



# Future Falcon Families

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School – Welcome!

2021-2022

Dear Future Falcon Families,

On behalf of St. John Fisher's Faculty and Staff, I want to welcome you and thank you for choosing St. John Fisher. We believe we are a Catholic Community Like No Other. We understand Catholic Education can be a financial sacrifice and that there are many choices; please know that we take great pride in delivering on our mission. In my experience thus far, I believe what makes St. John Fisher so exceptional can be encompassed using three tenants: family, community and academic excellence. Most impactful is our loving and dedicated parent-base, committed to raising morally sound children who are kind, demonstrate empathy and integrity and are driven to succeed. Our incredibly loyal parish community remains at the heart of all we do at St. John Fisher; proud of their days spent in our school as students and/or parents and profess that they are from St. John Fisher like a badge of honor. Last but not least, the heartbeat of our school, our second-to-none faculty and staff who are unwaveringly committed to our mission and values set SJF apart. They personify our values and mission each and every day when they are with our students, especially in how they love each student as if they were their own.

As the leader of St. John Fisher as well as a parent I am very proud to be a part of this community, especially during these unprecedented times. Let me share a few insights as to how our school community has come together during the pandemic. In the face of significant adversity, our teachers, students, and parents have partnered together and I couldn't be more proud of the success we have had. Despite the challenges we faced, we learned new skills and I am certain that we all will be even more capable, creative and adaptable at the end of this experience. Our success with in-person learning can be attributed to parents' honesty, care and adherence to our school's tight protocols, our faculty and staff's caution and constant attention to the safety and health of our school community, and our students' flexibility and resiliency. Together we are an incredible team who stayed open for an entire year of in-person learning during a world-wide pandemic! For these reasons, and many more, I am honored to serve as the principal at St. John Fisher and feel deep gratitude that my children, husband and I call SJF home.

We look forward to welcoming you in the future. If you have questions for me personally, please don't hesitate to e-mail me directly, [mnash@sjfschool.net](mailto:mnash@sjfschool.net). Thank you for choosing Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. Now is a great time to join our FalconFamily!

In unity and hope,

*-Mrs. Maura Nash*

We are so happy  
you are here!

## Overview Information

Below are links to a few documents and videos to make it convenient for you to see all that SJF has to offer your child. I look forward to sharing more details as we are committed to achieving high standards Now and For the Future.

Please watch our [Open House Video](#). Please let Linda Murray at [LMurray@sjfschool.net](mailto:LMurray@sjfschool.net) know if you have questions in regard to placement, registration or would like to request additional information. If you would like to connect with a parent or teacher in an effort to gain their perspective surrounding St. John Fisher, we would be happy to coordinate that as well.

A few other links to key info to get to know St. John Fisher School:

- [Tuition and Fees](#) for 2021-2022 school year.
- **School Uniforms:** Please see pages 15-16 of our Student Handbook [linked here](#). Uniforms can be purchased at *Schools Are Us* located at 3146 West 111<sup>th</sup> Street in Chicago, IL. We also offer a uniform exchange program. Please contact the school office for additional information, 773-445-4737.
- The **school supply** list for each grade [can be found here](#).
- **Save the Date** for SJF's Packet Pick-Up Night on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>! More information regarding this evening will be shared in the coming weeks. We can't wait to see you there!
- **Summer Academic Packets:** First - Eighth grade students should [visit this link](#) to complete their preparatory work for their Math and Reading classes.
- Get a **head start on summer enrichment** for your student! Visit SJF's enrichment support and activity page, [linked here](#), compiled by our resourceful **resource department!**
- Please watch our [Catholic Schools Video](#): Celebrating Faith, Excellence, and Service.
- Highlights of Our [Strategic Plan](#) and our School (2019 – 2024): In order to learn about our strengths and weaknesses, together with our School Board, we met and talked with over 200 parents, parish members, organizational heads and staff and faculty members in 2019. As we embark upon SJF's Drive to 75, we look forward to our continued commitment to work together for our oh so bright future!
- **School Highlights:** SJF appreciates the value of in-person learning now more than ever and we have proudly invested in the future of our students. A few 2020 investments include: 1:1 technology for K – 8th grade students, Classrooms equipped with New SMART boards, New Reading Curriculum: Into Reading and Into Literature (K – 8), i-Ready online assessments and data-driven learning to complement our in-person instruction. We are finalizing plans for next school year as well.
- Visit this link to meet our [Leadership Team!](#)
  - Until we can get to know you in person, please see the profiles of our dedicated and caring leadership. We are so proud of our teachers especially this year. Your children are in great hands! Teachers have engaged in over 20 hours of professional development and curriculum training in 2020. 35% percent of our Faculty hold a master's degree or higher. Together we strive to keep learning and our teacher mentor program allows for growth and frequent collaboration.
  - Our Classroom teachers are supported by a team of Special Area teachers, offering enriching experiences in Physical Education, Technology, Art, Social Emotional Learning and Spanish. Our early education team offers enrichment courses after school and on weekends, however these are on hold due to the pandemic.
  - Our Full-Time Resource Room is staffed with 2 experienced special education teachers plus-part time teachers to support the individual needs of students with learning differences. Resource staff provides support within the classroom as well as in a designated Resource classroom.

