10pm

White Sox vs. Padres

4:45pm: Buses Depart SJF at (Beer/Water Included)

6:10: First Pitch

20 Minutes after Last Pitch: Buses Depart Bus Lot A

Game Tickets \$35 | Bus and Game Ticket \$50

**Limited Tickets Available! Email your Name, Ticket
Quantity, and if you will be riding the bus to
HNSeventRSVP@gmail.com**





Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

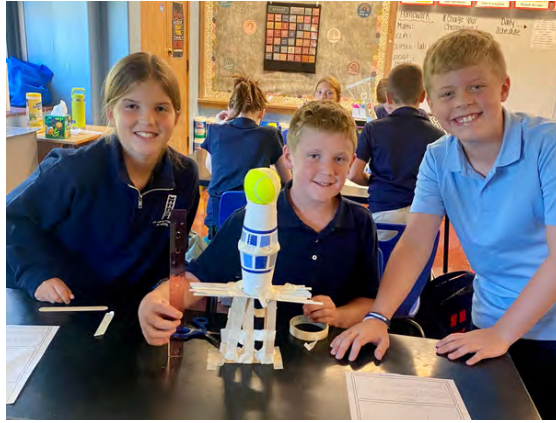
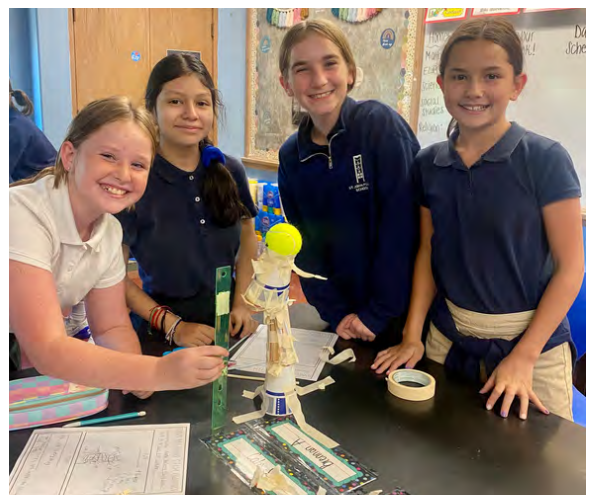
St. John Fisher Abbreviated Calendar

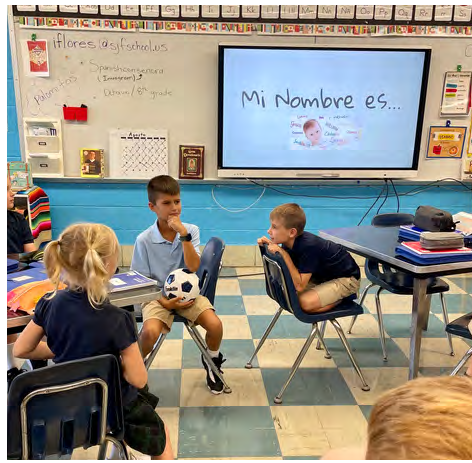
*Below is a list of important dates for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Book Day & Packet Pick-up in Kane Hall: **8.17** ~ 5-7 p.m.
- School Supply Drop-off: **8.22** (*for students in grades pre-k – 3 ONLY*) ~ 4-6 p.m.
- First Day of School: **8.23** ~ 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- Back to School Mass & Parish Picnic at Beverly Park: **8.27** ~ 11 a.m.
- Back to School Open House: **8.29** ~ 7-8 p.m.
- Labor Day – No School: **9.4**
- School Picture Day: **9.19**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **10.4, 10.5**
- No School: **10.6**
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day – No School: **10.9**
- Picture Day Make-up: **11.1**
- All-Staff Professional Development – No School: **11.6**
- Thanksgiving Break: **11.22 – 11.26** *classes resume **11.27**
- **12.22** ~ 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- Christmas Break: **12.22 – 1.7** *classes resume **1.8**
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.15**
- Graduation Pictures: **1.23**
- Catholic Schools Week Mass: **1.28**
- Confirmation: **2.10** ~ 11 a.m.
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.15**
- All-Staff Professional Development – No School: **2.16**
- President’s Day – No School: **2.19**
- First Reconciliation: **2.27 & 2.28**
- All-Staff Professional Development and Planning Day: **3.4**
- Graduation Picture Make-up: **3.5**
- All-Staff Religious Professional Development – No School: **3.27**
- Spring Break: **3.28 – 4.7** *classes resume **4.8**
- First Holy Communion: **5.4** ~ 1 p.m.
- May Crowning: **5.10** ~ 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. All-School Early Dismissal
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.27**
- Last Day of School for 8th Grade: **5.31**, 10:45 a.m. “Clap-out”
- Graduation: **6.2** ~ 1 p.m.
- Last Day of School: **6.6** ~ 10:30 a.m. dismissal

***1:30 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings, PLC work and council collaboration: **September 27th, October 25th, November 29th, January 31st, February 28th, March 20th, April 24th, May 29th.**





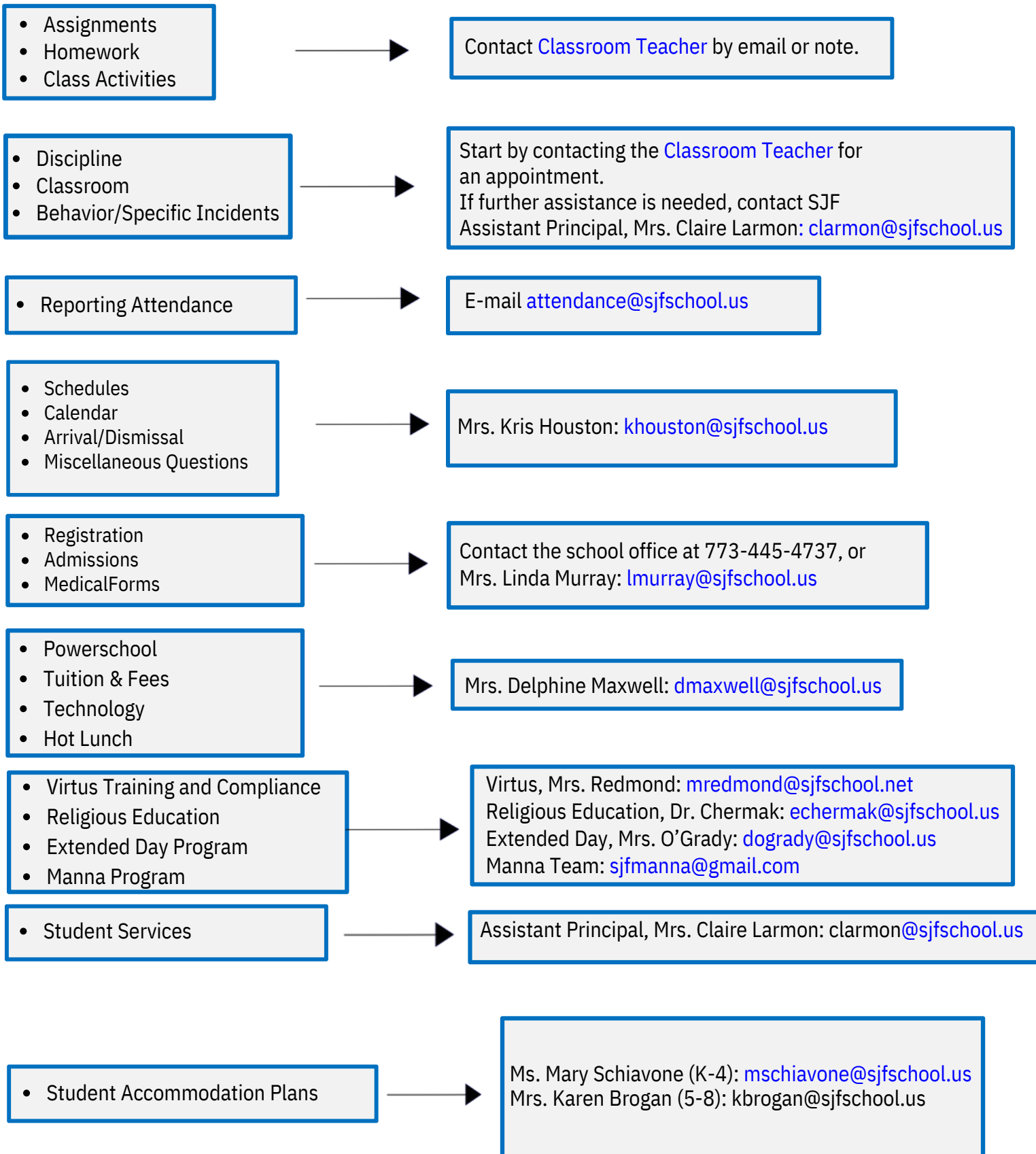






2023-2024 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern...



(more information on the back page)



2023-2024 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

- Reading Intervention

Ms. Mary Schiavone, mschiavone@sjfschool.us

- Math Intervention

Ms. Molly Cummings, mcummings@sjfschool.us

- Public Relations

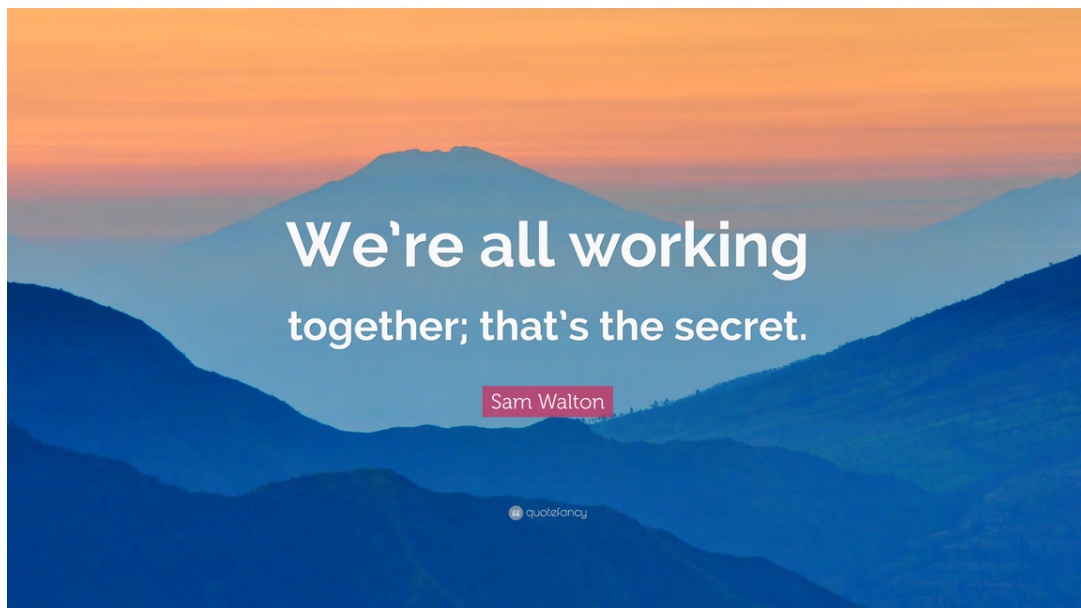
Mrs. Megan Corley, mcorley@sjfschool.us

- Parent Newsletter
- Financial Aid Applications
- School Procedures
- Administrative Matters
- Policy
- Further assistance on any matter listed above

Contact SJF Principal,
Mrs. Maura Nash: mnash@sjfschool.us

- Band
- School Board
- Athletic Programs
- Family School Association
- Women's Club
- Holy Name Society

Mr. Bill Gula: mr.gula@aol.com
School Advisory Board: sjfsab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: sjffsa103@gmail.com
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com



A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.

AMEN

YOU

BELONG

here