Meet a few members of our collaborative team:

- Mrs. Win Biernacki, Special Education teacher provides individualized support to students and their families in grades Pre- K-4. Mrs. Biernacki has been an integral part of St. John Fisher for the past 7 years. She has cultivated a school-wide inclusion effort as Resource has evolved into a comprehensive program that enables SJF to support all students, regardless of their abilities and differences. Prior to her tenure at SJF Mrs. Biernacki worked at St. Gerald and engaged in community work with senior citizens. Mrs. Biernacki has a Master's in Special Education and is a certified Learning Behavioral Specialist (LBS1).
- Mrs. Karen Brogan, Special Education teacher provides individualized support to resource students and their families in grades 5-8. Mrs. Brogan lives in Oak Lawn with her husband and three children who attend St. Catherine. Karen most recently stayed home for five years to raise her children, however, prior to that she taught in CPS for ten years both in the regular education and special education setting. Karen has a Master's in Special Education and is a certified Learning Behavioral Specialist (LBS1).
- Ms. Mary Schiavone, Reading Specialist, taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for 8 years at St. John Fisher until deciding to specialize in reading intervention. She recently earned her Master's in Literacy Curriculum and is an invaluable asset to the St. John Fisher student community. Ms. Schiavone is dedicated to ensuring all SJF students are reading at or above grade level. Ms. Schiavone meets with students individually and in small groups, providing direct reading instruction utilizing the Fountas and Pinnell reading intervention curriculum.
- St. John Fisher's curriculum and programming is designed to ensure students matriculate as academically prepared, compassionate leaders ready to collaborate with their peers and engage in their communities. Our students' academic experiences and achievements culminate in high school placement.
- SJF Faculty members offer a High School Placement Test Prep Class to assist our students prepare for the exam. The Instructors, Mrs. Condon, Mrs. Folliard and Ms. Dunlavy, have a combined 35 years of formal test prep experience at Huntington Learning Center, Academic Tutoring Center, Excel Edge and Sylvan.
- 100% of the class of 2021 was accepted to their first-choice high school.
- The class of 2021 earned over \$180,000 in merit-based scholarships.
- [MANNA](#). Start saving now through our tuition reimbursement program: SJF prides itself on offering competitive tuition rates for families of all sizes. We understand it is a sacrifice. Some families start preschool with significant savings by consistently using this program for everyday spending.



## 2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



\*Below is a list of important dates for the 2021-2022 school year. Because of the unpredictable world we live in, these dates are subject to change.

- First Day of School: **8.25** ~ 11:30 dismissal
- Labor Day – No School: **9.6**
- All-Staff Professional Development (no classes): **9.24**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **10.6, 10.7**
- No School: **10.8**
- Columbus Day – No School: **10.11**
- 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**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17**
- President’s Day Break: **2.18 – 2.21** \*classes resume **2.22**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.11**
- No School: **3.14**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** \*classes resume **4.25**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes: **6.1**
- Last Day of School: **6.8** ~ 10:30 dismissal

\***Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled earlier next year** with the intent to make a formal connection with parents weeks before the first marking period in an effort to partner and support students’ needs sooner and PRIOR to the end of the first trimester.

\***1 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings and PLC work: **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

# Thank you for choosing SJF!